

**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Strategic Planning
Agenda Report**

Item No: 1
Subject: February 16, 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting Agenda
Meeting Date: February 16, 2024
Staff Contact: Alea Tantarelli, Alea.Tantarelli@Sonoma-County.org

SUMMARY

This staff report presents the February 16, 2024 CoC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting proposed agenda. The agenda contains all proposed items that will be discussed by the Strategic Planning Committee. The proposed agenda is attached as Attachment A.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Approve February 16, 2024 agenda.



**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Strategic Planning Committee
Agenda for February 16, 2024
9:00am-10:00am Pacific Time**

Virtual Meeting: Join Zoom Webinar

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94677887388?pwd=VnNGTWdodElicm94OHpqWGxWOFBtQT09>

Passcode: 007651

Webinar ID: 946 7788 7388

Telephone: 1 669 900 9128

	Agenda Item	Packet Item	Presenter	Time
	Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions		Tom Bieri /Alea Tantarelli	9:00am
1.	Approve Agenda (ACTION ITEM)	2/16/24 Agenda	Tom Bieri	9:05am
2.	Approve Minutes (ACTION ITEM)	12/15/23 Minutes	Tom Bieri	9:07am
3.	Strategic Planning Update from Staff (Potential ACTION ITEM)	-Year 1 Priority Update Document	Dave Kiff/ Michael Gause	9:10am
4.	Proposing Year 2 Priorities: Building out of implementation steps for remaining action steps (those not currently outlined in Early Action Steps) Strategic Planning Committee Vote on Priorities (ACTION ITEM)	-Staff Proposal -Provider Proposal	Dave Kiff/Tom Bieri	9:20am
5.	Making Progress on the Benioff Study Brief Discussion (Potential ACTION ITEM)		Ludmilla Bade	9:45am
6.	Committee and Public Comment on Non- agendized Items (Potential ACTION ITEM)		Tom Bieri	9:50am

Public Comment may be made via email or during the live zoom meeting. To submit an emailed public comment to the Committee email Alea.Tantarelli@sonoma-county.org. Please provide your name, the agenda number(s) on which you wish to speak, and your comment. These comments will be emailed to



all Committee members. Public comment during the meeting can be made live by joining the Zoom meeting. Available time for comments is determined by the Chair based on agenda scheduling demands and total number of speakers.



**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Strategic Planning Committee
Agenda Report**

Item No: 2
Subject: CoC Strategic Planning Committee Minutes for 12.15.23
Meeting Date: February 16, 2024
Staff Contact: Alea Tantarelli, Alea.Tantarelli@Sonoma-County.org

SUMMARY

This staff report briefly summarizes the minutes from the previous meeting on December 15th, 2023. The minutes reflect a general summary of the previous meeting's activities and are not intended to reflect verbatim comments. The minutes are attached as Attachment **A**.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Approve minutes from 12.15.23



ATTACHMENT A

Committee members: Chair Tom Bieri | Co-Chair Ludmilla Bade
Dennis Pocekay, Rebekah Sammet, Jennielynn Holmes, Ben Leroi, Matt Barnes, Angela Struckmann, Tim Miller, Wendell Coleman

**Strategic Planning Committee
Minutes for December 15, 2023**

- 0. 9:05am WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL-Alea**
 - a. DHS Staff Present:** Alea Tantarelli, Michael Gause, Dave Kiff
 - b. Members Present:** Dennis Pocekay, Tom Bieri, Ludmilla Bade, Rebekah Sammet, Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tim Miller
 - c. Absent:** Wendell Coleman, Matt Barnes, Angela Struckmann

1. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion from Tim Miller. Second from Ben Leroi. Passed
No Public Comment

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion to approve 10/20/23 minutes from Dennis Pocekay. Second from Ben Leroi. Passed
No Public Comment

3. Vote on Proposed Strategic Planning Charter

The Committee approved a proposed charter for the Strategic Planning Committee.
Ben Leroi stated that all of the safety concerns and recommendations can be taken back to the full Coalition board once the providers have had input.
Ben Leroi made a motion to approve the charter as written with the below amendments to sections 7 & 8 and Jennielynn Holmes seconded:

7. The strategic Planning Committee can request to form unstaffed workgroups with approval of the Sonoma County Coalition Board.

