



# Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board

## Continuum of Care Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time – Meeting held by Zoom

### Zoom Recording:

[https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/akaeLzS9yF5zl4Cq\\_ZjvHKXEMI10GLceogrnMJQk9NdLvZ03s8Og\\_uut9\\_762erRi.vabA9FoVxceFKXRC](https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/akaeLzS9yF5zl4Cq_ZjvHKXEMI10GLceogrnMJQk9NdLvZ03s8Og_uut9_762erRi.vabA9FoVxceFKXRC)

Passcode: JzW6#69t

### Welcome and Roll Call (00:05:14 – 00:07:44)

Dennis Pocekay called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and went over the Zoom rules around public comment and Brown Act guidelines.

### Present:

Dennis Pocekay- City of Petaluma, Natalie Rogers- City of Santa Rosa, Ben Leroi- Santa Rosa Community Health Center, Margaret Sluyk- Reach For Home, , Kathleen Pozzi- Community Member, Martha Cheever-Community Development Commission Dot Iriks Proxy after 4pm, Cheyenne McConnell- TAY Representative, Una Glass-City of Sebastopol, Don Schwartz- City of Rohnert Park, Mark Krug-Burbank Housing, Ron Wellander- City of Sonoma, Dannielle Danforth-West County Community Services , Chris Coursey-BOS County of Sonoma, Jackie Elward-City of Rohnert Park, Chessy Etheridge-Community Member/ LEAP, Jennielynn Holmes- Catholic Charities,

**Absent:** Chris Keys, Redwood Gospel Mission

### *A quorum was present.*

### 1. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:07:44 – 00:11:22)

Don Schwartz requests to pull Agenda Item 3, “Summary of Follow-ups from the Previous Meetings.”

**Motion:** Una Glass moves to approve Consent Calendar 1, 2 and 4 with Item 3 removed.  
Natalie Rogers seconds.

**Public Comment:** none

**Abstentions or Objections:** None

**Motion approved** Discussion regarding Agenda Item 3: “Summary of Follow-ups from the Previous Meetings” (11:30 – 1:00:12)

Discussion regarding Agenda Item 3: “Summary of Follow-ups from the Previous Meetings” (11:30 – 1:00:12)

- Update on COC MOU going to BOS
- How does the County's IBM/Watson Care (aka Merative) interact with HMIS?
- Waitlist Status
- Adapted Petaluma Dashboard - FY22/23 Homelessness Data Sonoma County HMIS System
- Winter Warming Stations Update
- Long-term Funding Plan & Stella M Discussion

**Public Comment:** Colleen Halbohm

#### **5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (01:00:13 – 01:06:42):**

- **CoC Funding Competition Application Submission:**

Michael Gause reported (on behalf of Karissa White) that the Continuum of Care Competition Consolidated Application will be submitted at the conclusion of today's meeting (10/25/2023). HUD has not previously required that the application be approved by the CoC Board, so that aspect was missed. It's already posted, so the Board is asked to approve this year's application today, but next year there will be a process for approval. In the future the Board could chose to approve, which may require an additional meeting about a week before the due-date, or the Board could designate either the collaborative applicant (DHS) or membership to approve. The Board should outline how they'd like to proceed in the next few months, as a charter revision will be necessary. Michael requests a motion to approve.

**Motion:** Una Glass moves to approve the application today, 10/25/2023, and to further consider whether to cede that responsibility to staff in the future. Chessy Etheridge seconds.

**Public Comment:** None

**Abstentions or Objections:** None

**Motion approved.**

- **CoC Board & Membership Meeting Schedule:**

- Alea Tantarelli reports that the November CoC Board Mtg is rescheduled to Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 pm
- December CoC Board Mtg is rescheduled to Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 pm
- Special CoC Membership Mtg. for new CoC Board member elections scheduled for Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm

**Public Comment:** None

#### **6. Becoming a More Data-Informed System: Phase I – Identifying the Proper Data Elements (01:06:43 – 01:32:39):**

Michael Gause reported that a small internal group was formed in June 2023 to work on identifying data elements that could be used to improve the use of data to implement improvements to our system of care. Three phases were developed:

**Phase 1:** is to decide which elements should be used to evaluate both the system and program performance to inform program and funding decisions.

