



Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

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

Recording of Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yIaLSea6ho&t=10499s>

Welcome and Roll Call (00:07:47 - 00:11:29)

- Tom Schwedhelm, Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. He went over the agenda and clarified Zoom rules around public comment and Brown Act guidelines.
- Roll Call was taken:
 - *Present: Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health Center; Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa; Tom Schwedhelm, City of Santa Rosa; Dennis Poceky, City of Petaluma; Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Supervisor; Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home; Chris Keys, Redwood Gospel Mission; Nora Mallonee-Brand, Sonoma County Behavioral Health; Chessy Etheridge, Lived Experience Advisory and Planning Board; Cheyenne McConnell, Youth Community Member; Una Glass, City of Sebastopol; Don Schwartz, City of Rohnert Park; John Moore, City of Cotati; Madolyn Agrimonti, City of Sonoma; Stephen Sotomayor, City of Healdsburg*
 - *Absent: Kathleen Pozzi, Community Member*

A quorum was present.

Nora Mallonee-Brand will be stepping off the CoC Board and Jan Cobaleda-Kegler, the new Behavioral Health Division Director, will be holding the Safety Net Board seat beginning in August. Tom Schwedhelm thanked Nora for her work and welcomed Jan, who gave a brief overview of her current position and previous experience.

1. **Agenda, Consent Calendar, and Minutes Approval (00:11:30 – 00:18:50)**

Public comment:

None at this time.

Don Schwartz asked when the HMIS Committee’s evaluation was going to happen. Daniel Overbury-Howland reported the HMIS Committee has not yet decided on a timeline, but it will be completed this current fiscal year. Don Schwartz asked that Item #2, Review Draft Budget for Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP), be moved to become Item #10 since it does not include any data on how this significant amount of dollars would be allocated. Don Schwartz moved to approve the consent calendar as adjusted; Madolyn Agrimonti seconded the motion.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Chris Keys, Nora Mallonee-Brand, Chessy Etheridge, Cheyenne McConnell, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Stephen Sotomayor

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Margaret Sluyk, Kathleen Pozzi

The motion passed.

3. Report from Lead Agency Staff (00:18:51 – 00:26:01)

- Interim Executive Director Dave Kiff encouraged members to watch the video of the Board of Supervisors Meeting on July 12, 2022, of their discussion on Item #44 - Housing and Homelessness Update. No changes were recommended by the Board for the allocation of \$4 million in ARPA funding. He also reported that the judge extended the stay against the clearance of the Joe Rodata Trail. He is excited about potentially moving to aggressively becoming a *Built for Zero Community*. Thai Hilton encouraged participation of service providers, front-line staff, and leadership. Please let Dave or Thai know if you are interested in participating in either the Guidance Group or the Implementation Group.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

4. Vacant Service Provider Seat Process (00:26:02 – 00:38:15)

Lisa Fatu with Social Advocates for Youth has resigned from the Homeless Service Provider Board seat so the CoC Board must elect a successor to hold the seat until the next regular election in January, 2023. She was in the first year of a two-year term. The recommended action is to open up nominations until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15. A nomination form was included in the Board packet. Applicants will be able to make brief statements at the August 24 CoC Board Meeting, after which time a vote will be taken to fill this seat. Don Schwartz suggested a Charter amendment to clarify that a successor would complete the remainder of the term.

Public Comment:
Gail Simons

Ben Leroi moved to have a Charter amendment that would allow this Board to fill vacant seats for the remainder of the person who vacated the seat's term, however long that may be, instead of having it come up at the next election; John Moore seconded the motion.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Nora Mallonee-Brand, Chessy Etheridge, Cheyenne McConnell, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Stephen Sotomayor
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Kathleen Pozzi

The motion passed.

Dennis Pocekay moved to open nominations until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15, candidates can make brief statements on Wednesday, August 24, and the Board will vote to fill the vacant Service Provider seat; Chessy Etheridge seconded the motion.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Nora Mallonee-Brand, Chessy Etheridge, Cheyenne McConnell, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Stephen Sotomayor
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Kathleen Pozzi

The motion passed.

5. Word from the Street (00:38:16 – 01:01:59)

Chessy Etheridge received her Section 8 voucher 1-1/2 years since applying and shared her journey through the process.

