

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

Friday, November 12, 2021

2:30pm-4:00pm

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (2:32pm)

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

Stephen Sotomayor
Don Schwartz
Angela Struckmann
Ludmilla Bade

Absent

The committee reviewed the agenda and agreed to move Agenda item #4 Funding Gap for Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) supportive services to the second item on the agenda.

2. Funding Gap for EHV Support Services

Don Schwartz discussed the need and gap for supportive services to keep people housed, felt the current process for soliciting proposals was haphazard and referenced numbers that were computed with Jennielynn Holmes in an email sent out to staff last week. Don wanted a gap analysis for supportive services, referenced a lack of funding for supportive services via Tina Rivera mentioned the need for permanent housing, following temporary housing.

Dave Kiff asked about the number of emergency housing vouchers and how many are currently engaged. Michael responded 38. Thai Hilton added there are 284 EHV vouchers. Dave had concerns that a large number of EHV vouchers may not be used due to landlords not accepting them. Michael Gause added the current number of EHV vouchers being used in Sonoma County is on par with the average throughout the state of California, according to Martha Cheever, but is picking up.

Stephen Sotomayor asked if vouchers were time specific and wanted to know the difference between a voucher from the Housing Authority and EHV. Thai explained there wasn't a big difference and both followed the same section 8 guidelines. Stephen also asked which date



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the vouchers needed to be used. Thai responded there are 6 months to use the vouchers before reallocation. The date to utilize the vouchers as a continuum has not yet been established. The vouchers must be used by the subpopulation included in the MOU. Thai further explained the process for EHV allocation.

Ludmilla Bade expressed appreciation for Don's analysis and asked about the number of people housed through the Month of September 2021 through rapid rehousing.

Staff will run a report on rapid rehousing.

Ludmilla asked the committee how often a report might be needed and emphasized the urgency to get people housed in rapid rehousing.

Dave provided a brief report about rapid rehousing numbers and the status via Martha Cheever. Thai provided further information and updates.

Don asked about the pending process of referrals and offered ratio suggestions. Don also asked what was budgeted for services.

Dave acknowledged Don's point and mentioned staff can provide an analysis of service costs and the gap.

Don asked for a navigation and provider report with data not grouped together, showing which service providers are doing well.

Ludmilla asked where data could be found. Martha and Rebecca from housing will do a quarterly report.

Ludmilla suggested questions which could be asked of landlords to help solve the issue of finding housing.

Dave provided insight about what is currently being done with landlords and what has already been done.

Ludmilla asked if there is a program to help with case work. Michael Gause responded.



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Public comment

Gerry La Londe-Berg credited Don for his questions and analysis. Gerry talked about Project Homekey and the ability to place people.

3. SAVS Rapid Rehousing Project Reallocation

The project was covered during the funding gap for EHV support services conversation.

4. Update on Remaining Funds

The \$600,000 reallocation from rapid rehousing to shelter continues to be a discussion with the state.

Staff will provide an expenditure report on remaining funds at the next meeting.

Ludmilla asked if the report would be available during the next CoC meeting. Michael mentioned a report could be provided for the December CoC Board meeting.

5. Process for Allocating Funds

Don described the current allocation process as haphazard and was curious about how other CoC's handled allocations.

Stephen affirmed Don's view that the current allocation process felt rushed to expend funds.

Angela also confirmed Don's view about allocations and shared her knowledge and experience regarding fund distribution.

Stephen mentioned the role of staff capacity in the process.

Ludmilla re-emphasized the need for performance data from service providers to reasonably make decisions during CoC board meetings and asked about a reasonable timeline to attain it. She would like to get the data quicker and agreed with other committee member views.

Don wasn't sure if there was a definable next step in the process to make things easier.



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Michael mentioned the formation of a new data team that could help create reports.

Public comment

Greg Fearon asked the committee to have awareness of how important it is to know what services are working with service providers. Staff reports should be more than oral but give the public enough time to adequately review documents before the meeting.

ESG-CV Ad Hoc adjourned at 3:00 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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