



Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

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

Zoom Recording:

https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/5cvXTt0PM7xvfjcKEOZ-9O_C8t08ETreyyp9W1YS4kFt_nJqLio9vaWZq94tU36.8A8VXGXueFxOWg3t?startTime=1748462226000

Passcode: +m^m2E?z

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:04:02–00:06:41)

Chair Jennielynn Holmes is delayed but will join in the meeting in progress later this afternoon. Vice Chair Kevin McDonnell called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and explained the Brown Act guidelines and Zoom rules regarding public comment.

Present: Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Kevin McDonnell, City of Petaluma | Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Dorothy Norton, proxy, and 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) | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Sarah Vetter, Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat | Rebekah Sammet, LEAP Board | Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat

Absent: Caroline Bañuelos, City of Santa Rosa | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large | Jeremy Hinojos, TAY Representative

A quorum was present.

1 - 3. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:06:45 – 00:08:38)

- Vice-Chair McDonnell presented the consent calendar items:
 1. 5/28/25 meeting agenda
 2. 4/23/25 meeting minutes
 3. Reports for Standing Committee Updates
- **Public Comment:** None.

Motion: Stephen Zollman moves to approve the Consent Calendar.

Second: Martha Cheever seconds the motion.

Abstentions: None.

Objections: None.

Motion passes. The consent calendar is approved.

4. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:08:46 – 00:12:01)

- Licensed Healthcare Organization (LHO) Board Seat:

Sarah Vetter currently fills the LHO seat on the HC Board on behalf of Santa Rosa Community Health, but has recently taken a position with a company that is not considered to be a licensed healthcare organization. Per direction from the HC Board at the April 23, 2025 meeting, an appointment shall be made to fill the remainder of Sarah Vetter's partial-term seat, which expires in December 2025.

Karissa White presented a recommendation to approve Rosie Traversi, West County Community Health Center, to fill the LHO Board seat for the remainder of the term.

Public Comment: None.

Abstentions / Objections: None.

The recommendation to appoint Rosie Traversi to the LHO seat for the partial term ending in December 2025 is adopted.

Supervisor Coursey and the HC Board express their appreciation and thanks to Sarah for her service and wish her well in her new endeavor.

5. Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Presentation (00:12:06 – 00:47:46)

- David Evans, Acute & Forensic Section Manager, Sonoma County Department of Health Services (DHS), Behavioral Health Division, presented an update on the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant-funded project - an eighty (80) bed residential treatment site for those with severe mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorder issues - located at 440 Arrowood Drive, Santa Rosa. The facility operates as an interim shelter, in regional partnership with Marin County, who will be purchasing twenty (20) beds to house and support their clients. Felton Institute will be the site operator and specialty mental health services provider. Clients can live rent-free at this clean-and sober facility for six to twelve months, with meals provided, and 24/7 security onsite. The facility was operational as of February 25, 2025, with priority given to CARE Court participants.

Public Comment: Gregory Fearon

Informational item only; no action taken.

1:45 PM: Chair Jennielynn Holmes arrived, introduced item #6 and proceeded to preside over the remainder of the meeting. **(00:47:46 – 00:48:19)**

6. 2025-2029 Sonoma County Consolidated Plan Stakeholder Consultation (00:48:21 – 01:22:31)

- Jennielynn Holmes introduced Rhonda Coffman and Matthew Burns of the Community Development Commission (CDC), who provided an overview of the work of the CDC and their federal funding sources and processes, as derived through the Urban County designation, which was created by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the unincorporated County of Sonoma, cities (excepting Santa Rosa and Petaluma), and the Town of Windsor.

A subsequent in-depth presentation described the 2025-2029 Sonoma County Consolidated Plan 2025-2030, and consultation with the HC Board was elicited for input and feedback to help identify highest priority needs and desired outcomes.

Informational item only; no action taken. Additional information is available in the Staff Report, Item #6, pages 23-25 in the packet of meeting materials.

7. Coordinated Entry Assessment & Prioritization Redesign Approval (01:22:37 – 02:07:33)

- Jennielynn Holmes and Matthew Verscheure introduced Thai Hilton who presented an explanation and update of the Coordinated Entry (CE) Assessment and Prioritization (A&P) Redesign. The difficulties and limitations encountered with the current assessment tool, entitled the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPAT), were described, and current prioritization factors employed for assessment were explained.

