



Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board

Continuum of Care Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023

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

Zoom Recording:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/Vj9YRiA3tBWHCO3NO9j16GpbeMyHrjDQCwvyG9JSeam75il6PDWWc56f9xbeyIKF.kYWkmV090H-7JFYd>

Passcode: q%8@j\$z%

Welcome and Roll Call (00:04:47 – 00:07:11)

Dennis Pocekay called meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and went over the Zoom rules around public comment and Brown Act guidelines.

Present:

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

Absent: Chris Keys, Redwood Gospel Mission

A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:07:12 – 00:18:42)

- Today's Agenda
- Minutes from 7/26/23
- Summary of Follow-ups from Previous Meeting(s)
- CoC Charter Revision: HUD Required Anti-discrimination Addition
- Don requested to pull item 3.
- **Motion:** Mark moves to approve consent calendar with item 3 removed, Kathleen seconds.

Public Comment: Gerry La Londe-Berg

Motion passed

Abstentions or Objections: none

- Discussion regarding item 3
 - Progress in creating an open HMIS system
 - Appreciation for the page describing Finders, Keepers, Funders
 - Question regarding integration with IBM Watson/Merative system

Public Comment: none

5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:18:43 – 01:02:27)

Regional Communications Update:

- Dave Kiff provided update and shared that he and Alea met with regional service providers. Update specifics can be found in this link from the meeting packet:
<https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/pS8EP17QZs4/->

Plans for Emergency Shelter Site:

- Dave Kiff provided update: The County of Sonoma was slated to discuss the next steps for the persons who remain sheltered at the Emergency Shelter Site at the County administrative campus, but the agenda item was not complete in time to make the 8-22 agenda. The next open date is September 12th. The County team intended to propose two different alternatives to the ESS, neither of which would involve tent housing. The County has an open Request for Proposals (RFP) for Interim Housing Support Services and Site Management that could cover all of the County's remaining interim housing sites (the Ballfield Trailers, the Hotel Azura, the ESS, and future changes to Los Gullicos Village).

Next Steps for Oakland Housed:

- Michael Gause presented a summary of recent meetings and next steps: The EH Team met with the City of Santa Rosa and Catholic Charities on August 15th to receive an overview of a homelessness prevention model that Catholic Charities has been piloting. This program is similar to the Oakland Housed/All Home model and could be replicated on a larger scale. The EH Team and the City of Santa Rosa will be meeting again with All Home in September to discuss next steps.
- Jennielynn Holmes spoke to more specifics of this pilot program and data-informed triage assessment system around homelessness prevention.

Bimonthly County & Services Provider Team Meeting:

- Michael Gause provided update on the every-other-month in person meeting between DHS Homelessness Services staff and area service providers that occurred in August 2023, with less attendance but with good discussion about ways to improve

upon the FY 24-25 Local Homelessness Services NOFA, an example of the data and performance metrics that the DHS Team is proposing to use (in this case, for Permanent Supportive Housing programs) and about Open HMIS. All service providers continue to be welcome to attend these meetings, which are typically the first Thursday of every other month starting at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Roles & Responsibilities:

- o Dave Kiff outlined a general plan for annual review of CoC Committee roles and responsibilities: The Funding and Evaluation Committee has discussed bringing an item to the CoC Board that would refine and revise its roles and responsibilities. This is fine. But it made Lead Agency staff suggest that all Committees have formal roles and responsibilities as approved by the CoC Board. Staff propose that the CoC Board would discuss these once each year, at the December meeting. Committees' roles and responsibilities could be revised annually or unchanged but affirmed annually. Board members should let staff know if they have concerns about this approach. Staff would also bring forward the F&E Committee's proposed roles and responsibilities at the December 2023 meeting.

Potential Name Change for CoC:

- o Thai Hilton presented staff recommendation for name change for CoC board and program it oversees to eliminate operational and public confusion. In some communities the CoC Board oversees only the specific CoC funding stream. In Sonoma County the CoC Board oversees nearly all funding streams. Differentiating between CoC Program funding and Sonoma County CoC NOFA has created confusion for service providers such that they are missing out on funding sources. In addition: Staff recommends the CoC Board consider another name that clearly communicates its role, such as "Sonoma County Homelessness Continuum" or Sonoma County Homelessness Oversight Board" or any name that a person from the public can understand at first glance.
- o Additional name ideas that arose from discussion:
 - ◆ Sonoma County Homeless Collaborative
 - ◆ Homelessness Services Planning Council
 - ◆ Previous Name was Home Sonoma County
 - ◆ Sonoma County Continuum of Care Collaborative
 - ◆ Regional Task Force on Homelessness

Public Comment: Teddie Pierce, Ludmilla Bade, Gerry La Londe-Berg

Motion: Una Glass motioned to direct staff to come up with various options for name change, including not changing the name, with commentary on pros and cons of each name for consideration. Natalie Rogers seconded.