**Phase 2:** is a “visualization” piece that will help determine how to use the data to educate and inform the public. This presentation is planned for the October CoC Board meeting.

**Phase 3:** involves how the data will be used to inform system of care decisions in the next NOFA at the end of 2023 and early 2024.

Samantha Feld, Program Planning and Evaluation Analyst (PPEA) with DHS Administration, presented an overview of the project specifics and a glimpse into what will be covered in future meetings.

Clarification was provided that the “increased income” Program-Specific Performance Measure includes both earned income and income from any source, including public benefits.

**Motion:** Una Glass moves to adopt Phases 1-3 and move forward with the proposed Data-Informed System, Natalie Rogers seconds motion.

**Public Comment:** Teddi Pierce

**Abstentions or Objections:** None

**Motion approved.**

#### **7. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (01:32:40– 01:57:50):**

- Update from Margaret Sluyk:

The Roundtable received a presentation from Tom Bieri, Executive Director of Community Support Network, at the last meeting. Two providers are forming a workgroup to discuss coordinated care plans. The workgroup will identify information to help enhance service providers’ access to safety items, and to enable more effective and efficient service to clients. Providers will receive an email soliciting their input. Eventually, workgroup plans that necessitate a vote will come to the CoC Board and findings are also likely to be reported back to the Strategic Planning Committee.

Discussion topics also included Winter Shelters/inclement weather shelters lack of funding and regions that do not have plans. There is an upcoming meeting with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to help solidify and coordinate efforts.

The Roundtable also discussed ensuring fairness and consistency in procurement practices – keeping fairness as a system in mind with NOFAs, when obtaining services for people, and with procurement opportunities through the County.

- Annie Falandes from Homeless Action Sonoma, Inc., presented slides and provide background and progress of the new tiny home village in Sonoma.
  - There are 20 clients in the village. The houses are all painted and occupied. PG&E and sewer connections should be complete within the next 30 days. MOUs are in place with Sonoma Valley Community Health Care including dental and optometry, as well as an MOU with the Hanna Center for mental health evaluations.
  - Annie Falandes shared a success story of a client who graduated from a rehab facility in Sonoma Valley, has been in a sober living facility for a year, has a job and is doing very well.

**Public Comment:** Ludmilla Bade, Alethea Larson

#### **8. Word from the Street (01:57:51 – 01:59:45):**

Chessy Etheridge highlights a success story this month of a family of four, along with two cats and two dogs, that experienced illness resulting from a mold infestation in their house and were camping in their back yard. Between the coordinated efforts of Rapid Re-Housing, Coordinated Entry, Acts of Kindness, Sonoma County Housing Authority, SB Global, and Humane Society outreach, the family was able to be rehoused within 18 days, speaking to the effectiveness of the system within the community.

**Public Comment:** None

#### **9. 11 Minute Break (1:59:55 – 2:10:26)**

#### **10. CoC Communications Approach (02:10:27 – 02:40:49)**

Michael Gause presented a report on the progress of the CoC communications work as outlined in the Sonoma County 5 Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness year- one priorities. The goal is to communicate promptly, consistently, and effectively using a variety of communications tools to share key messages and information and facilitate two-way communication between key officials within the system of care and the CoC Board, the County of Sonoma, cities, service providers, the media, the public, and persons experiencing homelessness or with Lived Experience in homelessness. A key focus will be on providing content that is accessible to all, especially those communities who are overrepresented in the

unhoused community. The DHS Ending Homelessness Team established an internal staff group to guide the communications effort.

Strategies include: Improved & updated website, Data dashboard, Regular and responsive social media posts, Monthly public forums (first one on October), Annual Homelessness Report, State-of-the-art 2-1-1 resource for persons experiencing, or at risk of homelessness, Continued feedback loop with LEAP Board, Start a Youth Action Board

Current Primary Areas of Focus: 1. Develop an improved and updated (and remediated for persons with enhanced access needs) Continuum of Care (and DHS/Homelessness Services Division) website. 2. Regularly scheduled social media posts, including graphics and curated video content

Andrew Akufo provided background, overview and shared presentation of Homelessness Services Division Social Media Communications, Andrew Akufo reports that he and Gilbert Martinez currently handle social media. A social media campaign was launched on September 12, 2023, postings are every Friday. Posts are currently scheduled through May 24, 2024. Social media posts are shared on the general County of Sonoma website, there is no specific page for homelessness.

