



## Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time – Meeting held by Zoom

### **Welcome and Roll Call (00:05:40 - 00:07:55)**

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: Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma; Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities Diocese of Santa Rosa; Kelli Kuykendall proxy for Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa; Chris Coursey, BOS County of Sonoma; Kathleen Pozzi; Martha Cheever, Sonoma County CDC; Una Glass, City of Sebastopol; Don Schwartz, City of Rohnert Park; Ron Wellander proxy for Jack Ding, City of Sonoma; Danielle Danforth, West County Community Services; Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home; Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Health Centers; Mark Krug, Burbank Housing.*
- *Arrived after meeting commenced: Chessy Etheridge, Adult Lived Experience Representative; Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park.*
- *Absent: Chris Keys, Redwood Gospel Mission; Cheyenne McConnell, TAY Representative*

***A quorum was present.***

### **1. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:07:56 – 00:13:24)**

Dennis Pocekay, CoC Board Chair went over consent calendar, 7/26 and approval of 6/28/2023 meeting minutes.

Jennielynn Holmes motioned to approve Consent Calendar; Una Glass seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** none

*Abstentions or objections: Ben Leroi and Mark Krug abstained from approving June meeting minutes. Martha Cheever recused self from item item 6.*

### **Motion Approved**

Approval of Consent calendar items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

## **7. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:13:25 – 00:36:28)**

- CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 2023 Update: Karissa White gave update, noting that priorities outlined within this year's NOFO are the same as last year. Karissa gave HUD required deadlines and presented best practices for being successful with grant applications, as the e-snaps system can be complicated. Multiple support opportunities will be provided to applicants. An overview of potential awards, risks, and definition of new project types was presented. HUD has allocated up to 14 points (7 for housing, 7 for healthcare) for new projects.
- CoC Program New Project Scoring: (Karissa White) Working group reviewed scoring tool from last year and made adjustments for this year.
- CoC Competition Remaining Process: (Karissa White) New project scoring tool will be used for upcoming CoC competition. Local Request for Proposals will be released August 2<sup>nd</sup>, CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup will have final meeting August 29<sup>th</sup>, Approval from CoC Board will occur during a special meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Board members asked clarifying questions and offered discussion.

**Public Comment:** Michael Hilbert, Rebekah Sammet, Elizabeth Goldman, Gregory Fearon

## **8. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (00:36:29 – 01:08:32)**

Margaret Sluyk shared there is ongoing discussion regarding changes that have taken place over the last year with HMIS. A bullet point list of changes would help the group assess whether it feels we are moving towards a more open HMIS system or not. Next step: Provide bulleted information to disperse and get feedback on these changes. The group is also exploring ways to have all services providers engage with the HMIS system. Currently there are some that do not receive CoC funds and are not required to interact with HMIS. The goal is to bring all services providers into communication through one system.

The next Roundtable meeting will focus on Coordinated Entry.

Starting today there will be 1-2 services providers presenting their work during CoC Board meetings to increase awareness of what type of work is being done by each provider.

Tim Miller presented historical context for peer counseling and current information on West County Community Services Peer Support Program. Transition to Housing Program focuses on people who will need extra support upon entering housing. (transitioning from shelter, jail, hospital). The types of support are offered:

- 1) High needs 1 to 1 peer counseling
- 2) Walk in Centers with both group and 1:1 options
- 3) Senior peer counseling

Clarification: West County Community Center (WCCC) is a separate entity from West County Health, though they work closely together. WCCC peer support programs are open to everyone, regardless of where they are located.

SHARE Sonoma County will be the provider presenting at

**Public Comment:** Ludmilla Bade, Gregory Fearon

Board members discussed goals of a universal information system and current challenges to that goal.

#### **9. Word from the Street (01:08:33 – 01:09:30)**

This item will be addressed later in the meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

#### **10. Decorum Guidance (1:09:35 – 1:22:23)**

Dave Kiff presented a 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of decorum guidelines, with a reminder that this guidance is intended to help meetings to flow well, embrace respectful disagreement, and manage time so all agenda items are addressed. These guidelines are not intended to restrict free speech of anyone involved with CoC meetings.

**Public Comment:** Michael, Ludmilla Bade, Elizabeth Goldman

Chris Coursey moved to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of guidelines, as amended with the redlining. Kathleen Pozzi seconded the motion.