Abstentions: Dennis Pocekay

Motion passes

Abstention or Objections: One

6. By Names List Progress (01:02:28 – 1:55:36)

- Thai Hilton presented an overview of Built for Zero data contribution and infrastructure. By Names List has been developed on subregional and county-wide levels. Case conferencing is underway in Rohnert Park, North County and South County regions. Working on establishing case conferencing in remaining three regions. County-wide case conferencing has begun, with representatives from each subregion, service providers and city entities. Next steps are for developing structure of approach to case conferencing. Potential to use these case conferences to review factors that led to clients exiting housing support programs. By Names List Tracks people as they move through the system(s) in Sonoma County.

- **Motion:** Don Schwartz presented motion; CoC Board directs staff to assess and provide options and/or a recommendation for sub-regional approach to outreach that includes:
 - Pros and cons of options
 - Financial implications, including:
 - identifying potential sources and expenses
 - consideration of \$1.6 million in outreach savings identified in long-term funding strategy
 - how to include in future procurements
 - Integration of IMDT/HEART team with one integrated system
 - Linkages, including Releases to Information, to:
 - law enforcement
 - emergency medical services
 - criminal justice system
 - mobile support teams including County's program, InResponse, and SAFE
 - Consideration of existing outreach capacity
 - Consideration of county-wide coverage
 - Consideration of data systems and potential interfaces and/or integration
 - Consideration of appropriate caseload sizes
 - Other factors as staff or existing working groups deem appropriate

If needed, staff to bring interim analysis to the Board for information and/or direction

Timing: to be completed before forthcoming funding cycle

Kathleen Pozzi seconded motion.

- Laura Sparks offered a friendly amendment to include all incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- Kathleen Pozzi: friendly amendment to include County IMDT/HEART teams

Public Comment: None

Motion passed

Abstentions or Objections: none

7. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (01:55:37 – 02:13:33)

- Margaret Sluyk provided update: The provider group met with Coordinated Entry consultants to talk more about the new assessment model. They elected 2 people to serve on a work group to go through the new model. Did not have regular meeting before this board meeting.

(Provider Update from SHARE Sonoma County)

- Amy Appleton – Founder and Director of SHARE Sonoma County which is in its 10th year of operation.
- Home Share Program – average 80 matches annually
- Community House Program – master leasing program – 21 houses currently operating
- Contact for all new housing referrals: Torrie O’Neill
- Cell: 707.888.8939
- Email: torrie@sharesonomacounty.org
- Website: sharesonomacounty.org
- Presentation slides can be viewed here:
<https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/WpqyYgCSejs/>

Public Comment: Gerry La Londe-Berg, Ludmilla Bade

8. Word from the Street (02:13:34 – 02:16:48)

- Chessy Etheridge – Word on the street is about those who fall through the gaps in voucher programs. Challenges with age, geography, physical abilities. For example: 82 years old, does not qualify for a voucher because she is older than 62, has social security income and has IHSS in place.

Public Comment: None

9. 10 Minute Break (02:17:02 – 02:27:18)

10. Open Board Discussion (02:27:19 – 02:58:41)

- Dave Kiff invited members to identify and discuss gaps in the overall system. Staff will take good notes and bring back thoughts, recommendations, or next strategies as part of the strategic plan.
 - Need homelessness hospice – Offering care and dignity at end of life for those experiencing homelessness without system being penalized for the death outcomes.
 - Housing for people needing high levels of medical care.
 - Caritas having permanent supportive housing integrated with clinic services is a good step in the right direction.
 - Need more levels of PSH
 - Easier way to identify emergency/temporary shelter beds
 - Places for higher acuity individuals in a proactive manner, rather than
 - More dual diagnostic housing that is long term and offers mental health and AODS support
 - People living in RVs that do not need as many services but do need help with a permanent, safe, inexpensive place to park with basic infrastructure. Akin to The Grove that existed in Cotati in years past. Challenges with Section 8 and barriers of getting into existing RV parks.
 - Residential care with treatment for substance use disorders
 - Is CalAIM an option for funding some of these needs?
 - Section 8 does not allow RVs or Tiny Homes on Wheels for eligibility
 - Hospital care finances
 - Senior citizens
 - Memory care
 - Lack of mental health services providers in this county
 - Develop a program to attract the talent for staffing mental health programs
 - Measure O to pay for intern fees? (Like Cloverdale police incentive program)
 - Partner with local education/certification programs
 - Lack of affordable housing for all workers in Sonoma County, especially those working for minimum wage or are students
 - Loss of housing leases and housing inventory because of lack of funding or services to sustain.