8. The Strategic Planning Committee will propose annual priorities to the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board in February of each year for board review, amendment, and approval.

A competing motion was presented by Ludmilla Bade and seconded by Rebekah Sammet to approve the proposed Charter as is.

No Public Comment

Ben's motion:

Approve - Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Rebekah Sammet, Dennis Pocekay

Ludmilla's motion:

Approve - Tom Bieri, Tim Miller, Ludmilla Bade

Ben's motion carries.

No Public Comment



4. Update on Safety Workgroup

The minutes from the November 2nd meeting are in the packet for Committee review. Recommendations from the Safety Workgroup have been developed and are going to the full provider group for input.

No Public Comment

5. Benioff Study Discussion Workgroup

Ludmilla will report back at the next meeting.

No Public Comment

6. Planning for the building out of implementation steps for remaining action steps (those not currently outlined in Early Action Steps)

Dave Kiff proposed that staff could present recommended priorities for year 2 for feedback. Tom Bieri requested that provider feedback be incorporated before they get approval on year 2 priorities from the Coalition Board.

Jennielynn Holmes made a motion to receive staff recommendations and provider recommendations for year 2 strategic planning priorities. Tom Bieri added that the Strategic Planning Committee would hear the recommendations in mid-February and then go to the Coalition Board for approval in late-February and Jennielynn agreed. Rebekah added a friendly amendment to include lived experience voices (LEAP Board) as well.

Jennielynn accepted. Rebekah seconded the overall motion.

No Public Comment

Motion passes unanimously.

Staff recommendations and service provider recommendations will be presented to the LEAP Board in advance of the February Strategic Planning meeting for LEAP Board input. Once the Strategic Planning Committee hears the recommendations of the staff, the LEAP Board, and the Providers, the Strategic Planning Committee will make a proposal for the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board to consider.

7. Strategic Planning Year 1 Priority Update

Staff continue to update the Strategic Planning Committee on the progress of the year 1 Strategic Planning priorities. Progress is currently being made in all priority areas and specific details can be found in the progress update document.

Ben Leroi made a motion to move the strategic planning priorities staff reporting out to the beginning of the meeting (agenda item #3) so we have enough time to discuss. Dennis Pocekay seconded the motion.

Approve: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Dennis Pocekay, Rebekah Sammet, Tom Bieri

Abstain: Ludmilla Bade

Bens motion passes

Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board Strategic Planning Committee Minutes



No Public Comment

8. Committee and Public Comment on Non-agendized Items

No Public Comment

10:05am Meeting adjourned

**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition
Agenda Report**

Item No: 3
Subject: Strategic Planning Committee Update
Meeting Date: February 16, 2024
Staff Contact: Michael Gause, Ending Homelessness Program Manager,
Michael.Gause@sonoma-county.org

SUMMARY

At each meeting, staff provide an overview of progress on the year one efforts. This report identifies progress made.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Informational Item only.

ATTACHMENTS:

Strategic Planning First Year Efforts Update located here:

<https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/vG8wZbi9zAw/>

**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition
Agenda Report**

Item No: 4
Subject: Proposing Year 2 Priorities
Meeting Date: February 16, 2024
Staff Contact: Michael Gause, Ending Homelessness Program Manager,
Michael.Gause@sonoma-county.org

SUMMARY

At the last Strategic Planning Committee meeting, Jennielynn Holmes made a motion to receive staff recommendations and provider recommendations (with input from the LEAP Board) for year 2 strategic planning priorities. After the Strategic Planning Committee discusses and agrees on a set of recommendations, the final recommendations will go to the Coalition Board for approval in February.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Approve 2024 Strategic Planning priorities recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS:

A: Staff Strategic Planning Priorities for 2024 (year 2) – endorsed by LEAP Board

