



# Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

## Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

1:00 – 5:00 PM, Pacific Time – Meeting held via Zoom

### Zoom Recording:

[https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/CyoBQHzKx14XOz9UivETKR1q0NIHOF0jaibd\\_62zubzKMVBxtChHyLwo-iC3KHhM.7PmUkxLi5gcKvGyQ](https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/CyoBQHzKx14XOz9UivETKR1q0NIHOF0jaibd_62zubzKMVBxtChHyLwo-iC3KHhM.7PmUkxLi5gcKvGyQ)

Passcode: kj&y7\*8F

### Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:06:16 – 00:08:53)

Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and went over the Zoom rules regarding public comment and Brown Act guidelines.

Alea Tantarelli proceeded with roll call and introductions from Homeless Coalition Board Members and Lead Agency staff.

**Present:** Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma | Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa | Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health | Sean Hamlin, proxy for Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTs) | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Dot Norton, proxy for Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Chessy Etheridge, Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS) | Una Glass, City of Sebastopol | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Salvina Norris, Sonoma County Indian Health Project (SCHIP) | Aaron Mello, Leap Board

**Absent:** Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Kristi Lozinto, Member-at-Large | Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission / LEAP | Cheyenne McConnell, TAY Representative

A quorum was present.

### 1 - 4. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:08:56 – 00:10:52)

- Jennielynn Holmes, CoC Board Chair, presented the consent calendar items:
  1. 6/26/24 meeting agenda
  2. 5/22/24 meeting minutes
  3. Summary of Follow-ups from Previous Meetings
  4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates

- **Public Comment:** None
- **Motion:** Una Glass moves to approve the Consent Calendar. Margaret Sluyk seconds.  
**Abstentions:** Ben Leroi abstains.  
**Objections:** None.
- **Motion passes** with one abstention. The Consent Calendar is approved.

#### 5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:10:54 – 01:08:47)

- **Regional Communications Update:** Andrew Akufo reported that the update is included in the meeting materials packet. Additionally, the format going forward will transition from Zoom meetings to requesting bi-monthly written reports from each regional representative. The submitted reports will be compiled into one document for the Homeless Coalition (HC) Board to read.
- **Annual Administrative Budget for the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition:** Michael Gause presented a rough draft of the Coalition Administrative Budget, “Sonoma County CoC Estimate of Sources and Uses (FY 2024-25).” This is included as Attachment A in the packet of meeting materials, and provides a snapshot of estimated revenue and expenses, including staffing, but not inclusive of costs for the Homelessness Division Director and other administrative support.

Michael Gause will present this draft budget to the HC Board each year, but the charter date specified for the presentation should be changed from May to June or July so that accurate numbers are available for determining budget estimates.

- **Point in Time (PIT) Count:** Michael Gause reported that the full report will be out in July. There appears to be an 11% increase this year, following a 22 % decrease in the previous count. The causes won’t be known until the full report is released, but contributing factors may include a loss of about 100 shelter beds during COVID, reduced funding from the State, the high cost of housing, a decrease in homelessness prevention, as well as the effect of the By-Names List being utilized to locate more of the unsheltered.
- **Subregional Approach:** Michael Gause will ask James Alexander, Program Manager for the Homeless Engagement Access & Resource (HEART) Team and Nohemi Castaneda Martinez, new Program Manager for the Solving Obstacles for Unsheltered Lives (SOUL) Team, to attend the July 24, 2024 HC Board meeting to speak to the activities of their respective teams.

The SOUL Team does case management at the sites, not general outreach, and currently the HEART Team is working full-time at Mickey Zane Place and Eliza’s Village until a new contracted provider is in place to provide site services.

Jennielynn Holmes and Una Glass ask that an agenda item be scheduled for the July 24, 2024 HC Board meeting to explore how the HEART Team will or will not be working within the subregional approach system. Dennis Pocekay agrees and requests that the managers for the HEART and SOUL teams, as well as Supervisor Coursey, attend for the discussion. Michael Gause will check the availability of those anticipated participants for the upcoming meeting. Jennielynn Holmes specifies that she would like the conversation concerning the HEART and SOUL teams to address:

1. How coordination is being implemented,
2. How equitable access is being provided,
3. Whether data is being tracked in two different systems.

