

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Tom Schwedhelm, Chair  
Mark Krug, Vice Chair  
Susan Gorin  
Lynda Hopkins  
Gabe Kearney  
David Kuskie  
Rebekah Sammet  
Don Schwartz



LEAD AGENCY  
Sonoma County  
Community Development Commission  
1440 Guerneville Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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## Leadership Council Meeting

October 24, 2019 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lead Agency | Sonoma County Community Development Commission  
1440 Guerneville Road | Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order:

Tom Schwedhelm called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call:

Leadership Council Members Present: Susan Gorin, Mark Krug, David Kuskie, Julie Combs, Rebekah Sammet, Don Schwartz, Lynda Hopkins, Kevin McDonald (representing Gabe Kearney), and Tom Schwedhelm

Leadership Council Members Absent: None

Community Development Commission Staff Members Present: Geoffrey Ross, Michael Gause, Chuck Mottern, Suzanne Whipple and Karissa White

Approval of Agenda: Mark Krug motioned to approve the agenda. Julie Combs seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Julie Combs noted the need to have a standing item on each agenda for Council Members to discuss and vote on items for future agendas.

#### 3. General Public Comment:

Frank, a Santa Rosa community member, requested information on the funding decisions approved by the Leadership Council and the Home Sonoma County groups.

Thomas Ells commented about the Joe Rodota Trail, requesting Council Members visit the trail.

Adrienne Lauby, President of SAVS, encouraged people to conduct research on encampments, Safe Parking, and the need to offer shelter.

Scott Wagner commented about the work of the Leadership Council with the Villages project and what was needed to move the project forward.

Brenda expressed the need to be proactive with the Joe Rodota Trail before it gets out of control and concerns about quality of life for people camping on the trail. She commented about open drug use on the trail, the need to incarcerate people who are refusing beds, increased access for mental health resources, and support for local law enforcement.

Phil Johnson, resident of Sonoma County and member of Citizens for Action Now, reported living behind the Joe Rodota Trail. He expressed concerns about the lack of enforcement on the trail, issues with drugs and fires from the encampment on the trail, and claimed that the County is enabling these behaviors.

Chair Tom Schwedhelm reported all materials for the Home Sonoma County meetings can be found online, including minutes, agenda and future meetings.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes:**

Leadership Council Meeting of August 22, 2019. Susan Gorin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mark Krug seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, Mark Krug, David Kuskie, Rebekah Sammet, Don Schwartz, Lynda Hopkins, and Tom Schwedhelm

Nays: None

Abstain: Kevin McDonald and Julie Combs

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

Leadership Council Special Meeting of September 26, 2019. Mark Krug requested the addition of language within the minutes outlining his feedback which includes, "workable system to measure prevention." Rebekah Sammet requested an amendment to the language outlining her feedback which includes, "Allocate funds for professional staff." Don Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Lynda Hopkins seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, Mark Krug, David Kuskie, Rebekah Sammet, Don Schwartz, Lynda Hopkins, and Tom Schwedhelm

Nays: None

Abstain: Kevin McDonald and Julie Combs

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

#### **5. Reports (Item 7 taken out of order)**

##### **Leadership Council Chair**

Chair Tom Schwedhelm announced he will leave the meeting at 3:00pm, Vice Chair Mark Krug will Chair the meeting, with Lynda Hopkins stepping in if Mark Krug has to recuse himself. He proposed the Council create a subcommittee to create a county-wide policy and procedure for encampments. The Council agreed to address this item at the next meeting. Don Schwartz reported the need to include members from the Mayor's and Councilmembers of the medium and small cities within this subcommittee. Once the Council has approved the county-wide policy and procedure, it will be presented to each jurisdiction for approval.

#### **6. Regular Calendar:**

## A. Informational Items:

- I. Lahela Mattox, California Business, Consumers Services, and Housing Agency provided a presentation to the Council on State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Funding. The new HHAP funding is a one-time block grant, an extension of HEAP funding, with a new set of requirements. The Sonoma County Continuum of Care and the County will receive separate allocations but can choose to redirect funds collectively by choice. Distribution of funds is based on the Homeless Point In Time Count. Applications are due February 15, 2020, disbursements will be sent on April 1, 2020, and the funds will need to be spent by June 30, 2025.
- II. Sohab Mehmood, California Housing and Community Development, provided a presentation on current State Funding including No Place Like Home (NPLH), California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Don Schwartz requested a brief one page document that includes each funding source, amounts, and purpose from the CDC.

### Public Comment:

Lisa Landrus commented about funds allocated towards clearing encampments and people who are refusing services. She expressed concerns with the use of funds, her support to expand the scope of the definition of gravely ill, and increased conservatorship.

