



Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

1:00 – 4:30 PM, Pacific Time – Meeting held via Zoom

Zoom Recording:

https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/pF9tbanN7SXjZ4ZC_F9QrXBSgX_vex-Q9NJMGbw5TFPglHOz3uCtb6wG_7wri6Mr.MScQWhtr4JSzAw9?startTime=1740603459000

Passcode: 1L^*FGAo

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:02:56–00:10:54)

Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, and welcomed new Homeless Coalition (HC) Board members: Caroline Bañuelos, Stephen Zollman, and Jeremy Hinojos.

Jennielynn Holmes then explained the Zoom rules regarding public comment and Brown Act guidelines.

Introductions were facilitated for each HC Board member and staff during roll call.

Present: Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Caroline Bañuelos, City of Santa Rosa | Kevin McDonnell, City of Petaluma | Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Dot Norton, proxy for Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Stephen Zollman, City of Sebastopol | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chessy Etheridge, Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAP) | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Aaron Mello, LEAP Board

Absent: Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Rebekah Sammet, LEAP Board | Jeremy Hinojos, LEAP Board - TAY

A quorum was present.

As the Lead Agency, Sonoma County Department of Health Services (DHS) staff were also introduced to new HC Board members during roll call: Jennifer Solito, James Alexander, Michael Gause, Karissa White, Thai Hilton, Chuck Mottern, Andrew Akufo, Kim Holden

1 - 4. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:10:55 – 00:13:18)

- Jennielynn Holmes, CoC Board Chair, presented the consent calendar items:
 1. 2/26/25 meeting agenda
 2. 1/22/24 meeting minutes
 3. Summary of Follow-ups from Previous Meeting(s)
 4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Motion:** Kevin McDonnell moves to approve the Consent Calendar.
Second: Jackie Elward seconds the motion.
Abstentions: Two abstentions from minutes approval from new HC Board members who were not present at the January 22, 2025 meeting.
Objections: None.
Motion passes. The consent calendar is approved, with two abstentions.

5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:13:21 – 00:24:29)

- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count: Michael Gause and Karissa White presented slides and a recap describing the January 31, 2025 Homeless Count event. Staff are currently working with service providers to distribute follow-up surveys, which provide demographic information. The deadline for survey completion is March 7, 2025.
- Homeless Coalition Board Seat Vacancies Update: Karissa White reported that the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) Board has approved Jeremy Hinojos as their elected Transitional Age Youth (TAY) representative. Applications were received for all vacant positions. Voters may submit ballot selections until February 28th, 2025.
- **Public Comment:** None

Informational item only – no motion. Additional information is available in the “Report from Lead Agency Staff,” Item #5 in the meeting materials packet.

6. Strategic Planning Priority Updates (00:24:30 – 0:44:04)

- Michael Gause shared a spreadsheet and provided updates on strategic planning priorities and progress on specified projects.
- **Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon

Informational item only – no motion. Additional information is available in the “Update on Strategic Planning” staff report, Item #6 in the meeting materials packet.

7. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (00:44:06 – 00:54:49)

- Margaret Sluyk reported that the recent Service Provider Roundtable meeting focused on concerns with potential changes in federal funding and on developing a systemic approach to navigate possible negative impacts. Aspects of progress being made with Strategic Plan priorities were also reviewed. Appreciation was expressed to Thai Hilton and County staff in general for their recent efforts in responsiveness and helpfulness.
- **Public Comment:** None.

Informational item only – no motion.

8. MOU Between SoCo Homeless Coalition and Lead Agency (00:54:51 – 01:11:17)

- Michael Gause explained changes and clarifications that were recently made to the MOUs to align with HC Board requests and County Counsel's direction, and responded to questions from HC Board members.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Motion:** Supervisor Coursey moves to approve the MOUs.
Second: Kevin McDonnell seconds the motion.
Abstentions or Objections: None.
Motion passes unanimously.

9. OMITTED: Ten- Minute Break

Note: Item #11, "Word from the LEAP Board," was taken out of order, in advance of Item # 10.

11. Word from the LEAP Board (01:12:34 – 01:17:54)

- Aaron Mello reported that four new Lived Experience members have been selected to join the LEAP Board. In addition, Jeremy Hinojos was approved to fill the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) seat on the Homeless Coalition Board. The LEAP Board also established a quarterly in-person meeting schedule, and has invited Steven Sotomayor, City of Healdsburg Housing Director, to provide a presentation about homelessness and available services in Northern Sonoma County.
- **Public Comment:** None.

Informational item only – no motion.

10. Dept. of Health Services (DHS) Public Health Preparedness Update (01:17:56– 01:41:04)

- Ryan DeHart, DHS Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Section Manager, provided a presentation about the emergency management work of PHP during disaster response,

and invited feedback regarding the envisioned role of a proposed Homeless Services Officer position to specifically identify and address needs of the homeless population during emergencies and evacuations. Public Health is also working to establish a vending machine program to provide free health and safety supplies to members of the public.

- **Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon

Informational item only – no motion.

12. Selection Membership Ad Hoc Committee (1:41:07 – 01:44:13)

- Karissa White described changes that have been made to the annual committee application process. Previously the HC Board Chair and Vice-Chair were responsible for selecting and approving applications to the standing committees. New charter revisions stipulate that committee member selections will now be made through the formation of an ad hoc committee. Recommendations will subsequently be presented to the HC Board for approval.

The number of current committees have been diminished, with only two remaining: the HMIS Data Committee and the Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee. There are three applicants between the two committees. Volunteers to serve on the selection ad hoc committee were requested, with Stephen Zollman, Margaret Sluyk, and Kevin McDonnell agreeing to participate.

- **Public Comment:** None.

Informational item only – no motion. . Additional information is available in the “Selection Membership Ad Hoc Committee” staff report, Item #12 in the meeting materials packet.

13. Review Agenda for March Coalition Board Meeting (01:44:17 – 01:47:22)

- James Alexander reviewed the agenda for the March 26, 2025 HC Board meeting and queried the HC Board for any needed changes or additions. A few errors were noted on the agenda slide as presented. The correct March 2025 agenda is included in the meeting packet of materials for review.
- **Public Comment:** None.

14. Board Member Questions and Comments (01:47:25 – 01:49:57)

- Nolan Sullivan has been named as the new DHS Director. He currently serves as the Director of Health and Human Services in Yolo County.
- **Public Comment:** None.

15. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (01:50:03 – 01:50:18)

- None.

Adjournment: 2:48 PM (01:50:20 – 01:50:54)