



**SONOMA COUNTY
HOMELESS
COALITION**

**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Coordinated Entry Committee (CEA)
Agenda for April 2, 2025
12:00pm-1:30pm Pacific Time**

Zoom link:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/92281657937pwd=SW42V2tOcHdlY0o5OStQNFk3WUY4UT09>

#	Agenda Item	Packet Item	Presenter	Time
1.	Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions		Committee Chair	12:00pm
2.	Approval of April agenda and March minutes (Action item)	1	Committee Chair	12:05pm
3.	Follow up. CEA recommendation to Board regarding CE compliance. (Action item)	2	Staff	12:15pm
4.	Coordinated Entry performance evaluation	3	Staff	12:45pm
5.	Public Comment on non-agenized items		Public	12:55pm

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment may be made via email or during the live zoom meeting. To submit an emailed public comment to the CE committee email Thai.Hilton@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 Board members. Public comment during the meeting can be made live by joining the Zoom meeting using the above provided information. Available time for comments is determined by the Committee Chair based on agenda scheduling demands and total number of speakers.



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**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Coordinated Entry Committee (CEA)
Minutes for March 5, 2025
12:00pm - 1:00pm Pacific Time**

Call to Order: Matthew called meeting to order at 12:02PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

a. Roll Call:

- i. Present: Lauren Taylor, Margaret Sluyk, Justin Milligan, Sasha Brown, Sue Pearce as proxy for Araceli Zavala, Kathleen Pozzi, Chessy Ethridge, Nathan Somersall, Sara Vetter, Mathew Verscheure, Karla McLaren.
- ii. Absent: Kate Mather.

2. Approval

- a. Justin motioned to approve agenda with no corrections. Matthew seconded.

3. Follow Up: CEA recommendation to Board regarding CE compliance. (Action item)

- a. Hunter, HomeFirst Staff, presented two options for revised language as requested by committee expanding the referral rejection and appeals policy to include a recommendation for implementation of funding scoring changes.
 - i. Option 1: Recommends revision to existing scoring tools to remove all points in the areas of Housing Retention, Exits to Housing, and Housing First for any permanent housing project in the next funding cycles without consequences to other areas of their funding application.
 - ii. Option 2: CEA Committee Chair would send a letter to the Homeless Coalition Board outlining concerns about CE compliance with recommendations that those in charge of funding scoring enhance scoring on Housing First and CE Compliance.
- b. Committee expressed broadly that they were supportive of option one, however, some members brought up concerns around how projects not using CoC funds but still receiving CE referrals.
- c. Matthew motioned to move forward with Option 1, and to that include a letter from the Chair of the committee recommending similar outcomes/lack thereof for projects not funded through the Homeless Coalition.
- d. Roll call Vote: Passes with 11 Ayes; 0 Nays

4. Changes to CE policies and procedures (Action Item)

- a. Kaitlin, Homefirst staff, presented 6 proposed changes to the Coordinated Entry Systems (CES).
 - i. Referrals for DV survivors outside Case Conference
 - ii. Immigration Confidentiality
 - iii. Offering deidentification for gender nonconforming participants



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- iv. Removed differentiation between TAY RRH prioritization and non-TAY RRH prioritization
 - v. Aligned CES Policies and Procedures required collection of initial eligibility documents list with the Street Outreach Standards
 - vi. Clarifying CES Case Conference referral decision policy
 - b. Members of the committee widely agreed to the proposed changes although most were not in agreement about item number 6.
 - c. Members requested that Homefirst staff rework item 6, and the committee discuss it further at the next meeting.
 - d. Maragaret motioned to approve all but item 6 – agreeing that the committee would revisit item 6 at the next meeting. Kathleen seconded.
 - e. Committee Vote 11 Ayes; 0 Nays. Vote passes
5. **Next Steps:**
- a. Group will reconvene to discuss the 6th item of the CES policies and procedures.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:05pm



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**Sonoma County Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee (CEA)
Executive Summary**

Item: 3. Coordinated Entry (CE) compliance.

Date: April 2, 2025

Staff Contact: Thai Hilton thai.hilton@sonoma-county.org

Agenda Item Overview

In the last CEA meeting, this committee approved suggested changes to the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition scoring tools when providers are not in compliance with Coordinated Entry (CE). The language approved stated, “Including in the scoring tools a requirement that permanent housing projects comply fully with the CES Rejection of Referrals procedure within the last funding period, with enough associated points to impact funding likelihood. One suggested option could be requiring the loss of all points for Housing Retention, Exits to Housing, CE Compliance, and Housing First sections of any permanent housing project that does not comply with this policy in the funding cycle being analyzed for scoring.”

Staff was unable to pass this recommendation to the Coalition Board for two key reasons. First, the decision was made by CEA members who apply for and/or receive funding from the Homeless Coalition, presenting a conflict of interest. Second, aspects of the recommendation could impact our community’s HUD scoring which relates to the funding we receive.

The HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program has strict requirements for scoring, with system performance measures—such as housing retention and exits to permanent housing—being the most heavily weighted in the application. Given the program’s competitive nature, performance is a key factor in funding decisions. These scores are objective, based on the project’s overall performance reported out of the HMIS or comparable database for Domestic Violence providers. Changing the point values for these objective measures for a referral rejection does not make sense with the HUD Process and reducing points in these areas would be harmful to our overall application.

As a part of our CoC’s Collaborative Application, we are required to send in examples of our project scores and scoring materials to be reviewed and assigned a score. Last year, our community received full points for its scoring process and has done well in this section in general. This process is a national competition for funding, the funding is not guaranteed to our community and scoring well increases our chances of keeping current projects and being awarded new ones.

The CoC Program scoring, which is governed by HUD, is completed by a non-conflicted evaluation group which is approved by the Homeless Coalition Board. Additionally, since some committee members receive CoC or local NOFA funding, they cannot make recommendations on scoring due to conflicts of interest.



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To clarify, we fully support provider accountability in Housing First and Coordinated Entry. Coalition staff and non-conflicted evaluation groups have continuously adjusted CES scoring based on system changes and issues that have come up. One example included the incorporation of a review of project enrollments with CE referrals vs enrollments without referrals. This process was implemented after staff found program enrollments completely outside the CES referral process. This is now implemented in both the CoC scoring as well as the local NOFA scoring. Providers with non-compliant enrollments, even if it's just one, have been placed on corrective action plans, with public reporting and quarterly data reviews—an approach that has been effective.

Last year, the CoC scoring evaluation group removed the scored CE measure related to provider rejections. This was because the new process for participant choice had not been implemented for the system with the data reviewed. Therefore, there was no way to measure rejections as there were several instances where multiple referrals were being sent to different projects and referrals were being sent to projects where case notes clearly stated they did not want to go to. As participant choice is now implemented into the CE referral process, it is the intention to bring this scoring measure back during the next funding CoC Competition.

For these reasons, staff is bringing this item back to CEA for review and further discussion on a revised recommendation. Any discussions related to project scoring recommendations should only be held by non-conflicted members. Staff recommends a broader statement from the CEA outlining concerns about CE compliance and encouraging the board to explore ways of making CE compliance a larger part of Homeless Coalition scoring.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Consider recommendations.



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**Sonoma County Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee
Executive Summary**

Item: 4. Coordinated Entry performance evaluation

Date: April 2, 2025

Staff Contact: Thai Hilton Thai.Hilton@sonoma-county.org

Agenda Item Overview

Each quarter HomeFirst conducts a performance evaluation survey. HomeFirst will be sharing the evaluation in the meeting.

Recommendation

None. Information only.