## B. Action Items:

- I. **Approve Evaluation Task Group recommendations on reallocated HEAP capital funding (item 6Bii taken first)** Representative Andrea Garfia from the Performance Measurement and Evaluation (PME) Task Group and Michael Gause, Community Development Commission's (CDC) Ending Homelessness Manager Michael Gause reported on the following three projects which voluntarily gave up funding from the FY 2019-2020 Homeless Services Funding: Casbah Entrepreneurs LLC, Palms Inn (Rehab); The Living Room, Road to Home (Acquisition); and Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire, Mental Health Homeless Services Peer Navigators (Services).

The CDC's Affordable Housing Director Benjamin Wickham and Ending Homelessness Manager Michael Gause met with the PME Task Group to compile recommendations for the unallocated \$1.1 million in HEAP funding remaining from the projects. Benjamin Wickham informed the LC that rather than go through a new funding cycle, the group is proposing to allocate the remaining funds to capital projects that had significant cuts from the task group's original funding recommendations. The three capital projects include the St. Vincent De Paul Sonoma County's Gold Coin Permanent Supportive Housing project, Petaluma Ecumenical Properties River City Senior Apartments, and Reach for Home's Two Home Purchase. The projects are spread geographically with units in Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and in Healdsburg. Julie Combs requested information on the cost per unit for each of the housing projects and explained the need to have this information when making decisions for funding.

Tom Schwedhelm left the meeting at 3:00pm, Mark Krug will Chair the meeting, but has recused himself from this item due to conflict of interest. Lynda Hopkins stepped in as Chair of the meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Lisa Landrus commented with concerns about the Gold Coin purchase and the residents who were evicted from the property.

Alice Linn commented about the Performance Measurement and Evaluation Task Group's work to identify and recommend new permeant supportive housing projects, but urged the community to focus more on the people living outside before prioritizing new permanent supportive housing units.

Celeste Austin commented about the homeless issue in the County and informed the group of her experience at the Living Room helping women transition from being chronically homeless to housing. She advised the Council that the community may need projects that are outdoors.

Don Schwartz made a motion to approve the Evaluation Task Group's recommendations of the reallocated HEAP capital funding. Julie Combs seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, David Kuskie, Julie Combs, Rebekah Sammet, Don Schwartz, Lynda Hopkins, Kevin McDonald

Nays: None

Abstain: Mark Krug

Absent: Tom Schwedhelm

Motion Passes.

**II. Coordinated Entry Evaluation Update & Policy Recommendations (item 6Bii taken second)**

Housing First and Coordinated Entry Task Group Chair Barbie Robinson presented three recommendations from the task group that would provide immediate benefits to the system. All of the proposed recommendations were outlines as areas to improve within the Coordinated Entry System's Evaluation conducted in July of 2019.

**Recommendations:**

1. **Review and enhance the VI-SPDAT rather than adopting an entirely new scoring tool:** ACCESS Sonoma's Interdepartmental Multi-Disciplinary Team to work on enhancements with the task group.
2. **Review and adjust prioritization of shelter for a split of 50% referrals from Coordinated Entry and 50% at providers' discretion:** Sonoma County implemented Coordinated Entry (CE) System procedures that include emergency shelter referrals and was one of the very few communities that manage emergency shelter this way. The idea was to provide an opportunity to shelter those in the community with the highest service needs who were unable to access shelter through first-come first-serve operations. This led to 90% of CE referrals going to emergency shelters and less time to focus on housing related referrals. The group proposes 50% of referrals to emergency shelters will go through Coordinated Entry for high needs clients and 50% will managed via the provider. This will provide

additional staff time to focus on permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing referrals.

3. **Approve County Interdepartmental Multidisciplinary Team (IMDT) as review body for rejected referrals in permanent supportive housing:** The CoC is required to have a process to appeal decisions related to CE referrals. The Task Group recommends that ACCESS Sonoma's IMDT will represent the non-conflicted appeals body in the rare instances of permanent supportive housing referral rejections.

**Public Comment:**

Tom Bieri, Community Support Network's Executive Director, requested the Leadership Council delay the approval of the appeals body, reporting the need for additional time to set up the process. He stated issues with landlord rights and the provider's responsibility to ensure the safety of household members in congregate living situations have not been fully vetted.

Lisa Landrus commented about assessing people and their needs.

Annie Nichol commented in favor of changing or enhancing the VI-SPDAT.

Thomas Ells commented with support for the emergency shelter split and appeals body.

Kevin McDonald left at 3:42 pm.

Lynda Hopkins left at 3:35 pm.

**Item One: Modifying and Enhancing the VI-SPDAT**

Julie Combs motioned to approve the item. Susan Gorin seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, David Kuskie, Julie Combs, Rebekah Sammet, Don Schwartz, Mark Krug

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tom Schwedhelm, Kevin McDonald, Lynda Hopkins

Motion Passes.

