



Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2022

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time – Meeting held by Zoom

[Recording of Meeting](#)

Welcome and Roll Call (00:06:34-00:16:14)

Ben Leroi, Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Ben went over the agenda and clarified Zoom rules around public comment and Brown Act guidelines. CDC Interim Executive Director Dave Kiff welcomed new and returning CoC Board Members and introduced CDC staff. In lieu of a roll call, Alea Tantarelli introduced the CoC Board Members:

Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health Center; Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa; Tom Schwedhelm, City of Santa Rosa; Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma; Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Supervisor; Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home; Chris Keys, Redwood Gospel Mission; Kathleen Pozzi, community member; Sid McColley for Nora Mallonee-Brand, Sonoma County Behavioral Health; Chessy Etheridge, Lived Experience Advisory and Planning Board; Una Glass, City of Sebastopol; Don Schwartz, City of Rohnert Park; John Moore, City of Cotati; Madolyn Agrimonti, City of Sonoma; Lisa Fatu, Social Advocates for Youth

Stephen Sotomayor, City of Healdsburg; and Cheyenne McConnell, Youth Community Member, were absent

1. Agenda and Minutes Approval (00:16:14-00:18:36)

Public comment:

None at this time.

Madolyn Agrimonti motioned to approve the consent calendar and minutes from the 2/23/22 CoC Board Meeting; Dennis Pocekay seconded.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Kathleen Pozzi, Sid McColley, Chessy Etheridge, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Lisa Fatu

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Stephen Sotomayor, Cheyenne McConnell

The motion passed.

2. CoC Board Chair and Vice Chair Election (00:18:37-00:29:24)

Interim Executive Director Dave Kiff explained it would be an open/public election. Ben Leroi gave a brief recap of the responsibilities of the Board Chair then opened nominations for the Chair of the Continuum of Care Board.

John Moore nominated Tom Schwedhelm as Chair; Madolyn Agrimonti seconded the nomination.

Madolyn Agrimonti moved to close the nominations for Chair; Dennis Pocekay seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Lisa Fatu moved to accept Tom Schwedhelm as the new Chair of the CoC Board; Madolyn Agrimonti seconded the motion.

Public comment:

Alice Linn

Unanimously approved.

Ben Leroi opened nominations for Vice Chair of the Continuum of Care Board.

Don Schwartz nominated Jennielynn Holmes as Vice Chair; Kathleen Pozzi seconded the nomination.

Madolyn Agrimonti moved to close the nominations for Vice Chair; John Moore seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Lisa Fatu moved to accept Jennielynn Homes as the new Vice Chair of the CoC Board; Dennis Pocekay seconded the motion.

Public comment:

Alice Linn

Unanimously approved.

Tom Schwedhelm took over as Chair and thanked Ben Leroi for his service.

3. Staff Reports (00:29:25-01:00:05)

Dave Kiff shared a spreadsheet showing the sources of funds that come into the CoC and a funding calendar showing how much money is allocated towards homelessness. It that was very well received by the Board.

Michael Gause provided a brief update on the Point of Time Count that was conducted on February 25. The new app was well received. Preliminary numbers will be provided to HUD at the beginning of May with the final report being ready in June or July.

Public Comment:

Gregory Fearon

Ludmilla Bade

Victoria Yanez

4. ESG-CV Funding Update (01:00:06-01:52:56)

The ESG-CV Ad Hoc Committee met on March 10, 2022, to make a final determination on the appropriate use of \$368,000 in re-allocated State ESG-CV funds. It was determined that staff would prioritize the funding to maximize permanent housing including voucher placement assistance and Rapid Rehousing for unsheltered individuals, including but not limited to those in NCS sites; any unspent funds would be allocated towards the West County Navigation Center; and staff should consider applying for any re-allocated State ESG-CV funds that could also be used for the West County Navigation Center.

Public Comment:

Ludmilla Bade
Dannielle Danforth
Victoria Yanez
Alice Linn

Tom Schwedhelm said it was his intent to get all the appointed positions that are open and get them filled as soon as possible and ask the Ad Hoc Committee to meet, along with staff, to determine the next steps.