A suggestion was expressed that it might be advantageous to have additional members of the Board of Supervisors present for the discussion.

- Update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Homeless Coalition and the Lead Agency: Michael Gause reported that County Counsel is currently reviewing the MOU. Subsequently, an appointment is anticipated to be scheduled in August for the HC Board Chair and Vice-Chair to meet with Department of Health Services Director, Tina Rivera.

When the MOU is brought back to the HC Board, Jennielynn Holmes would like the entities that created the original document to be apprised of any substantive changes.

**Public Comment on Item #5:** Teddie Pierce, Gregory Fearon

#### **6. Service Provider Update (01:08:50 – 01:11:18)**

- Margaret Sluyk reported that the Service Providers had not met since the previous HC Board meeting. They did meet with the Lead Agency last week and had a good session.

A survey is being created to discern what changes the Services Providers group would like to see implemented in the future and topics they would like to have addressed. Several Service Providers have been working together to apply for consideration as either a hub or as the administrator for the new Homeless Prevention Pilot.

- **Public Comment:** None.

#### **7. Coordinated Entry Assessment & Redesign Update: (01:11:30 – 02:09:41)**

- Thai Hilton shared a detailed educational slide presentation depicting how referral decisions are made for the Coordinated Entry system, and what tool is utilized in that

process, with thanks to Ben Leroi, Hunter Scott, and the HomeFirst team for their help with the data analysis developed for this Coordinated Entry Assessment and Redesign Update presentation.

Jennielynn Holmes commented that this presentation depicts one of the most thoughtful approaches to prioritization that she has seen throughout the nation. Other HC Board members also appreciated and acknowledged the incredible body of work and thoughtfulness that went into developing this immense project, the collaborative approach, and the great improvements in the assessment tool.

- **Public Comment:** Amy Appleton, Ludmilla Bade, Teddie Pierce, John Baxter, Gregory Fearon, Sasha Brown

#### **8. Word from the LEAP Board (02:09:44 – 02:20:42)**

- Chessy Etheridge spoke about the barriers that delinquent child support payments pose to individuals becoming housed. Impacts include the inability to obtain drivers' licenses and passports, negative credit checks, frozen bank assets, seized tax refunds, no proof of employment if working "under the table," strained relationships with their children, and potential jail sentences.

Chessy Etheridge also reported that there are a few debt forgiveness programs in California that can help minimize the amount of repayment, reduce penalties, and provide access to drivers' licenses. She will send links to some of these options to the HC Board.

A suggestion was made that a staff member from the Sonoma County Department of Child Support might be invited to attend a future HC Quarterly Membership Meeting to provide information and respond to questions.

**Public Comment:** None

#### **9. 10-minute Break: 3:15 – 3:25 PM (02:20:45 – 02:32:22)**

#### **10: Continuum of Care (CoC) Renewal Project Evaluation: Approval of Coordinated Entry Scoring Adjustment and Renewal Project Scoring: (02:32:49 – 02:55:37)**

- Recusals were initiated for Jennielynn Holmes, Dannielle Danforth, Chris Cabral, Ben Leroi, and Dot Norton (proxy for Martha Cheever)

A quorum remained.

Dennis Pocekay will serve as HC Board Chair for this item, in lieu of the recused Chair, Jennielynn Holmes, as the Vice-Chair, Una Glass, is not currently available.

Karissa White delivered a slide presentation on the CoC Program Renewal Project Evaluation which detailed the circumstances necessitating a scoring adjustment. A more comprehensive explanation is included in today's meeting materials packet.

The recommended action is to remove the scoring measure "Percentage of accepted eligible referrals from Coordinated Entry" completely from the renewal project scoring tool. This would leave a total of 97/97 points possible.

The measure would be reinstated in the next competition scoring tool, once there are twelve months of data to actually measure,

An overview of specific CoC program renewals was also included in the presentation. These are all federally funded Housing and Urban Development (HUD) renewable contracts.

