



# Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

## Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

1:00 – 4:30 PM, Pacific Time – Meeting held via Zoom

Zoom Recording:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/8JZXxBkZwuSM5CugJOn7HYwWEWkaTk7747R4TruP2c3BYK5n9t6yWsqtm-yyudF8.Jo3zioVPsr8iLV89?startTime=1766005085000>

Passcode: z2z\*ZZBn

### Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:03:12–00:06:15)

Chair Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and explained the Zoom rules regarding public comment and the Brown Act guidelines.

**Present:** Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Caroline Bañuelos, City of Santa Rosa | Kevin McDonnell, City of Petaluma | Sean Hamlin, proxy for Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Stephen Zollman, City of Sebastopol | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chessy Etheridge, Adult Lived Experience Seat | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Large | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Rosie Traversi, Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat | Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat | Ash Culver, Transitional-aged Youth Seat (arrived late)

**Absent:** Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large | Kimberly Stevens, LEAP Board

A quorum was present.

### 1 - 3. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:06:17 – 00:07:41)

- Chair Holmes presented the following consent calendar items for approval:
  1. 12/17/25 meeting agenda
  2. 10/22/25 meeting minutes
  3. Reports for Standing Committee Updates
  4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates

**Public Comment:** None.

**Motion:** Councilmember Stephen Zollman moves to approve the Consent Calendar.

**Second:** Chris Cabral seconds the motion.

**Abstentions or Objections:** None.

**Motion passes.** The consent calendar is approved.

#### 4. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:07:44 – 00:49:05)

- **Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition and Impact on Coordinated Entry (CE) Assessment and Referral:**

As Michael Gause reported, on December 8, 2025, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rescinded the FY 2025 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that had been released in November 2025. However, HUD also indicated that the NOFO may be reissued at a later date. The NOFO capped funding for permanent supportive housing (PSH) to 30% of the total award, down from 90% as was available in the 2024 NOFO.

These developments necessarily place the lead agency's Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition on hold and potentially jeopardize housing for over 200 individuals currently residing in permanent supportive housing. An update regarding the HUD NOFO may be forthcoming via a court hearing on Friday, December 19, 2025, but next steps are uncertain.

Subsequently, lead agency staff notified the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) of the CoC NOFO issues at their December 16, 2025, meeting. The BOS indicated that they would consider options for possible emergency contingency plans or loans. Staff will return to the BOS on January 6, 2026, for further updates.

Thai Hilton explained that, in preparation for potential closures of some PSH projects, the Coordinated Entry Advisory Committee (CEA) has approved a temporary pause on referrals from CE to CoC-funded PSH Projects. Some projects, however, are moving forward with approved CE transfers.

Staff recommends approval by the HC Board to pause CE referrals to CoC-funded PSH projects through May 31, 2026, or until sufficient clarity of CoC funding levels and policy changes can be established to safely resume referrals.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Motion:** Chris Cabral moves to pause all PSH referrals to HUD CoC-funded projects, unless the provider specifically states otherwise, through May 31, 2026, or sooner, if funding or policy changes provide clarity.

**Second:** Martha Cheever seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Approve - 14; Abstentions - 1

**Motion passes.**

Additional information is included in the meeting materials packet, Item #4, pgs. 15-16.

#### **5. Lead Agency Evaluation Update (00:49:07– 00:52:36)**

- Jennielynn Holmes announced that the Lead Agency Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee has finalized a survey they had been developing, which was designed to elicit public and stakeholder feedback for evaluation of the performance of the lead agency. The survey will be disseminated soon, and the committee will move forward with plans to conduct two public input sessions, as well.

Further information is included within the packet of meeting materials, Item #5, pg. 17.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Informational item only; no action taken.**

#### **6. Updates to Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Standards (00:52:41 – 01:10:05)**

- Thai Hilton presented slides to describe minor updates to the Rapid Rehousing Standards, as developed by a working group of providers, stakeholders, and lead agency staff.

