

Sonoma County Community Development Committee



Human Services Dept. Representative: Oscar Chavez (Chair), Tenant Representatives: Stephanie Hiller, Jessica Vega
1st Dist: Betzy Chavez (Vice Chair) 2nd Dist: Michael Regan 3rd Dist: *Vacant* 4th Dist: Willie Lamberson 5th Dist: Linda Garcia
Interim Executive Director: Barbie Robinson, MPP, JD, CHC

Public Hearing
Wednesday, April 15

Via Webex in Accordance with Executive Order N-29-20

Minutes

Approved May 20, 2020

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Oscar Chavez called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Holly Kelley, Equity and Compliance Program Specialist, went over ground rules for virtual meeting. Roll was called.

Committee Members Present: Oscar Chavez, Linda Garcia, Betzy Chavez, Michael Regan, Willie Lamberson, Stephanie Hiller

Committee Members Absent: Jessica Vega

CD Staff Present: Tina Rivera, Interim Assistant Director; Carrie Kronberg, Assistant Executive Director; Martha Cheever, Housing Authority Manager; Kirsten Larsen, Community Development Manager; Diedre Duncan, Affordable Housing Asset Manager; Holly Kelley, Equity and Compliance Specialist; Shelley Ticehurst, Administrative Aide;

2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2020 Meeting

Betzy Chavez moved to approve the minutes from March 18, 2020. Michael Regan seconded:

Ayes: Oscar Chavez, Betzy Chavez, Michael Regan, Willie Lamberson, Stephanie Hiller

Nays: None

Abstain: Linda Garcia

Absent: Jessica Vega

4. Update from Interim Executive Director



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Barbie Robinson discussed the County's response COVID 19 regarding sheltering homeless population and low income residents, as well as the impacts this pandemic has on these populations. The Governor has ordered counties to shelter vulnerable populations. The task force is working on support solutions, so far over 300 people have been identified as needing assistance. We have a committee assisting shelters with the necessary mitigation efforts to comply with requirements. We have been testing the homeless population for COVID-19 and currently have no cases. We have set up portable toilets and handwashing stations throughout the county as well as trash services. We are checking in with homeless population to ensure they are able to comply with requirements. Trailers will be at the fairgrounds on Friday.

We also are working on what support we can offer for renters in our programs who cannot pay rent.

The Board of Supervisors is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for evaluating whether the County should be combining the Department of Health, Human Services Department and the CDC. The evaluation will look at improving outcomes and services. California counties that have this model already: Marin, Napa and Mendocino, San Diego, Solano, Shasta and possibly more. Ms. Robinson will provide updates as they become available.

Ms. Robinson was also asked by the Board of Supervisors to evaluate committees and their scope of authority including the CD Committee. The Board wants better understanding of how their scope of authority works with the scope of authority of the CD Committee and Home Sonoma County Leadership Council and CDC. They would like to clarify the scope and roles of these entities as well as evaluating similar entities in other jurisdictions.

5. Update on CDBG-DR Multifamily Housing Notice of Funding Availability Schedule

Carrie Kronberg, Assistant Executive Director, presented an update on the funding for the 2017 fire recovery. The County of Sonoma has been allocated \$4.6 million in funding through the 2018 State of California Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Action Plan for Multifamily Housing Recovery. Staff will present a schedule and parameters for the Notice of Funding Availability process that will be used to award funds to local projects.



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Some of the programs being funded are being run by the State such as owner-occupied rehabilitation. Sonoma County has \$4.7M for our recovery and Santa Rosa received \$8M. The funds are specific to restoring rental housing. HUD, the State and CDC have set requirements and priorities. These funds are subject to several restrictions and requirements.

Ms. Kronberg went over the timeline for disbursing the funds, the presentation has the details. The CDC currently developing priorities and the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Ms. Kronberg then answered questions regarding this funding.

6. Public Hearing: Comments on Projects Approved for FY20-21 Federal CDBG, HOME and ESG Funding

a. Open public hearing

Oscar Chavez opened at 10:53 AM. Holly Kelley presented the information under consideration, please see the accompanying PowerPoint for projects being considered. Non-housing and housing projects were recommended. There was one correction to the fair housing for \$280K. These funds will be funding Legal Aid and other fair housing programs. The YWCA project is missing. Later it was determined that YWCA would be receiving funding from another program, and so the original amounts on the handouts were correct.

The hearing was opened for public comments, no emails were received. Jorge, resident, asked about reserves for funding and if that money be used to mitigate Shelter-in-Place issues. Answered that reserves are for unforeseen events in HOME. HOME funds are not as flexible as CDBG, and may not be useable for Shelter in Place. Barbie Robinson and Carrie Kronberg stated they would have to look at federal guidelines and requirements for using that funding in such a way.

Pamela Swan from Catholic Charities – grateful for CD Committee/CDC support

Paul Sevy from Cotati Station (BRIDGE Housing) – thanked the Committee for support of project and talked about shovel readiness of project and SMART train nearby.

Committee comments asked for. Betzy Chavez mentioned La Luz can't apply as



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don't meet requirements. Geoffrey Ross and Margaret van Vliet (former CDC executive directors) worked with them. What is the plan moving forward to support them? Mr. Chavez set aside this question as not part of public hearing

b. Close public hearing

Mr. Chavez closed the public hearing at 11:06 AM. These programs will be incorporated into the Action Plan and the 5-year Consolidated Plan. These plans will then be presented in May to the Board of Supervisors for approval in May.

Mr. Chavez returned to Betzy Chavez's question. Ms. Robinson is interested talking to La Luz and will work with them to move forward.

Linda Garcia thinks we should evaluate how the CD Committee meeting could be improved as there were some technical issues.

Ms. Robinson noted that the Shelter-in-Place order will likely continue for a while, so we should plan on working virtually for the near future. Staff will work on addressing technical challenges.

Mr. Chavez requested comments and suggestions sent to Holly.Kelley@sonoma-county.org

7. Adjournment

Oscar Chavez adjourned the meeting at 11:11 AM

**Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Ticehurst, Administrative Aide**

