



Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 26 2025

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

Zoom Recording:

https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/_rOaQjB5w95ao_21LYVnnffFYIhmZL4BYvVFD74ZomNIh0XBMOu8j2KcszvdKStU.p1z75Zt2mDO54G2i

Passcode: WgWd5\$L2

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:05:03–00:09:26)

Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, and explained the Zoom rules regarding public comment and the Brown Act guidelines.

Three new Homeless Coalition (HC) Board members were welcomed: Maria Rico (Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians), Sarah Vetter (Santa Rosa Community Health), and Jeremy Hinojos (TAY Representative) along with returning HC Board member Rebecca Sammet (Lived Experience Advisory and Planning Board).

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

Present: Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Caroline Bañuelos, City of Santa Rosa | Karen Nau, proxy for Kevin McDonnell, City of Petaluma | Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Stephen Zollman, City of Sebastopol | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chessy Etheridge, Adult Lived Experience Seat | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | | Jeremy Hinojos, TAY Representative | Sarah Vetter, Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat | Rebecca Sammet, LEAP Board | Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat

Absent: Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large

A quorum was present.

1 - 4. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:09:27 – 00:10:50)

- Jennielynn Holmes, CoC Board Chair, presented the consent calendar items:
 1. 3/26/25 meeting agenda
 2. 2/26/24 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: Chris Cabral seconds the motion.
Abstentions: None.
Objections: None.
Motion passes. The consent calendar is approved.

5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:10:53 – 00:15:32)

- Annual Standing Committee Application Updates: Jynessa Lazzaroni reported that the application period for standing committees opened on March 10, 2025 and will close on March 28, 2025. There are four (4) vacancies: two (2) on the Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) Data Committee, and two (2) on the Coordinated Entry Advisory (CEA) Committee. Five applications have been received to date.

A Selection Membership Ad Hoc Committee has been formed and will be reviewing applications on April 4, 2024. Recommendations are anticipated to be forthcoming to the HC Board at the April 23, 2025 meeting.

Additional information is included in the "Report from Lead Agency Staff," Item #5, page 10, in the meeting materials packet.

Informational Item only: no action taken

- Local Homelessness Services NOFA: Michael Gause provided an update on the Local Homelessness Services Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), as summarized in the "Report from Lead Agency Staff," Item #5, pages 10-11, in the meeting materials packet.

Informational Item only: no action taken

- **Public Comment:** None

6. HEART Integration in Sub-regional Street Outreach Model (00:15:35 – 1:20:54)

- Thai Hilton (Sonoma County Department of Health Services (DHS) Homelessness Services Division Coordinated Entry Coordinator) narrated a slide presentation in review of the

origins, purpose, geographic areas, and operational details of the sub-regional approach to street outreach, along with updates on standards and the proposed integration of existing DHS outreach teams into the street outreach model. The referenced DHS cohorts for integration are the Homeless Encampment Access & Resource Team (HEART) and the Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) team.

Supplementary information, as well as the updated Street Outreach Program Standards document, are included in the Staff Report, Item #6, pages 12-30 in the packet of meeting materials.

The recommended action to approve the updated Street Outreach Standards at today's meeting was not taken today, in light of sentiment from the HC Board that further discussion and definition of the role of the HEART and HOPE teams' integration into street outreach, and of two-way reciprocity with service provider outreach workers, would be advantageous prior to approval of the standards.

Supervisor Coursey suggests that clarity from county staff about the scope of work of the HEART teams would be beneficial.

No action taken.

- **Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon, Amy Appleton, Ted Nordquist

7. CARE Court (01:20:58 –01:21:18)

- The length of the previous item exceeded the window of availability for the CARE Court presenter, so this item will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

8. Service Providers' Roundtable (01:22:00– 01:29:42)

- Margaret Sluyk reported that the recent Service Provider Roundtable meeting focused on the lengthy waitlists for entry to shelters, and the desire to develop integration into access to shelter beds within the County-operated system.

In response, a conversation with Lead Agency staff to illuminate funding and access details in clarification of operations of County shelters may be added to the May 2025 meeting agenda.

- **Public Comment:** None.

Informational item only: no action take

9. Ten- Minute Break: 2:25 – 2:35 PM (01:29:44 – 1:40:53)

10. Word from the LEAP Board (01:40:59 – 01:45:30)

- Rebecca Sammet reported on efforts by the Lived Experience Advisory and Planning (LEAP) Board to gather information from the unsheltered, as well as current and former shelter residents, to determine recommendations for improving shelter utilization. A detailed survey is anticipated to launch next month. Members of the LEAP Board also met with service providers to discuss the planned survey.

- **Public Comment:** None.

Informational item only – no action taken.

11. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee Update. (01:45:36–01:54:55)

- Daniel Overbury-Howland, DHS HMIS Coordinator, reported that the HMIS committee has been working on minor updates and clarifications to HMIS policies and procedures related to entering clients into the system anonymously. They have also engaged in conversations regarding the fee structure for participants in HMIS, due to an expansion in use by service providers, as well as within the coordinated entry system, while County funding for HMIS has not increased. Staff are discussing various proposals, and are also entertaining a prospective change of vendors.

Additional details are provided in the Staff Report, Item # 11, pages 31-32, of the meeting materials packet.

- **Public Comment:** None.

Informational item only – no action taken.

12. Approval of April Quarterly Membership Meeting Agenda(1:54:58 – 01:56:41)

- Jynessa Lazzaroni presented the agenda for the Homeless Coalition Quarterly Membership Meeting, to be held on April 17, 2025, 1-4 PM, at DHS Administration, 1450 Neotomas Ave., Suite 200, Santa Rosa Conference Room.

- **Public Comment:** None

Informational item only – no action taken

13. Review Agenda for April Coalition Board Meeting (01:56:43 – 02:03:37)

- James Alexander reviewed the agenda for the April 23, 2025 HC Board meeting and queried the HC Board for any needed changes or additions. Araceli Rivera noted that a Coordinated Entry Redesign Update will also be added to the agenda.

The April 23, 2025 agenda is shown as Attachment A, pages 33-34, in today's meeting packet of materials.

- **Public Comment:** None.

14. Board Member Questions and Comments (02:03:40– 02:12:26)

- Chris Cabral referenced an email received by the HC Board from an Uber driver concerning an inadequate practice for an unsheltered patient's discharge from a local hospital, and suggested that HC Board members form a group to speak to hospital boards about the frequency and harmful repercussions of such incidents.
- Jennielynn Holmes informed the HC Board that, in assistance to the immigrant community, Catholic Charities will be providing a virtual "Know Your Rights" webinar to the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition, on April 8, 2025, at 1:00 PM. All are invited to join. The presentation will also be recorded. Additionally, Catholic Charities will be releasing seven (7) videos focused on informing individuals of their legal rights and preparation strategies should they encounter deportation efforts.
- **Public Comment:** None.

15. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (02:12:31– 002:14:48)

- Gregory Fearon

Adjournment: 3:10 PM (02:15:00 – 02:15:37)