Additionally, the Homeless Coalition (HC) Board had previously expressed a general interest in exploring a more comprehensive RRH redesign. The working group has discussed possible redesign options, such as a “hub-and-spoke” model, and requests feedback from the HC Board regarding their project model concerns and redesign priorities, as well as approval of the current updates to the RRH standards.

Further information and a link to the draft RRH standard updates are included in the packet of meeting materials, Item #7, pg. 18.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Motion:** Councilmember Zollman moves to approve the updates to the RRH standards and also requests a presentation from staff to the HC Board on the concept of a “hub-and-spoke” model in March 2026.

**Second:** Councilmember Jackie Elward seconds the motion.

**Objections:** 1 opposed.

**Abstentions:** None.

**Motion passes.**

## 7. Homeless Coalition Board Elections Update (01:10:07 – 01:13:53)

- Jynessa Lazzaroni presented the results of the 2026 Homeless Coalition Board elections for five seats that expire on December 31, 2025.

Congratulations and thanks were expressed to those who will be joining or returning to the HC Board in January 2026: Akash Kalia (At Large seat), Chris Cabral (Homeless Service Provider seat) Rosie Traversi (Licensed Healthcare Organization seat) Jessica Wolfe (Adult Lived Experience seat), and Angelica Smith (Tribal Representative).

Further details are provided in Item #7, page 19, of the packet of meeting materials.

**Informational item only; no action taken.**

**Public Comment:** None.

## 8. 2025/2026 Local Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Update (01:13:55– 01:27:43)

- Michael Gause provided an overview of the proposed process for the fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026 Local Homelessness NOFA and presented a recommendation to extend current contracts for local homelessness projects for a one-year period at the highest possible funding level for the FY 2026-2027.

**Motion:** Councilmember Zollman moves to approve the staff recommendation to renew existing local homelessness projects for a one-year period at the maximum level possible.

**Second:** Councilmember Wellander seconds the motion.

**Public Comment:** Lisette Wellen

Dannielle Danforth, Chessy Etheridge, Chris Cabral, Margaret Sluyk, Jennielynn Holmes, and Mayor McDonald were recused from voting on this item. A quorum remained and Councilman Zollman volunteered to preside over the voting proceedings.

**Roll Call Vote:** Approve - 9, Objections or Abstentions - None

**Motion passes.**

Recused members rejoined the meeting and Jennielynn Holmes resumed the role of chairperson.

## 9. 10-Minute Break (extended to 15 minutes) 2:25 – 2:40 PM (01:27:43 – 01:42:46)

- A quorum remained upon return from break.

## 10. Word from the LEAP Board (01:42:51 – 02:11:29)

- Chessy Etheridge narrated a PowerPoint presentation and provided commentary detailing ideas that the Lived Experience & Advisory Planning (LEAP) Board has compiled

for improving outcomes at Eliza's Village. The presentation was enthusiastically received, and presentation slides will be sent to HC Board members and interested parties.

**Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon, Jessica Wolfe

**Informational item only; no action taken.**

#### **11. Overview Presentation on Homeless Funding in Sonoma County (02:11:30 – 02:49:09)**

- Sonoma County Department of Health Services (DHS) Director Nolan Sullivan shared a slide presentation which he had previously provided to the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers' Association (SCMCA) in September 2025. This overview depicted some of the intricacies of Homelessness Services funding: a complex web of at least 42 different sources (federal, state, local) from 12 different agencies or jurisdictions. Most projects require more than one funding source to operate, with many sources not guaranteed over multiple years, and with inconsistent timelines and reporting requirements.

Referencing data from a study of basic government spending on homelessness in Sonoma County as provided by the regional organization "All Home," Director Sullivan presented graphics detailing funding sources and expenditures for the County of Sonoma, cities, the Continuum of Care, the Sonoma County Housing Authority, and the Santa Rosa Housing Authority, which altogether totaled about \$209 million in FY 23/24. Relatedly, the numbers of homeless in Sonoma County, as represented in annual Point in Time (PIT) counts, reflect an overall reduction of about 20% over the past two years. Funding allocated to homeless services in FY 25/26 is estimated to be approximately \$121 million: a decrease of nearly \$90 million which presages future reductions in housing placements and services.