Discussion

*Abstentions or objections: None*

**Motion Passes** with unanimous consent.

## 11. Representation on the CoC Board (1:22:25 – 2:24:03)

- **Tribal Member Seat (1:22:25 – 2:13:51)**

Karrissa provided an overview of the technical assistance provided over the last 6 months to address racial disparities within our Homeless System of Care, the data demonstrating these disparities, and the need for an Indigenous representative seat on the CoC board. Karissa introduced Seetha Reddy, who has been serving as the technical assistant in this effort. Seetha provided background for Assembly Bill 1010 and presented information about the tribal citizens who live within the boundaries of Sonoma County, some living on their ancestral land and some living displaced from their ancestral land. Effectiveness of homelessness services relies heavily upon case workers either being Indigenous or well-informed about the unique needs of Indigenous people, communities, and Tribes. The issue of representation of a diverse group of Indigenous people is very complex. Staff suggests that the process unfold according to the dynamics presented when engaging with local Indigenous people and Tribal organizations.

Staff recommends a 5-step process, with a listening session happening during Step 4.

- 1- CoC Board approves designated seat
- 2- CoC meets with Tribal Nations, Tribes and Tribal entities.
- 3- CoC develops eligibility document
- 4- CoC does outreach to entities
- 5- Application review and selection

Discussion: Board members discussed the option of keeping the 3 At Large seats and adding an additional seat for an Indigenous representative vs. transforming one of the At Large seats into an Indigenous representative seat. The timeline for developing and filling the new seat was also discussed.

Una Glass moved to direct staff to make proposals for changing the charter to accommodate the new seat, with the understanding that staff may not be able to fully execute the process by the time elections occur in 2023. Danielle Pocekay seconds the motion.

Ben Leroi offered a friendly amendment to clarify the motion is to change the charter to replace one of the At Large seats with a Tribal Representative seat in 2023 and leaving that seat unfilled until the consultation process is complete.

**Public Comment:** Michael, Ludmilla, Teddie Pierce

**Motion passes** with unanimous vote.

- **LEAP Board Chair on CoC Board (non-voting member) (02:13:52 – 02:23:59)**

Jennielynn reviewed history of this action item. Board members discussed the value of having the LEAP Board Chair attend all CoC Board meetings as a non-voting liaison.

A clarification was made: Page 45 of the meeting packet incorrectly states “the CoC Board was created in February 2022.” It should read “the LEAP Board was created in February 2022.”

Don Schwartz made the motion to approve the creation of a non-voting seat on the CoC Board of Directors, to be occupied by the LEAP Board Chair. Chessy Etheridge seconded the motion.

Margaret Sluyk moved to amend the language: Approve the creation of a non-voting participatory member of the CoC Board of Directors, to be occupied by the LEAP Board Chair. Don Schwartz seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** Michael, Rebekah Sammet

**Motion Passed** by unanimous agreement.

## **12. 10-minute break (02:24:54 – 02:34:59)**

*Meeting resumed; Staff confirmed a quorum was present.*

## **9. Word from the Street (02:34:60 – 02:50:03)**

Chessy Etheridge shared that the LEAP board and people on the streets are having conversations about the challenges interfacing with homelessness services while also owning an RV. There is a need to expand this conversation. The board briefly discussed some of the issues. Dennis Pocekay suggested putting this topic on a future CoC Board agenda.

**Public Comment:** Ludmilla Bade,

## **13. Long-term Funding Plan - 2<sup>nd</sup> Discussion (02:50:04 – 03:27:47)**

Dave summarized the staff report and reminded board members to review the slide presentation prepared by Andrew Henning which contains strategic planning recommendations. Priorities to consider for 2024 NOFA funding applications: 1) Subregional approach to street outreach. Tying funding to geographical areas so that the entire county is being covered. 2) Centralized approach to homelessness prevention. The goal is to eliminate both gaps and duplications in services across the county, being efficient and effective with funding.

**Board request:** Designate staffing for collecting metric updates on a monthly basis.

**Public Comment:** Rebekah Sammet, Teddie Pierce

## **14. Reports from Standing Committees (03:27:48 – 3:33:34)**

- Funding & Evaluation Committee: Teddie Pierce gave an overview of most recent committee workings and future plans.

- LEAP: Rebekah Sammet gave an update. LEAP Board is currently full, but interested parties are still welcome to apply.

**Public comment:** No comments

**15. Review Agenda for Next CoC Board Meeting (03:33:35 – 03:38:41)**

Dennis Pocekay presented the topic of canceling the August board meeting, due to member vacations and lack of urgent agenda items. Board members discussed options and determined that August meetings will proceed as usual.

**Public comment:** none

**Staff comment:** Michael Gause

**Board member questions and comments:** none

*Abstentions or objections: None*

**Motion passes** with unanimous consent.

***Meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.***