5. Word from the Street (01:52:57-02:01:41)

Chesy Etheridge asked if there would be any gap with the April 15 placements for those in the non-congregate shelters. She also spoke about the effect the recent sweeps have had on people who have been displaced. She asked if it would be possible to have portable restrooms or showers once a week at the encampments. Is there a six-month strategy for moving the encampments?

Tom Schwedhelm clarified the encampment clean-up strategy is not under the jurisdiction of the Continuum of Care but with each individual municipality or the County.

Michael Gause will consult with Tina Rivera, Joe Hegedus, and Will Gayowski at the Health Services Department to see if there is some flexibility on the April 15 deadline.

Public Comment:

Gregory Fearon
Victoria Yanez
Heather Jackson
Alice Linn

6. 5 Minute Break (02:01:42-02:06:06)

7. Committee Structure and Membership (02:08:00-03:26:38)

Dave Kiff gave a brief overview of the CoC committees: Strategic Planning, Coordinated Entry Advisory, and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). You do not need to be a Board member to be on a committee.

Strategic Planning Committee has 1 open seat (11-member committee cap); 10 are confirmed to continue (6 are current CoC Board members).

HMIS Committee has 1 open seat (10-member committee cap); 9 are confirmed to continue (2 are current CoC Board members).

Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee has 1 potentially open seat (10-member committee cap); 9 are confirmed to continue (4 are current CoC Board members).

Staff recommends that the CoC Board expand the committee cap to 13 and a goal of including at least 1 person with lived experience. Interested persons should submit their request to CDC staff for Chair and Vice Chair approval.

Public Comment:

Alice Linn
Ludmilla Bade
Victoria Yanez

Chris Coursey moved to accept the staff recommendation; John Moore seconded.

Jennielynn Holmes made a friendly amendment to expand the cap from 13 to up to 15 for the Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee at the discretion of the Chair. Chris Coursey and John Moore accepted the amendment.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Kathleen Pozzi, Sid McColley, Chessy Etheridge, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Lisa Fatu

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Stephen Sotomayor, Cheyenne McConnell

The motion passed.

Don Schwartz made a motion that the Board shall establish a Funding and Evaluation Committee that will:

- Develop funding recommendations for the CoC Board on use of CoC funds
- Develop recommendations for the CoC Board to comment on funding decisions by other parties
- Make funding decisions on behalf of the CoC Board if such authority is delegated by the Board
- Evaluate the performance of the system of care, programs, and service providers to inform funding decisions, support public communications, and improve the system of care
- Participate with the HMIS Committee in the evaluation of the HMIS Lead's performance

The Committee will exist until abolished or replaced by the Board.

All interested Board members or other parties may apply to be on this Committee by submitting an email of interest to Araceli Rivera at the CDC by April 15. The message should indicate if the applicant is interested in serving as Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

The Board Chair and Vice Chair will develop a recommended Committee roster, Chair, and Vice Chair for review and approval by the CoC Board as its April meeting.

The Committee will provide minutes and report to the Board consistent with practices of other Committees or as directed by the Board.

Motion seconded by John Moore.

Don Schwartz modified his motion: The Board shall establish a Funding and Evaluation Committee. The Committee will exist until abolished or replaced by the Board.

All interested Board members or other parties may apply to be on this Committee by submitting an email of interest to Araceli Rivera at the CDC by April 15. The message should indicate if the applicant is interested in serving as Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

The Board Chair and Vice Chair will develop a recommended Committee roster, Chair, and Vice Chair for review and approval by the CoC Board as its April meeting.

The Committee will provide minutes and report to the Board consistent with practices of other Committees or as directed by the Board.

John Moore withdrew his second of this motion; Madolyn Agrimonti seconded. Don Schwartz withdraw his motion with the understanding the Board is generally supportive of creating a Funding Evaluation Committee generally along the line of what is proposed.

Michael Gause gave a summary of the CoC Funding Competition, which is a national competition in which the local community is scored on its planning and performance towards ending homelessness. An Evaluation Committee needs to be formed to rate and rank projects that are renewing and then help to establish new projects. The timeframe is April through the end of September. Once HUD releases their Notice of Funding Opportunity, an extensive overall application, as well as reviewing up to 20 projects, must be submitted within 2 months.

Staff recommendation is for approval to form a CoC Competition Committee consisting of 9 members – 5 CoC Board members and 4 individuals as recommended by staff to the CoC Chair/Vice Chair with at least 1 of the 4 individuals with lived experience.