Public Comment:
Rebekah Sammet
Cathleen Tandy

6. Emerging Themes (01:02:00 – 01:53:43)

Lauren Larin with Homebase shared a presentation regarding the emergent themes from the Strategic Planning Stakeholder Engagement. Several Board members provided feedback.

Public Comment:

Cathleen Tandy
Michael Adams

7. Ruthless Kindness (01:53:44 – 02:13:32)

Dr. Sarah Reidenbach with Ruthless Kindness, a veterinarian-run 501c3 nonprofit, presented information on their organization's community programs working with low income populations and their pets.

Public Comment:

Cathleen Tandy

8. Break (02:13:32 – 02:25:30)

9. Reports from Standing Committees: (02:25:31 – 03:00:24)

- Funding and Evaluation Committee: Teddie Pierce reported they met on July 18 and Teddie was elected as Chair, Cathleen Tandy as Vice Chair, and Andrew Hening as Secretary. They will meet monthly for no more than two hours each month and will meet in August with CDC staff to solidify the committee's scope. Teddie also provided more information on Stella P. Feedback can be sent to any Committee member.
- Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee: Thai Hilton reported that the Santa Rosa Housing Authority has requested 30 additional Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) referrals. The CEA Committee directed these referrals to the Move-On subpopulation. The CEA Committee approved a Move-On policy that will, if approved, be incorporated into the CE Policies and Procedures.

Public Comment:

None at this time

Chris Coursey moved to approve the submitted Move-On Voucher Policy; seconded by Jennielynn Homes.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Nora Mallonee-Brand, Chessy Etheridge, Cheyenne McConnell, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Stephen Sotomayor

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kathleen Pozzi

The motion passed.

- Strategic Planning Committee: Stephen Sotomayor reported the Committee continues to work with Homebase on Phase 2 of the Strategic Planning Process, with a focus on stakeholder engagement to identify strategic priorities and goals for the county's response to homelessness.
- HMIS Data Committee: Heather Sweet reported on the Committee's efforts to streamline activities to decrease stress on both the staff and the clients entering data into our system.
- Lived Experience and Advisory and Planning (LEAP) Board: Rebekah Sammet shared information on their discussions with HomeFirst and the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, provided input for the potential creation of a CEA Shelter Monitoring Sub-Committee, and created a LEAP Shelter Solutions Committee. They are currently finalizing their charter and discussing the creation of a Grievance Review Committee.
- Youth Action Board: Araceli Rivera reported that while several attempts to start the YAP Board both virtually and in person interest is very low. Support is needed from the agencies to build off what they are doing and bring that to the Youth Action Board and CoC.

Public Comment:

None at this time

**2. Review Draft Budget for Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP)
(03:00:25 – 03:47:50)**

Michael Gause provided a brief overview of this direct allocation from the State Department of Healthcare Services to the County of Sonoma and requires CoC consultation as part of the process. The first year is under \$1 million with the bulk of this in 2023-24 and 2024-25. Margaret Kisliuk with Partnership HealthPlan of California provided details on these incentive funds from the state.

Public Comment:

Teddie Pierce

Ben Leroi moved to approve the letter of support (Attachment A); seconded by John Moore.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Chessy Etheridge, Cheyenne McConnell,

Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Stephen Sotomayor

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Chris Coursey, Nora Mallonee-Brand, Kathleen Pozzi

The motion passed.

10. Review Agenda for August 24, 2022, Meeting (03:47:51 – 03:50:06)

Michael Gause requested an updated on HHIP. Tom Schwedhelm requested an amendment to the CoC Charter for filling vacant positions be added to the consent calendar. Don Schwartz requested a discussion on what the CoC wants to include in the MOU with the lead agency.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

11. Board Member Questions and Comments (03:50:07 – 03:52:11)

Ben Leroi congratulated Jennielynn on her recent promotion with Catholic Charities. Don Schwartz requested an update on the Provider Advisory Group. Margaret Sluyk reported their first meeting will be on Friday to discuss a high-level overview of the group's purpose. They would like to be on the agenda for each meeting to update the Board.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

12. Public Comments on Non-Agendized Items (03:52:12 – 03:53:36)

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.