As an outcome of the presentation, three action items are recommended, as indicated in the motion below.

- Vice Chair Una Glass is now available and relieves Dennis Pocekay as Chair for the remainder of this item.
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Motion:** Dennis Pocekay moves to approve the three recommended items in one unit:
  1. Approve FY 2024 Continuum of Care Program Renewal Project Scoring
  2. Approve Corrective Action plans for St. Vincent de Paul Commons and Buckelew Sonoma SCIL Project
  3. Approve the adjusted scoring for the Coordinated Entry Measure

**Second:** Jackie Elward seconds the motion.

**Abstentions or Objections:** None.

**Motion is approved.**

Recused HC Board members returned to the meeting proceedings. Jennielynn Holmes resumed the role of HC Board Chair.

**11. Housing Gap Analysis and Long-Term Funding/Investment Plan (02:56:52 – 00:27:56, second recording)**

- Michael Gause provided some historical insight into the creation, progress, and complexities of the Long-Term Funding Plan.

Adrian Gonzales, Deputy Chief of Programs, and Dr. David Amaral, Director of Research and Evaluation for All Home, reported on their work in developing data and providing technical assistance for implementation of an app related to Sonoma County's adoption of the Regional Action Plan in December 2023. The presentation provided an overview of their housing gap analysis and estimates of what is needed to achieve a reduction in unsheltered homelessness in Sonoma County by 75%, and also explained the envisioned long-term funding strategy.

Additional information and All-Home's slide presentation are available within the meeting materials packet.

Michael Gause suggested that the HC Board may choose to create a small working group to plan next steps in the Funding/Investment Plan based on the Housing Gaps Analysis. Plans for composing such a group may be considered as follow-up at the next HC Board meeting.

- **Public Comment:** John Baxter, Emily Quig, Gregory Fearon, Teddie Pierce, Ludmilla Bade

**12. Housing Inventory Count 2024: (00:27:58 – 00:28:05)**

- This item will be postponed to a future date due to time constraints.

**13. Quarterly Membership Meeting Agenda: (00:28:07 – 0031:00)**

- Araceli Rivera shared a slide showing the proposed agenda for the Homeless Coalition Quarterly Membership Meeting, which is scheduled for July 18, 2024.
- Aaron Mello indicated that he or Chessy Etheridge will contact Child Support Services to see if a staff member might attend either the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting or at a future date to share information and answer questions from the general membership.
- **Public Comment:** Ludmilla Bade

**14. Review Agenda for July Coalition Board Meeting: (00:31:04 – 00:32:03)**

- Jennielynn Holmes displayed the draft July 2024 HC Board meeting agenda, and commented that the MOU and subregional approach could be continued discussions, and the Homeless Inventory Count might be included if the data is available in time.

- **Public Comment:** None

**15. Board Member Questions and Comments: (00:32:04 – 01:22:55)**

- Jennielynn Holmes and Una Glass plan to reach out to Homeless Coalition members and community partners to hear how the Homeless Coalition is being experienced overall and to invite feedback and ideas for improvement, in an effort to gauge how HC activities are meeting the needs of those being served.
- Jackie Elward spoke to concerns outlined in a letter (link below) which was received on June 25, 2024, via Public Comment for CoC Board members from Kirstyne Lange, President, NAACP Santa Rosa – Sonoma County Chapter. <https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/98-LREjkiY/>

Subsequent discussion identified a need for required standardized Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for any entity receiving funding via the Homeless Coalition Board. Discussion also probed how to effect meaningful changes going forward, from policy, education, and funding perspectives, to curtail instances of bias and racism within the system of care community.

- **Public Comment:** Teddie Pierce, Adrienne Lauby, Amy Appleton

**16, Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda: (01:26:18 – 01:32:21)**

- **Public Comment:** Teddie Pierce, Gregory Fearon, Adrienne Lauby

**Adjournment: 5:45 PM (01:32:50 – 01:33:00)**