B: Provider Proposals and LEAP Board Input for Year 2 Strategic Plan Priorities - endorsed by LEAP Board

Attachment A

DHS Staff Recommendations

2023-2027 Homelessness Strategic Plan - 2024 Efforts
12-28-2023 (DRAFT)

2023

1. In alignment with Built for Zero, establish a single By Names List to better serve all individuals experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County (3.6a) - UNDERWAY
2. Create a new vulnerability assessment, prioritization, and placement process to replace the VI-SPDAT that includes an analysis of individuals' housing strengths and results in equitable housing placement (3.7a) – UNDERWAY
3. Develop a robust communication strategy to keep the public and individuals experiencing homelessness more informed of services, policy changes, challenges, and successes (3.5a) - UNDERWAY, TO BE ACHIEVED EARLY 2024
4. Strengthen and prioritize the supportive services in the existing homeless response system (2.1a+b) - VIA NOFA PROCESS
5. Build an effective and equitable subregional street outreach model - UNDERWAY
6. Adopt a long-term funding strategy for homeless services (3.1b) - NOT ACHIEVED YET
7. Ensure the system of care and its individual programs are evaluated based on key performance metrics (3.4a) - UNDERWAY
8. Add 200 PSH and 100 non-congregate shelter beds (1.2a, 1.3a) - ACHIEVED FOR 2023
9. Ensure an effective transition to Department of Health Services (not listed in Strategic Plan) - STILL UNDERWAY

2024 (proposed)

1. Add 200 units of PSH (1.3a) - SYSTEM OF CARE
2. Affordable Housing: Collaborate with local jurisdictions to achieve a Prohousing Designation¹⁰ from the California Housing and Community Development Department to increase the competitiveness of local grant applications to the State (1.4a) - ACHIEVED FOR COUNTY, ROHNERT PARK, WINDSOR, SANTA ROSA.
3. Establish minimum compensation (wages and benefits) for supportive services staff as based on the recommendations from the Sonoma County Service Providers' Roundtable (2.1a) - SERVICE PROVIDERS
4. Leverage CalAIM's Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports programs to assist in funding intensive care coordination across multiple systems (2.2b) - SERVICE PROVIDERS HAVE IMPLEMENTED, DHS/HS WILL WORK ON IN 2024
5. Report back regularly as to program accountability with Measure O (2.2g) - DHS Measure O Team
6. Adopt Long-Term Funding Strategy (3.1b) - LEAD AGENCY/COALITION BOARD
7. In updated NOFAs:
 - Fund new and renewing programs that have demonstrated success in supporting people experiencing homelessness in achieving housing stability. The homeless system of care should strive for a funding ratio of up to 80% for existing, evidence-

- based, or proven programs and 20% for innovative or “promising practice” program concepts (3.2a).
- Incorporate equity goals into performance measures and invest in programs closing equity gaps, disaggregating data by age, race, ethnicity, and language and ensure that all funding opportunities include outreach to BIPOC led organizations and tribal partners (3.2b).
 - Strengthen and prioritize the supportive services in the existing homeless response system (2.1a+b)
8. Provide standing opportunities for input from the Sonoma County Lived Experience Advisory and Planning (LEAP) and (when established) Youth Action Boards at CoC Board (including the Strategic Planning Committee), City Council and Board of Supervisors meetings, and by invitation to other meetings regarding available funding awards and service delivery (3.3a) - LEAD AGENCY / COALITION BOARD
 9. Communications Plan next steps (3.5a), including developing and distributing materials that explain and educate about the local causes of homelessness (3.5b) - DHS TEAM
 10. Ensure that the CoC Board’s and the system of care’s racial and ethnic representation reflects the population of Sonoma County’s homeless community. Consider updating the Charter to include designated seats for BIPOC members (3.7e) - COALITION BOARD
 11. Ensure that the Coordinated Entry process maintains a person-centered approach that involves the respectful consideration of the following factors (3.6e):
 - Client Choice
 - Client Needs
 - Safety Considerations (REVIEWED IN 2023 AND FORWARDED TO ____)
 - The Value of Reducing Barriers
 - Provider Capacity, Expertise, and Competency

Attachment B

Provider Proposals and LEAP Board Input for Year 2 Strategic Plan Priorities

These proposals were shared with the Homeless Coalition Board at the January Meeting by Margaret Sluyk. Proposals 1.0, 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4, and 2.0 are all endorsed by the Provider Group, the Safety Workgroup, and the LEAP Board.

