



Sonoma County Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee (CEA)

January 7, 2022 10:00am. – 11:30am. Meeting held by Zoom

Meeting Recording: https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/D96GkBb-9cdcgjG37zDjlZBB-GQaMyXYMBz996AuMrlrLLhRs8iLEflrtPT_QLOM.dUortpXQcIcZqT1d?startTime=1641578176000

Welcome and Introductions: Meeting called to order at 10:00am.

Roll Call:

Present: Jennielynn Holmes, Robin Phoenix, Amy Ramirez, Asya Sorokurs, Lisa Fatu, Margaret Sluyk, Benjamin Leroi

Absent: Kathleen Finigan, Mark Krug

Approval of Agenda: No questions/Additions

Public comment: None

Asya motions to approve the agenda, Margaret seconds

Vote:

Ayes: Jennielynn Holmes, Robin Phoenix, Amy Ramirez, Asya Sorokurs, Lisa Fatu, Margaret Sluyk, Benjamin Leroi

Nays: None

Approval of meeting minutes from 12/15/21

Public Comment: none

Motion: Robin motions to approve the minutes, Lisa seconds

Vote:

Ayes: Jennielynn Holmes, Robin Phoenix, Amy Ramirez, Asya Sorokurs, Lisa Fatu, Margaret Sluyk, Benjamin Leroi

Nays: None

Agenda item: Interview of CES respondents

Jennie introduces topic and asks applicants to introduce themselves.

Home first introduces their team and background about organization.

Joe Hegedus introduces himself and IMDT.



At this time Jennielynn opens the meeting up to questions from the committee.

Margaret asks the respondents to describe how they would avoid conflicts of interest.

HomeFirst: Is committed to resolving any conflicts that arise although they don't see any at this time. Further the Rohnert Park project is an interim housing project and not Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) so they don't see a conflict with Coordinated Entry (CE). Additionally, he described there would be transparency in how referrals would work. HomeFirst is willing to put forward policies and procedures that would address conflicts of interest if they expand into housing programs.

IMDT: IMDT does not see any conflicts at this time but if there was a concern about a conflict, IMDT would bring the concern to the CEA committees. IMDT provides case management for PSH units but they are not funded by the CoC therefore there is no conflict. For HomeKey sites are owned by the Community Development Commission (CDC) not dept of health and those sites are currently non-congregate shelter sites but these sites will become permanent housing after FEMA county funding ends. He believes that there may be a perception of a conflict but that they would address that through CEA committee by having review of referrals.

Kathleen Finigan arrives at this time.

Ben Leroi shared his perspective about conflict of interest. He feels that the referral process should be an open one with providers in a transparent manner.

Asya asks 2 questions for HomeFirst.

- 1) Are there are other counties/areas HomeFirst is expanding to other than Sonoma County?
 - a. HomeFirst states that even though the agency has been around for some time, the staff is newer to the agency. In the past 3 years the agency has experienced significant growth. They believe this is due to their success so they have had a lot of new requests from other jurisdictions in the south bay, Oakland, SF, LA. HomeFirst has started a strategic growth planning project to develop a process to focus their efforts to specific areas. They have categorized Sonoma County as an area that they would like to spend more time in. He described other projects that they have been operating in San Francisco and Menlo Park.
- 2) If there is not funding in the budget to have an office in Sonoma county, what is your plan for offering services?
 - a. Because of the pandemic, HomeFirst has embraced a virtual approach to work. They imagine that there is an opportunity to do a lot virtually but they would also be open to traveling to Sonoma County. Additionally, one of the team members recently moved to Sonoma County. They have a Rohnert Park project so that even though this is a separate programs/staff, they have a need to be in Sonoma County so they will make it work



- 3) Jennielynn asks each agency what their data plan is and how they would use data as a transparency metric.
 - a. IMDT: Overall data management and quality is a feat for CE with a lot of access points and the need to have accurate data from disbursed agencies. He thinks that robust training of providers would be important. In regard to performance evaluation he thinks there would need to be some development. He thinks that incorporating Sonoma County into data dashboards so there could be public facing data. Additionally, Joe is on the HMIS committee. Getting a monthly data reporting system and getting that information reported out, is something that IMDT has done through a different database system so IMDT is confident that they can do that.
 - b. HomeFirst: HomeFirst wants to invest heavily in data quality. Data quality and program evaluation is an area they have recently invested in. A few years ago, they had 1 full-time employee (FTE) handling data, now there is a department of 4 FTEs that manage all data management, quality control and program evaluation. Additionally, they have created a strategic plan goal to have excellent data quality. For the last 4-5 years HomeFirst has carried out a quarterly data evaluation meeting where they go through all of their programs and projects and they identify problems and issues and develop a plan for addressing any concerns. He believes that this work has been part of their expansion and success they have had.
 - c. Teresa (HomeFirst Staff) responds that they would set up a data quality control plan for the CES project. She also reported that they are driven by allowing data to provide improvements.
 - d. Hunter (HomeFirst staff) responds that they could create more dashboards or supplements to reports. They would also gather data on race and equity and concerns about VI-SPDAT. HomeFirst is aware that there would be a geographic focus in their reporting to see where they need to improve in specific areas.
- 4) Jennielynn asks about staffing model and budget. She asks them to talk about staffing model and their budget they submitted.
 - a. HomeFirst: HomeFirst did not have a lot of time to spend time in the community and to learn about the community. They felt that they didn't have a lot of information to develop their budget. They would like to focus more on partnership and collaboration, ensure that they have resources to manage data and having technical assistance coordinator who would provide the appropriate trainings. They wanted to ensure that they have the best staff in place to do proper program evaluation. Homefirst is interested in having a mobile access point team but they could not see how they could staff that with the included budget. They would be interested in that if there was sufficient funding for that but given the amount of funding they decided to focus on program evaluation and partnerships.



At this time there was a 5-minute break for staff to aggregate the committee's scores.

Public Comment on Non-agenized items

Staff announces the scores. IMDT: 78.87 HomeFirst: 88.44

Kathleen shares her concerns about moving forward with CES operator who is not physically in Sonoma County.

Lisa comments that there has been a lot of work that has been done remotely. She feels like someone focusing on the technically parts of CES is what the community needs.

Ben Leroi motions to recommend HomeFirst to CoC board pending resolution of budget based on funding that can be provided. Lisa seconds

Public Comment: none

Vote:

Ayes: Jennielynn Holmes, Robin Phoenix, Amy Ramirez, Asya Sorokurs, Lisa Fatu, Margaret Sluyk, Benjamin Leroi

Nays: None

Meeting is adjourned at 11:30am.