Also included in the presentation was a breakdown of funding and program allocations from Measure O, the voter-approved 10-year sales tax measure passed by Sonoma County voters in November 2020. The majority of Measure O funds support Behavioral Health programs, particularly emergency psychiatric/crisis services. As stipulated in the bond ordinance, only 2% of the approximately \$25 million generated annually by Measure O is obligated to homelessness services, with 50% of that obligation being specifically dedicated to housing for the chronically homeless.

Another funding source, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), has been in place for twenty years and provides \$20-\$30 million per year for Behavioral Health programs, via a 1% tax on millionaires in California. As of July 1, 2026, Proposition 1, approved by California voters in 2024, will be implemented, renaming the MHSA to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and bringing significant changes to funding requirements for components of MHSA programs. Of the estimated BHSA funding of \$33 million for FY 26/27, a mandate that 30% (approximately \$10 million) be utilized exclusively for

housing will result in a decrease of that amount in funding for established behavioral health and substance use programs.

A draft snapshot of projected uses of BHS housing funds for FY 26/27 include funding for outreach and engagement for the DHS Whole Person Care Team, housing for the chronically homeless at Eliza's Village and Mickey Zane Place, Bridge Housing for clients with behavioral health challenges at DHS Arrowood, a psychiatric health facility (PHF) and peer respite services, as well as funding for rental subsidies and vouchers.

**Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon, Hunter Scott

**Informational item only; no action taken.**

**12. Point in Time (PIT) Count (02:49:11– 02:54:14)**

- Karissa White advised the HC Board that preparations have begun for the annual 2026 Point-in-Time Count, which this year will begin at 5:00 AM on January 30, 2026. Six regions of Sonoma County will be covered, with a separate youth count planned for 2:00 PM that day. Volunteers to help with the count are welcome and may sign up via a link on the Sonoma County Homelessness Services website.

**Public Comment:** None

Additional information is available at Item #12, pgs. 22-23, in the packet of meeting materials.

**Informational item only; no action taken.**

**13. Homeless Coalition Quarterly Membership Meeting (02:54:16 – 02:55:28)**

- Jynessa Lazzaroni announced that the quarterly meeting of the Homeless Coalition membership that was planned for January 2026 is cancelled. The regular quarterly meeting schedule is expected to resume in April 2026.

**Public Comment:** None.

A brief summary for Item #13 is located on page 24 of the meeting materials packet.

**Informational item only; no action taken.**

**14. Special December 23, 2025 ,Homeless Coalition Board Meeting (02:55:30 – 02:57:09)**

- Michael Gause announced that the NOFO process has been suspended for now, so the planned special meeting is no longer necessary at this time. A cancellation notice for the meeting will be forthcoming.

**15. Review Agenda for January Coalition Board Meeting (02:57:13 – 03:01:12)**

- Chair Holmes displayed the draft agenda for the January 2026 HC Board meeting, and recounted requests from today’s meeting that an update from the consultant firm MRG be provided when available, and that a presentation depicting a “hub-and-spoke” model for RRH be provided at the March 2026 meeting, if possible.
- Clarification was provided that item #10 on the draft agenda (Permanent Supportive Housing Standards) will be an update, not a request for approval.
- **Public Comment:** None

**16. Board Member Questions and Comments (03:01:14 – 03:06:29)**

- The Homeless Memorial is this Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Arlene Francis Center. The public is invited.
- COTS has begun giving notices to tenants to vacate due to expected loss of funding for Permanent Supportive Housing. Many clients have expressed gratitude to providers and staff for their efforts in locating alternative housing arrangements.
- The federal government has approved a funding award for Catholic Charities to re-open a runaway youth shelter. Although additional funding will still be needed, an existing property owned by Catholic Charities is hoped to be renovated and licensed to establish what will be the only shelter for children up to the age of 18 north of San Francisco.
- **Public Comment:** None

**17. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (03:06:31– 03:06:47)**

- None.

**Adjournment: 4:12 PM (03:06:48 – 03:09:14)**