Adam Siegenthaler reported on updates to the Homelessness Services Website Navigation and presented slides illustrating changes recently made to navigation details on the website. The focus for this update is on the ease of navigation. Changes and updates to layout, design, and content will be forthcoming.

**Motion:** Martha Cheever moves to approve the proposed approach to communication. Jackie Elward seconds motion.

**Public Comment:** Ludmilla Bade  
**Abstentions or Objections:** None

**Motion approved**

## **11. Reports from Standing Committees (02:40:50 – 3:12:46):**

- **Funding and Evaluation Committee**

Teddi Pierce provided update: The F & E Committee is discussing difficult definitions, such as “new” versus “existing” programs and are close to completion.

Proposed charter amendments for the F & E clarify roles and responsibilities, which are anticipated to be coming to the CoC Board in December. A member responsibility sheet is being finalized, item is to help define what constitutes recusals and what defines a line-by-line recusal.

- **HMIS Committee:** Heather Sweet from SAY reported scheduling conflicts prevented seating a quorum last month so no meeting was held. Next month the committee will be looking at the Quarterly Compliance Checklist and reviewing any incompletions on the recent HMIS evaluation. The group will also review the new HUD standards that will impact agencies reports that are due to the CDC in October.
- **CEA Committee:** Thai Hilton presented background and update on the assessment and prioritization redesign. Technical Assistance, CE Lead and Staff presented proposed process. Meetings were held with stakeholder groups that interact with Coordinated Entry regularly. Each stakeholder selected individuals as representatives in the formation of an assessment and prioritization working group.

Feedback from community was provided and included Coordinated Entry system improvements in the referral process, interest in exploring different types of assessment tools, commitment to implementing equity, and widespread support to redesign the system and for transparency and community-led processes.

The goal of the 20-member working group be community-led, the lead agency will convene the working group and will provide monthly updates to the CEA Committee. Once a new assessment tool and prioritization process has been developed and tested, the lead agency will bring a proposal to the CEA and CoC Board.

- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Michael Gause and Thai Hilton provided update, the By Names List progress has been a bit slow, but development of the actual list is beginning. Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. The County-wide list is looking at data trends, whereas sub-regional lists focus more on client level. Michael Gause stated that system wide goal for adding 200 PSH beds and 100 non-congregate shelter beds is almost met, along with progress on almost all contracts CDC to DHS being transferred.
- **Lived Experience Advisory and Planning (LEAP) Board:** Rebekah Sammet provided update, stated twelve-member board with two open seats available. LEAP hosted a State of Homelessness discussion with Supervisor Gore and are scheduling a follow-up meeting, The Board provided a letter of support for the CoC application for Continuum of Care program competition. Two board members were selected to serve on the CEA Assessment and Prioritization Redesign Workgroup and two meetings were hosted with Homebase to learn about and help improve the

prioritization system and tool. In addition, LEA is also in the process of revising the LEAP Board application and undergoing Board training and development.

**Public Comment (on all committee reports):** None

**12. Quarterly Membership Meeting for October 19, 2023 (in person) (03:12:47 – 3:20:00):**

Araceli Rivera went over QMM agenda and reported that this will be the second in-person meeting QMM.

Topics/Trainings include Medi-Cal renewals for people experiencing homelessness, human trafficking, specifically of exploited children CSEC, Homeless Memorial Day and Continuum of Care Committee updates.

**Motion:** Natalie Rogers moves to approve the Quarterly Membership Meeting agenda. Una Glass seconds with the amendment that a fifth bullet point be added under Item 5 of the agenda, to include a general update on the progress of the Continuum of Care Board throughout the past quarter. Natalie Rogers accepts the amendment to her motion.

**Public Comment:** Ludmilla Bade

**Abstentions or Objections:** None

**Motion passes.**

**13. October 25<sup>th</sup> Regular CoC Board Meeting Draft Agenda (03:20:01 – 03:21:18):**

Screen was shared for upcoming meeting Agenda review, no comments/suggestions from Board.

**Public Comment:** None

**14. Board Questions and Comments (03:21:19 – 03:21:39):**

None at this time.

**14. Public Comment on items not on the agenda (03:21:40 – 03:24:40):**

Ludmilla Bade

**4:19 PM: Meeting Adjourned**