

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, Karissa White, Continuum of Care Coordinator, Ending Homelessness, Thai Hilton, Coordinated Entry Coordinator

Committee members: Stephen Sotomayor | Ludmilla Bade | Don Schwartz

ESG-CV Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022

3:00pm-4:30pm

REVISED Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (3:02pm)

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

Stephen Sotomayor

Don Schwartz

Ludmilla Bade

Absent

2. Use of Remaining Funds (00:1:02)

Michael Gause provided background and gave a summary of the recommendations from the State ESG-CV Expenditure Update and Revised Action memo presented to the CoC Board on February 23, 2022.

Thai Hilton added ESG-CV funds could be used for risk mitigation to help with housing navigation efforts.

Discussion was held about cuts, what would happen if West County Community Services isn't funded, the current contract deadline, Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) flat funding and what funding could be used for, including rapid rehousing (RRH) and shelter. Ludmilla didn't feel ESG-CV funding was the right source for risk mitigation. \$381,899 is available for local only projects.

Don Schwartz expressed the desire to create long-term solutions.

Thai added there was a lack of RRH dollars to support emergency housing vouchers (EHVs) without ESG-CV funds as a resource.

Don motioned funding be dedicated towards deposits or whatever other use staff deems most effective in securing long-term housing. (00:29:22)



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Stephen Sotomayor seconded the motion.

More discussion was held. Ludmilla Bade was in favor of splitting up the funding between long-term housing and supporting West County Community Services project.

Chuck Mottern mentioned there could potentially be some unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year. However, that would not be known until July 10, 2022.

Dave Kiff proposed two options: 1. Hosting another ESG-CV meeting to flush out funding solely dedicated to deposit assistance for long-term housing solutions including the NCS sites and assistance with placement for the EHV holders.

The second option would be a mix of continuing to support West County shelter for a longer period of time and deposit assistance.

Staff could have a conversation with Tim Miller about his plans after July 1, 2020 as well as SHARE.

Public comment

Don asked Dannielle Danforth from West Community Services if the CoC should prioritize keeping West County Community Services open for months they would otherwise be closed or prioritizing putting some highly vulnerable people into permanent housing.

Dannielle expressed the need to support their 4-month winter shelter which has now been open for 28 months. She felt there could be a win-win situation in which the shelter stays open, keeps 27 people in and contributions are made to the rapid rehousing.

Ludmilla asked if the shelter was currently occupied. Danielle responded it was over-occupied.

Don motioned the committee prioritize the use of the funding to maximize permanent housing opportunities and with any remaining funds used to extend the West County navigation center.

Stephen seconded the motion.



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Ludmilla asked about funding discussed to extend SAY. Chuck responded funding was already allocated from the last round to support SAY.

Public comment

No public comments

Ludmilla asked again about a potential split and the term “remaining funds.”

Don clarified the phrasing was intentional to maximize the use of the dollars for permanent housing so potentially \$368,000 would go towards that. If vouchers are maximized whatever balance is left over can be used to extend the West County navigation center.

Dave added the activities under that include deposit assistance, potential purchase of furniture and risk mitigation.

Don clarified his original thought was towards deposit assistance, but whatever it would take to get people housed.

Chuck mentioned a 3-month extension for West County would be \$218,000 and asked questions about voucher support.

More discussion ensued. Don reaffirmed his support of funding for NCS and vouchers. Stephen also reaffirmed his decision and voiced his support of the West County Navigation Center.

Michael put in a request to the state for more ESG-CV funds to support emergency shelters, rapid rehousing and HMIS. The funding would be brought back to the board for recommendation once staff hears back on the request.

Ludmilla proposed a substitute motion of allocating 1/3 of the remaining funds to West County Community Services. (00:49:04)

There was no second.

Dave restated original the motion that staff would prioritize the use of the \$368,000 in State ESG-CV funding to maximize permanent supportive housing including voucher placement assistance and Rapid Rehousing for unsheltered individuals, including but not



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limited to those in NCS sites. Any unspent State ESG-CV funds be allocated towards the West County Navigation Center. Staff will also consider applying for any re-allocated State ESG-CV funds that could also be used for the West County Navigation Center. (00:49:37)

Don and Stephen voted “yes.”

Ludmilla voted “no.”

The motion passed.

Stephen stated his confidence that there will be remaining funds available to help West County Community Services.

Don mentioned funds budgeted by the City of Rohnert Park that were not going to be spent on master leases being potentially used for deposit assistance in Rohnert Park. Don suggested staff contact his staff at the City of Rohnert Park if there is interest in advancing that conversation.

3. Overall Homelessness Funding (00.53:00)

Dave addressed the purpose of the item was to start creating a discussion about how the committee can better improve its holistic look at long term funding so that it is investing in home key projects and their sustainability, different ways to start reducing costs through economies of scale, and how to affirm voters of Sonoma County that Measure O is effective, so that it gets renewed.

Don added that CAL AIM could be a big part of the solution to provide supportive services.

Staff and committee members discussed the potential transformation of the ESG-CV Ad Hoc committee into a larger funding committee with more committee members.

Ludmilla talked about the sustainability of communities and changing the perception of homeless people through community connections and service exchange programs.

No public comment

ESG-CV Ad Hoc adjourned at 4:30 PM



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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

DRAFT



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