

Sonoma County Continuum of Care ESG-CV Ad Hoc Committee



Michael Gause, Ending Homelessness Program Manager, Andrew Akufo, CDC PPEA, DHS/CDC, Chuck Mottern, Community Development Associate, Madison Murry, Administrative Aide, Ending Homelessness, Thai Hilton, Coordinated Entry Coordinator
Committee members: Stephen Sotomayor | Angela Struckmann | Ludmilla Bade | Don Schwartz

ESG-CV Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2022

2:30pm-4:00pm

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (2:35pm)

Continuum of Care (CoC) ESG-CV Ad Hoc Committee Attendees:

Stephen Sotomayor
Don Schwartz
Angela Struckmann
Ludmilla Bade

Absent

2. Financial Incentives for Housing Vouchers

Thai shared a presentation and explained the financial incentives for Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs).

Don Schwartz asked about the status of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) report and when committee members could see it. The next report is due Feb. 1, 2022.

Thai provided stats on the Emergency Housing Vouchers for Sonoma County as of Jan. 6, 2022. No recent information for the City of Santa Rosa was available.

Don requested monthly HUD reports be sent to the board when due. Staff will share when the information becomes available.

Don also asked about the pilot project and housing by the Behavioral Health Department. Thai explained the project. He doesn't have a contact from the department but is open to involving others. Michael Gause added the contacts may be Joe Hegedus, Will Gayowski and Crystal and would be willing to connect Don with them.

Stephen Sotomayor added information about Reach for Home's EHVs which wasn't part of the slide presentation. Stephen added Reach for Home had received a HUD grant that



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they've been using for incentives. Stephen asked if incentives were offered to landlords upfront or afterwards if there was hesitation. Staff wasn't sure about the approach with incentives but is trying to unify the process through the centralized housing locator.

Ludmilla asked about the referral groups and also wanted to see monthly HUD reports about EHV. **Thai will develop a chart of all the different participating agencies and groups.**

Ludmilla also asked if there was a HUD deadline for the EHV leases and the remaining 130 vouchers listed as "searching". **Thai will reach out to HUD and find out and explained the status of the "searching" vouchers.**

No public comment

3. Funding for Housing Locator Services (0:23:31)

Don asked if there were any ideas or a need to hire someone to help recruit landlords. Thai responded the question would come to the board and explained the general expectations of the potential position.

Don requested a calendar for 2022 or the next 12-18 months of different funding sources, the amounts and when they'll be available. Staff responded they were working on trying to put something together and HHAP 3 or 4 could be a source.

Ludmilla asked about the relationships with landlords and fear of property damage. Staff responded and talked about risk mitigation funds.

Don asked about restrictions to HHAP funds for landlord incentives. Staff responded landlord incentives are allowed in HHAP funding as well as risk mitigation funding.

No public comment

4. Use of Remaining Funds (0:36:30)

There is \$56,858.62 available in remaining funds.

IFSN reached about potentially using the remaining funds to support their project and work with the centralized housing locator group to provide deposits or assistance. The project



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wouldn't be connected to Emergency Housing Vouchers.

Stephen asked if there had been any outreach to shelters that might need support for COVID testing and if the \$50,000 would make a difference for them.

Ludmilla explained the importance of setting up warming tents, preparing warm meals during the winter months and asked if \$20,000 could be set aside for these efforts. She proposed the \$20,000 could be reallocated to another source if not used. Dave added he was having difficulty finding a service provider to lead the efforts. Don added funds were given by Rohnert Park to support efforts and asked for a location with site control. Ludmilla is still working on a plan.

Don asked to find out how much SAY needs to continue their funded services through the end of the funding period and how much staff believes is needed that allows people to use the vouchers.

Discussion ensued about if Rohnert Park could use additional funding to support their street outreach efforts.

Ludmilla proposed \$20,000 being set aside for emergency warming shelters and the remaining \$30,000 set aside for risk mitigation funding if needed.

Stephen was in favor of supporting housing location, ensuring Reach for Home spend their grant funds before receiving more and the shelters have enough funding to cover the outbreaks.

Angela was most in favor of supporting EHV vouchers.

Dave asked committee members to develop a list of priorities and staff would come back with a funding recommendation based on those needs.

Priorities

Housing location services/deposit assistance

COVID impact assistance

Emergency weather condition shelters

SAY funding

Thai added Interfaith could also use the funding for their rapid program.



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Stephen asked staff take a look at what funding is available for each program and if funding is already available for housing location to look at impacts to shelters.

Public comment (1:07:07)

Greg Fearon suggested staff call CAPS Sonoma for deposit advice if unsure.

Non-agendized questions and comments

Don suggested including the evaluation work from HMIS into the ESG-CV committee's work, making the ESG-CV committee a permanent committee and getting a funding calendar together. If a separate committee meeting is needed we should schedule one.

Angela mentioned she will no longer participate in the ESG-CV Ad Hoc meetings, following the CoC elections. She also suggested staff send more information for decision-making well ahead of each meeting.

Ludmilla asked if additional community members could be added to the ESG-CV Ad Hoc committee if it became a CoC standing committee.

Public comment

Gregory Fearon invited Angela to the ARPA conversation.

ESG-CV Ad Hoc adjourned at 4:00 PM

Next Regular Meeting

TBD

Virtual

PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO THE COMMITTEE MEETING: Public Comment may be submitted via email to Andrew.Akufo@sonoma-county.org



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