The first proposal can be summarized by saying that we would like the board to prioritize Strategic Planning Strategy 3.6 and action steps 3.6e **for year two of the strategic plan. Also, to get started with this priority** 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4 are **recommendations to be assigned** to the Assessment and Prioritization Workgroup and/or the Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee."

The second proposal is that the Homeless Coalition Board direct the staff to have a discussion about proposal 2.0 - that Staff have transparent conversations about the interrelated variables of safety risk assessment and management and the indemnity clause in providers' contracts with the providers in the bimonthly Service Provider and Homeless Services Division Meeting.

The full proposals are listed below:

1.0 Propose to the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board that Strategic Plan Strategy 3.6 be prioritized and integrated into the scope of work of the Assessment and Prioritization Workgroup and/or the Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee as soon as possible.

The language of the strategy is:

Strategy 3.6: *Improve Transparency, Safety, and Effectiveness of the Coordinated Entry System*

Action Steps 3.6e: Ensure that the Coordinated Entry process maintains a person-centered approach that involves the respectful consideration of the following factors:

- *Client Choice*
- *Client Needs*
- *Safety Considerations*
- *The Value of Reducing Barriers*
- *Provider Capacity, Expertise, and Competence*

To develop the proposed items below the workgroup met several times and heard from Allegheny County in Pennsylvania which has a best practice county-wide coordination system in place that includes several county services including Behavioral Health, who share information to make more informed decisions to help individuals receive the correct level of care. In addition, the workgroup received feedback from HUD and the LEAP board, which is below.

1.1 Propose that the County initiate a policy that would take progressive steps to create integrated data sharing like they have in Allegheny County which includes safeguards and auditing to ensure that only those who need the information for decision-making have access to it. The policy would include processes and procedures to allow providers access to summary information such as which services homeless

individuals have accessed in the past (like SCBH Service and Food Stamps), to help them engage in care coordination and improve the quality of services that they offer, and to determine if they have the resources to house the person in the given level of care that they are funded to provide.

1.3 Propose that the County create a mechanism for referring individuals to higher levels of care that the Sonoma County Behavioral Health Division has access to for individuals who are determined to be at that level of supportive need and/or have requested that level of support. For example, social rehabilitation and board and care programs with higher support staff levels are built into the programs.

1.4 Propose that the LEAD Agency partner with all housing providers to develop and provide information mapping out exactly how many beds (including higher level of care beds and those outside of the coordinated entry system) are in the County and how many are proposed including those being funded by care court and how each of those beds will be funded.

2. Propose that we be able to have transparent conversations about the interrelated variables of safety risk assessment and management and the indemnity clause in providers' contracts.

Propose that the County changes the indemnity clause of our SCBH and CDC provider contracts to more equitable language. The current language asserts that the provider would be liable to defend and indemnify the County, i.e. act as its insurance company, even when the County was 100% at fault in failing to share information (like safety related beneficiary information). Furthermore, the language requires the providers to indemnify the County even if the County's failure to do something was 99% the cause of the resulting injury or damage and the Provider's responsibility for the incident was only 1%.

The proposed language change is simply to drop two lines from the current Indemnification Clause:

to accept all responsibility for loss or damage to any person or entity, including but not limited to COUNTY, and

whether or not there is concurrent negligence on the part of COUNTY, but, to the extent required by law, excluding liability due to the sole or active negligence or due to the willful misconduct of COUNTY.

With the language deleted, the Provider would indemnify the County for damages arising out of the Provider's performance of the contracted-for-services. However, if the County were responsible, in whole or part, for the resulting loss, the indemnity provision would not apply to that extent because in that event, the County's liability would arise out of the County's, not the Provider's, conduct or omission. Deleting these two lines will create a more equitable distribution of responsibility and liability.