**Item Two: Emergency Shelter Referral Split**

Council members agreed to include a three and six month review of this proposal to look at emergency shelter bed utilization, rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing placements.

Don Schwartz motioned to approve the item as amended to include a three and six months review of the new process. With Susan Gorin seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, David Kuskie, Julie Combs, Rebekah Sammet, Don Schwartz, Mark Krug

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Tom Schwedhelm, Kevin McDonald, Lynda Hopkins

Motion Passes.

**Item Three: ACCESS Sonoma IMDT Appeals Body for Coordinated Entry**

Mark Krug informed the Council that he does not support this recommendation and that referral rejections should be a performance issue which can be factored into future funding.

Don Schwartz motioned to approve the item. With Julie Combs seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, David Kuskie, Julie Combs, Don Schwartz

Nays: Mark Krug

Abstain: Rebekah Sammet

Absent: Tom Schwedhelm, Kevin McDonald, Lynda Hopkins

Motion Passes.

### **III. Brown Act Compliance Follow-up (item 6Biv taken third)**

Community Development Commission's Executive Director Geoffrey Ross discussed the motion related to the recommended reallocation of Sonoma Applied Villages (SAVS) funding under the HEAP awards for the Living Room/Homeless Action! projects that occurred on April 17, 2019. Since the discussion and corresponding motion were not incorporated in the actual agenda and were not noticed as such, the motion and corresponding vote was not in conformance with the Brown Act. The motion permitted the Community Development Commission (CDC) to begin negotiations with SAVS for a contract that would allow for reimbursement of up to \$60,500 in funds with a fiscal sponsor in place by January 1, 2020. The CDC requests a formal motion in compliance with the Brown Act. Geoffrey Ross informed the Council of the requirement of the SAVS project to get an environmental clearance and a Scope of Work for the project.

Susan Gorin motioned to approve the CDC to begin negotiations with SAVS for a contract that would allow for reimbursement of up to \$60,500 in funds with a fiscal sponsor in place by January 1, 2020.

Geoffrey Ross noted the CDC cannot release funds until the agency receives environmental clearance and a detailed scope of work for the project as the agency has not identified their project to date.

#### **Public Comment:**

Thomas Ells commented about the Home Sonoma County working groups, the requirements of the Brown Act, and the lack of notification of when the meetings occur.

Julie Combs motioned to approve the CDC to begin negotiations with SAVS for a contract that would allow for reimbursement of up to \$60,500 in funds with a fiscal sponsor in place by January 1, 2020. Rebekah Sammet seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, David Kuskie, Julie Combs, Don Schwartz, Rebekah Sammet

Nays: None

Abstain: Mark Krug

Absent: Tom Schwedhelm, Kevin McDonald, Lynda Hopkins

Motion Passes.

### **IV. Approve Evaluation Task Group as Ad Hoc Committee and approve redesign of Data Initiatives Task group to Performance Management and Data Initiatives Task Group (item 6Bi taken last)** Community Development Commission Executive Director Geoffrey Ross and

Ending Homelessness Manager Michael Gause confirmed that all Task Groups are currently Standing Committees and are subject to the Brown Act. The CDC recommends the Leadership Council approve the restructuring of two Task Groups, the Performance Management & Evaluation Task Group and the Data Initiatives Task Group. In order to streamline policy, performance, and funding recommendations, staff recommend approval of the Evaluation Task group as an Ad Hoc Committee that only meets with the specific purpose of making funding recommendations to the Leadership Council on an as-needed basis. Staff also recommend that the Data Initiatives Task Group includes oversight of performance management, including development of policies for annual funding competitions tied to analysis of data and outcomes from HUD System Performance Measures and other local priorities.

**Public Comment:**

Alice Linn commented about the evaluation process and how some people were asked to recuse themselves due to possible conflicts of interest. She reported these recusals did not involve financial conflicts of interest and could have unintentionally caused discrimination on tent and village project proposals.

Julie Combs motioned to approve Evaluation Task Group as Ad Hoc Committee and approve redesign of Data Initiatives Task group to Performance Management and Data Initiatives Task Group as approved by legal counsel. Susan Gorin Seconded.

Ayes: Susan Gorin, David Kuskie, Julie Combs, Mark Krug, Rebekah Sammet

Nays: None

Abstain: Don Schwartz

Absent: Tom Schwedhelm, Kevin McDonald, Lynda Hopkins

Motion Passes.

**7. Reports (continued):**

No staff were present to report out on the TAC and Task Group highlights.

**Continuation of Public Comment:**

Alice Linn Commented about the crisis on the Joe Rodota Trail and other communities that have had success with housing people in tents. She expressed her support for villages and tent encampments.

Arlene Haig requested meeting recordings to be available online.

**8. ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. by Mark Krug.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karissa White, Senior Community Development Specialist