Public Comment:

Alice Linn
Gregory Fearon
Gerry La Londe-Berg
Victoria Yanez
Ludmilla Bade

John Moore moved to accept the staff recommendation; Madolyn Agrimonti seconded.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Kathleen Pozzi, Sid McColley, Chessy Etheridge, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Lisa Fatu

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Stephen Sotomayor, Cheyenne McConnell

The motion passed.

8. Standing Committee Reports (03:26:39–03:56:05)

- a) **Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee:** Thai Hilton provided an update on the coordinated entry transition to HomeFirst as of April 1. There may be a gap in services while staff support them in their start-up efforts. Catholic Charities and staff are working with them to cover any service gaps. The CEA Committee approved the updated Rapid Rehousing Standards and recommends adoption by the CoC Board.

Public Comment:

Victoria Yanez

Gerry La Londe-Berg

Alice Linn

Jessica

Madolyn Agrimonti moved to accept recommendation; Dennis Pockey seconded.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Kathleen Pozzi, Sid McColley, Chessy Etheridge, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Lisa Fatu

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Stephen Sotomayor, Cheyenne McConnell

The motion passed.

- b) **Strategic Planning Committee:** Tom Schwedhelm reported they are working with Homebase on Phase 1 of strategic planning that centers around development of HHAP outcomes and strategies. The second phase will build upon efforts undertaken to develop the HHAP outcomes and strategies with robust engagement of stakeholders to identify strategic priorities and goals for the county's response to homelessness. Homebase would like to present these at the next CoC Board Meeting.
- c) **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)/Data Committee:** Daniel Overbury reported the HMIS Committee did not meet in March due to bandwidth issues and the need for further research on ongoing topics. Next meeting April, 2nd Monday of the month and plan to revisit topics that have been tabled in the past.
- d) **Lived Experience Advisory and Planning (LEAP) Board:** Rebekah Sammet reported the Committee will operate under Rosenberg's Rules of Order and majority vote, and they have created a forum to openly discuss emergency items and "Word from the Street" topics. They are currently

discussing attendance requirements, defining priorities, drafting a charter, and their relationship with the CoC Board.

- e) **Youth Action Board:** Thai Hilton reported they are currently setting up their planning body similar to the process the LEAP Committee used and have reached out to the TAY providers in the community to get interest from their clients with lived experience

Public Comment:

None at this time.

9. Review Agenda for April 21 CoC Membership Meeting (03:56:06–03:59:36)

Araceli Rivera reviewed the draft agenda for the Quarterly Membership Meeting scheduled for April 21, 2022. She proposed that this Membership Meeting be set as the CoC Board Member Orientation, which is required within 90 days of joining the CoC Board for the first time. A recording of the Orientation will be made available if a new Board member is not able to attend.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Madolyn Agrimonti moved to accept the CoC Membership Meeting Agenda as presented; seconded by Dennis Pocekay.

Ayes: Ben Leroi, Jennielynn Holmes, Tom Schwedhelm, Dennis Pocekay, Chris Coursey, Margaret Sluyk, Chris Keys, Kathleen Pozzi, Sid McColley, Chessy Etheridge, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, John Moore, Madolyn Agrimonti, Lisa Fatu

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Stephen Sotomayor, Cheyenne McConnell

The motion passed.

10. Review Agenda for April 27 CoC Board Meeting (03:59:37–04:08:20)

Tom Schwedhelm requested the Evaluation and Funding Committee item be added to the agenda. Don Schwartz would like a discussion on the ongoing supportive services for those with vouchers and would also like to learn more about the CalAIM Program. Dave Kiff will work with County Administrator Bratton and some of the city team members to frame this, and he will provide an update at the April Board Meeting. Ben Leroi has been really involved in implementing the enhanced care management medical benefit through CalAIM and offered to talk to Don Schwartz off line.

Public Comment:

Gerry La Londe-Berg

11. Board Member Questions & Comments (04:08:21-04:09:27)

Madolyn Agrimonti reported that Sonoma Safe Parking has been extended to June 30. Andrew Henning has been hired to assist them with the 90-day extension.

12. Public Comments on Non-Agended Items (04:09:28-04:13:50)

Victoria Yanez
Alice Linn

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.