HUD Guidance Related to Balancing the Goal of Minimizing Barriers to Housing with Safety-Related Legal Responsibilities

Emily Cain, HUD CPD representative, wrote Tom Bieri the following email on November 1, 2023:

Hi Tom,

I think the summary captures the response well - there's nothing I would add. To your earlier question, I'm also not aware of any new HUD guidance that would impact the accuracy of that AAQ response, so I think it's a good approach to continue operating off of that guidance.

Thanks,
Emily



Emily Cain (she/her)

CPD Representative
Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD)
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San Francisco, CA 94104-4430
Phone: (415) 489-6655

Summary of HUD Guidance in AAQ 202228 Provided February 2, 2023

- HUD appreciates our dedication to ensuring both support/safety for participants and compliance with core principles and legal/ethical requirements.
- A CoC can implement a safety/risk assessment as long as it is applied consistently across all individuals and families assessed through CE.
- All CE procedures, including safety assessments, need to be documented in your CoC's written policies and procedures.
- If there are legitimate behavioral/safety concerns identified, a CoC should find ways to address these in its CE process-via housing arrangements, programing, or other solutions.
- If an individual or head of household is screened out of one program due to safety concerns, HUD would expect CE staff to work with the individual or family presenting for assistance to identify another appropriate housing placement.
- Risk of harm to oneself or others should not preclude anyone from receiving housing and service if one is otherwise eligible for such housing or services.
- For example, if it is determined that the applicant poses a threat to the safety of other residents or the program staff in a congregate living environment, this could result in CE referrals to housing options that fit the participant's needs and provides safety to all participants, like living in an individual unit.
- Referrals should always be made in consultation with the program participant.

The Full HUD Response to AAQ 202228 with relevant notes and links can be found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/?askaquestionaction=public%3Amain.answer&key=492F64E2-6290-4C10-A850F27FB737C155>

November 17, 2023 and February 8, 2024 LEAP Board Input on Year 2 Priorities:

The consensus of LEAP board present at the meetings was that they support both the Year 2 Priorities proposed by the Staff and the Providers.

In addition to supporting the priorities presented by the staff and providers, LEAP Board members share the following comments:

Member 1: We would like to see the housing of everyone who is homeless being prioritized. In the event that there are not enough resources to house everyone who is homeless, we would like to see those living outside being cared for.

Member 2: All homeless individuals with mental health challenges should be connected with SCBH. Referring someone to a program that is not equipped to house them safely has many negative long-term effects. It undermines the stability of those they are housed with when they act out and cause unsafe situations. When they are evicted because of their violent acting out or other lease violations, they feel demoralized, and they sometimes give up hope. Having appropriate placements will improve the long-term outcome for everyone involved.

Member 3: Want to see individuals with a history of incarceration for violent crimes being included on the LEAP Board and other advisory councils to make sure that there are options for them to be housed. This LEAP Board member also suggested the they would like to see recovery housing programs set up exclusively for individuals whose recovery path does not include the 12-step program model.

Member 4: Proposal number 3 – using a numeric score – nuance gets lost when a number is used. More information is necessary to fully understand what someone needs to be housed successfully. There need to be more beds in programs that have ample support for individuals with severe behavioral health disability symptoms so that they can be housed safely and appropriately. We need more beds for individuals who do not have as many symptoms and don't need as many supports in place. We need more beds of a variety kinds in Sonoma County.

Member 5: Care court and peer support should be tied into the recommendations. Peer support is a mutually beneficial program. Many people are more likely to trust peers than others. Access to beneficiary information needs to be highly restricted that so only those who need the information to coordinate someone's care has access to it. Having Client facing information on the integrated data sharing be website (like Client View) is good. There needs to be an alternative to what is happening right now – Individuals with high vulnerability and risk that have a recent history of violating others rights are being referred to housing placements without letting the house placement staff know about the high-risk behaviors. We need to keep people safe from people with violent behaviors. More transparency will help this.