



## Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time – Meeting held by Zoom

### Welcome and Roll Call (00:06:33: - 00:08:45)

- Dennis Pocekay called meeting to order at 1:01 p.m and went over the Zoom rules around public comment and Brown Act guidelines.
  - *Present: Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma; Matt Verscheure Proxy for Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities Diocese of Santa Rosa; Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa; Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health; Jazmin Gudino proxy for Chris Coursey, BOS County of Sonoma; Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home; Chris Keys. Redwood Gospel Mission; Kathleen Pozzi; Martha Cheever, Sonoma County CDC; Cheyenne McConnell; Una Glass, City of Sebastopol; Don Schwartz, City of Rohnert Park; Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park; Danielle Danforth, West County Community Services; Chessy Etheridge arrived late at 1:10pm.*
  - *Absent: Mark Krug, Burbank Housing; Jack Ding, City of Sonoma*

***A quorum was present.***

### 1. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:08:49 – 00:13:08)

Dennis Pocekay, CoC Board Chair went over consent calendar, 4/26/2023 meeting agenda and 3/22/23 Minutes.

Don Schwartz request made to adjust meeting minutes to reflect direction from the board on long term funding plan; direction was to schedule a separate board meeting by early May for a full discussion. Item also not reflected in the next proposed agenda. Staff made note and 3/22/2023 Meeting minutes to be corrected.

**Public Comment:** Gerry La LondeBerg

Una Glass made motion to accept consent calendar with revisions to 3/22/2023 meeting minutes; Margaret Sluyk seconds.

*Abstentions or objections: None*

## ***Approved***

### **2. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:13:24 – 00:23:57)**

- Emergency Shelter Site Update: Dave Kiff gave update on the emergency shelter site the county started; currently in its 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 65-67 people. Contractors are providing case management and related services. Redwood Gospel Mission and Downtown Streets team going in with showers 4 days a week. Reports some issues that are being worked through.
- Elderberry Commons Update:  
DK reported out on Elderberry Commons; County of Sonoma's Homekey site, one of two sites that has been used as transitional housing. Reports that over the last 2 months working with residents who are in TH and preparing for PSH construction that is set to occur sometime this summer. Housed all but 6 people, those 6 have housing options set up however housing not available until after formal program closer which is May 1<sup>st</sup>, in the interim those 6 individuals will be housed in hotels.
- Ending Homelessness & Provider Workshop:  
Dave Kiff gave update on early April meeting that occurred between EHT, DHS and service providers. Have steps to move forward; additional meetings will be set in May.
- April 2023 Update on regional Homelessness Activities:  
Dave Kiff shared update and presented to the CoC Board as a draft following a conversation with Board member Una Glass. Important to keep board informed of things going on in Sonoma County related to homelessness.

**Public Comment:** Alice Linn

### **3. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (00:24:05 – 00:43:53)**

Margaret Sluyk provided update on most recent meeting, meeting primarily revolved around NOFA. Feedback was given by providers on scoring and scoring criteria, communication on decisions made. Stated conversations also included Strategic plan, PSH, RRH and CH.

**Public Comment:** none at this time

### **4. Word from the Street (00:43:56 – 00:47:20)**

Chessy Etheridge provided information on new street; DEA reports drug is in 48 of 50 of states new epidemic; In January 2023, 4 deaths in SF confirmed, 1 reported in Santa Clara last month. Request made to have update from DHS on drug in county. Also raised question/requested update on Azura who was slated to do PSH.

**Public Comment:** None at this time

### **5. Local Homelessness Services NOFA 23/24 Funding Decisions (00:47:25 – 02:34:44):**

Alea Tantarelli informed board that any board members that have an affiliation with an organization applying for funding will need to recuse; in the event that quorum is not present

board will move forward with non-conflicted members as long as there is a quorum of non-conflicted members.

Una Glass volunteered as temporary chair.

Michael Gause provided overview and background on NOFA, Teddie Pierce, Funding and Evaluation Committee Chair also spoke and shared background. F/E Committee continued its meeting on April 19, 2023, to April 27, 2023, to finalize recommendations. Recommendations would then be scheduled to go to the CoC Board at a special meeting during the first two weeks of May 2023.

Don Schwartz made motion; Refer this issue to the Funding and Evaluation Committee, with the direction to do the following things:

1. explore creation of a pot of funding for prevention and consolidation of prevention proposals or programs after Keep Oakland housed presentation at the May CoC board meeting
2. Explore shifting RRH funds to PSH
3. Explore expanding PSH capacity, including linking supportive services to vouchers
4. Explore consolidation of RRH services
5. Consider adding funding to Sam Jones Hall expansion as a regional resource
6. Explore how to address geographic equity

Later:

1. Expand materials to reflect more funding sources, including all administered or approved by the board of supervisors
2. Request for presentation for HUD or someone else, as appropriate regarding the role of the CoC

Jackie Elward seconds motion.