- Community workers as extenders of mental health professionals
- Advocacy to create more flexibility in existing funding streams (e.g. CalAIM reimburses only 90 days of a person's life, currently collecting public comment on changing this to 6 months)

Public Comment: Gerry La Londe-Berg,

11. Reports from Standing Committees (02:58:42 – 03:48:40)

Funding and Evaluation Committee

1. Teddie Pierce provided update: Working towards strengthening membership to make better decisions as we move forward.

- Developing more clarity and framework for roles and responsibilities
- Work group established to look at language definitions, so all committee members have the same understanding when certain terms are used.

2. Don Schwartz updated on the NOFA process review – More direction from the CoC Board would be useful, based on staff analysis and recommendation.

- **Don Schwartz motioned to:**

Direct staff to draft a NOFA process for funding recommendations that reflects:

- a. All funding sources, regardless of jurisdiction
- b. Effective allocation of funding by services category (prevention, outreach, shelter/interim housing, etc.) consistent with the long-term funding strategy or best available information
- c. County-wide inventory of existing facilities and services to identify distribution of services by region
- d. Matching available funding sources and allocation of funding by service categories, and
- e. CoC priorities on chronic homelessness, and CoC policies in the Strategic Plan including use of proven practices, geographic equity, and addressing racial and ethnic disparities.

Direct the Funding and Evaluation Committee to develop definitions of terms such as proven practices, geographic equity, and racial and ethnic disparities.

Process to be informed by data, performance, and providers.

To be reviewed and modified if/as needed as determined by the F&E Committee at its next meeting with final review/approval by Board.

- **Una Glass – Seconded motion** and offered a friendly amendment to have the directions in this motion be reviewed and modified by the Funding and Evaluation Committee at its next meeting, with final review and approval conducted by CoC Board.

Public Comment: Gerry La Londe-Berg

Motion passed

Abstentions or Objections: None

11. Continued - Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee (03:29:57)

- Thai Hilton presented slides expanding on this summary:

The lead agency has been working with technical assistance providers, Homebase, on early steps of the Coordinated Entry assessment and prioritization redesign. This process began in March 2023 when Homebase met with coordinated entry staff from the lead agency and HomeFirst. In April 2023, Homebase held listening sessions with 38 community partners. After these listening sessions, Homebase has held a series of community meetings with target groups. These groups included Outreach/Shelter/Access points, executive directors/community leaders, people with lived experience, Coordinated Entry case conferencing participants and permanent housing providers. The first meeting with each group was to educate and discuss the current coordinated entry system's prioritization system - its goals, outcomes, and implementation - and identify areas for change. The second meeting focused on options and best practices for changing the prioritization system and tools, in alignment with the community's needs and priorities. At the end of these meetings, the stakeholder groups selected representatives to form a working group that will begin the process of creating a new assessment and prioritization process for the community. The CEA committee will be considering a proposal to form that working group at the September CEA committee meeting.

Public comment: none

11. Continued - Strategic Planning Committee (03:34:03)

- Tom Bieri presented a report of recent activities.
 - More than 200 permanent supportive housing beds developed this year.
 - Safety work group created to consult with 5 stakeholders to develop safety-related recommendations that will be submitted to the Strategic Planning Committee and eventually to the CoC Board for consideration.
 - Work group convened to reflect on the Benioff study – Those interested in participating may contact Ludmilla Bade.
 - Working groups are time limited to 2-4 meetings and will be disbanded upon bringing recommendations to the CoC Board.

- The Board discussed an option of having the safety work group bring their topic to the provider group for discussion.

Public comment: Ludmilla Bade

11. Continued - LEAP Board (03:45:01)

Rebekah Sammet provided update:

- Currently made of 12 board members and 2 seats are available
- Provided advisory for PIT count essential items
- Providing information and support materials for CoC application
- Working with Homebase on Coordinated Entry prioritization and system tool
- Still undergoing board training and development

Public comment: none

12. September 27, 2023 Regular CoC Board Meeting Draft Agenda (03:48:41 – 03:54:24)

- Request: Would like an update on plan for cold weather.
- Request: Add to the regular staff report list: Update on the status of MOU
- Request: HMIS Evaluation Update in the next couple of months.

Public Comment: None

13. Board Questions and Comments (03:54:25 – 03:58:24)

- Please give topics adequate time when placed on the agenda.
- Request to have website updated with meeting minutes list updated on the webpage hosting Board Meeting Materials. Currently only in calendar.
- Is there an update on opening the Gold Coin housing project? – no date set, has been pushed back towards the end of 2023.

Public Comment: None

14. Public Comment on items not on the agenda (03:58:25 – 03:58:38)

None

4:55pm Meeting Adjourned