**Public Comment:** Sarah Vetter, Gregory Fearon, Sasha Cohen, Gerry La Londe-Berg, Alice Linn, Adriene Lauby, Angie Moeller, Anna Rangel

Don Schwartz made modifications to motion; Refer this issue to the Funding and Evaluation Committee, with the direction to do the following things:

1. explore creation of a pot of funding for prevention and consolidation of prevention proposals or programs after Keep Oakland housed presentation at the May CoC board meeting
2. Explore shifting RRH funds to PSH
3. Explore expanding PSH capacity, including linking supportive services to vouchers
4. Explore consolidation of RRH services
5. Consider adding funding to Sam Jones Hall expansion as a regional resource
6. Explore how to address geographic equity
7. Bring back recommendations to full Board at a special meeting to be scheduled

Later:

1. Expand materials to reflect more funding sources, including all administered or approved by the Board of Supervisors
2. Request for presentation for HUD (or someone else as appropriate) regarding the role of the CoC

Jackie Elward seconds motion.

*Abstentions or objections: None*

**Approved**

**6. 10-minute break (02:35:20 – 02:45:44)**

***Meeting resumed; role call was taken to confirm a quorum was present.***

**7. Report o CoC Board on FY 23 CoC Competition Process & Approval of Renewal Project Scoring (02:47:16 – 03:17:58):**

Alea Tantarelli informed board that any board members that have an affiliation with an organization applying for funding will need to recuse; in the event that quorum is not present board will move forward with non-conflicted members as long as there is a quorum of non-conflicted members. Karissa White gave brief overview of the CoC competition process, FY 2022 CoC Competition scoring & summary, areas for improvement, update on CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup, Scoring sections, renewal projects for 2023.

Staff Recommendations:

1. Approve the scoring tool for the 2023 CoC Competition – Renewal Projects
2. As approved by the Funding and Evaluation Committee, the request is to give authority to the CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup to determine the final weight of the scoring during their next meeting in May to ensure the Workgroup can proceed with the in-depth evaluation.

**Public Comment:** none

Una Glass motions to approve renewal project scoring tool and leave minor corrections or additions to the funding and evaluation workgroup at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting; Kathleen Pozzi second's motion.

*Abstentions or objections: None*

**Approved**

**8. Measure O Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Responses: (03:18:02 – 03:32:25)**

Alea Tantarelli informed board that any board members that have an affiliation with an organization applying for funding will need to recuse; in the event that quorum is not present board will move forward with non-conflicted members as long as there is a quorum of non-conflicted members.

Michael Gause provided overview of the Measure O NOFA Responses and Consultation, including scoring schema, applications received, recommendations and next steps.

Staff recommends prioritizing funding for one year to ensure consistency across the system. The one exception is funding the City of Sonoma's request for a single staff position for By Names List and Outreach work for two years to ensure continuity and allow for time for hiring.

Kathleen Pozzi motions to support staff recommendation; Martha Cheever seconds.

**Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon, Gerry la Londe-Berg, Sasha Cohen, Amy Appleton

*Abstentions or objections: None*

**Approved**

## 9. Reports from Standing Committees: (03:33:12-03:44:36)

- **Funding & Evaluation Committee:**

Teddie Pierce provided update stated a lot on Funding and Evaluation Committee was covered already covered, posed question for governance, which recommendation should committee act on.

- **Coordinated Entry Advisory (CEA) Committee:**

No update at this time

- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Dennis Pocekay gave update; Dennis sat as temporary chair for the first meeting of the new year. Committee met last Friday and elected new Chair, Tom Bieri from CSN; Vice Chair Ludmilla; Secretary Rebekah Sammet. Staff provided updates on the year one early implementation efforts and also discussed bringing on one or more consultants to help with SP implementation. TBD special meeting to discuss alignment between the SP and Funding Plan.

- **Homeless Information System (HMIS)/Data Committee:** Daniel Overbury-Howland gave update on HMIS evaluation including historical context, future evaluations, and current plan for evaluation. Meeting scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am during the HMIS Data Committee meeting that is open to the public., Funding and Evaluation Committee has been invited to participate.

- **Lived Experience Advisory & Planning Board (LEAP):**

Rebekah Sammet provided update, shared that LEAP Board is full, board is working with Homefirst and the CEA Committee to establish LE members to participate in case conferencing, working to establish peer support groups at new county emergency shelter, LEAP members participating in Conversational Tribal Nations Workshop and Training Series.

**Public Comment:** Gail Simmons

## 10. Review Agenda for Next CoC Board Meeting: (03:44:43-03:48:25)

Dennis Pocekay went over May 2023 Draft agenda. Opened it up for proposals on additional agenda requests.

Don Schwartz provided feedback stating more meeting time is needed to talk about the long-term funding strategy, Keeping Oakland Housed Presentation is only 20 minutes long, insufficient time to speak about prevention. Recommended that special meetings on funding decision should also include long-term funding strategy with a dedicated time slot of 3-4 hours. In addition, protocols call to review CoC budget before BOS does and May meeting date meets meeting requirement timeline.

Special meeting needs to take place ideally week of May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Gause clarified item on consent calendar, Homeless Housing assistance prevention lead agency authorization letter; a signed letter from Board to State confirming that DHS is now the lead agency so contract can be fully switched. For Bridge Housing Initiative, someone from DHS will work with staff on item; new funding stream from state on BH and potential homelessness that is being worked on.

**Public Comment:** none at this time

**11. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items: (03:48:58-03:54:37)**

Gerry La Londe-Burg-, Gregory Fearon, Adrienne Lauby

***Meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.***