In November 2023, Lead Agency staff began meeting with stakeholders and a working group was convened to undertake a redesign of the Coordinated Entry assessment and prioritization process, in alignment with the HC Board's Strategic Plan goal 3.6, to improve the transparency and effectiveness of the CE system. The working group met regularly to create a new assessment tool and prioritization process to replace the VI-SPDAT and current prioritization process.

The work has concluded now. A new prioritization process for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and Other Permanent Housing (OPH) programs has been developed, as well as a new, much shorter tool to reduce assessment time, as well as the number of invasive questions required. The new tool will reduce the administrative burden on agencies, and will allow for a more flexible and equitable CE system.

A full report of the redesign process, as well as a copy of the new assessment tool, are included in the Executive Summary for Item #7, pages 26 - 29 in the meeting packet of materials.

Thai Hilton thanks the members of the working group for their exhaustive efforts, with particular note to Ben LeRoi for his direction in the early stages of the redesign process, and to HomeFirst staff for their data analysis that moved the work forward.

The recommendation today is for the HC Board to approve the new assessment tool and prioritization process. If approved, the working group would remain in place to develop an implementation plan for training the community, and will also bring policy changes to the HC Board for implementation.

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Chessy Etheredge moves to approve the new assessment tool and prioritization process redesign.

Second: Maria Rico seconds the motion.

Abstentions / Objections: None.

Motion is approved unanimously.

8. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (02:07:34 – 02:20:58)

- Margaret Sluyk reported that this month's Service Providers' meeting focused on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) survey that emanated from both the Safety Committee and the HMIS Committee, with regard to assessing software needs.

The County has implemented office hours for addressing issues with HMIS, and providers are encouraged to attend to resolve any difficulties they may encounter with the system.

Public Comment: None.

9. 10-Minute Break: 3:18 – 3:30 PM (02:21:00 – 02:34:18)

10. Word from the LEAP Board (02:34:22 – 02:34:32)

- Chair Holmes announced that the LEAP Board would defer their update to the June 25, 2025 HC Board meeting, per Chessy Etheredge.

11. Heart Integration in Sub-regional Street Outreach Model (02:34:34 – 03:42:26)

- James Alexander addressed questions regarding the HEART and SOUL teams and sub-regional street outreach, as had been raised by HC Board members at the April 23, 2025

meeting, and had been slated for follow-up in relation to adopting the subregional street outreach standards.

Slides were presented detailing the organizational structure and contact information for HEART, SOUL, and By-Names List managers, along with a synopsis of the work of the HEART and SOUL programs. Slides will be available to HC Board members.

Further questions, answers, and discussion ensued to facilitate understanding of the roles and jurisdictions of the HEART, SOUL, and street outreach teams, leading to clarity that the HEART team is the lead for addressing encampments in unincorporated areas of Sonoma County, as designated in the subregional street outreach standards.

Public Comment: Ted Nordquist, Hunter Scott

Motion: Maria Rico moves to approve the subregional street outreach standards.

Second: Margaret Sluyk seconds the motion.

Abstentions: None

Objections: Stephen Zollman.

Motion passes with one objection.

12. Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Data Dashboard (03:43:36 – 03:58:54)

- Michael Gause described the process for developing an updated dashboard and introduced Daniel Overbury-Howland who presented slides offering a glimpse of data available on the new Homelessness Services System Performance Measures Dashboard, one of many that that will be developed for the eventual complete redesign of the public DHS Continuum of Care website. The redesign is nearing completion and a full update will be presented at a future HC Board meeting.

A Public Forum event for presentation of the new dashboard to the general public is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025, from 5:30 – 6:30 PM.

A link to access the new Performance Measures Dashboard is included in the Executive Summary of Item #12 in the packet of meeting materials.

Public Comment: None.

Informational item only; no action taken.

13. Shelter Access in Community (03:58:55–03:58:59)

- Due to time constraints, the review of the Quarterly Membership Meeting Agenda will be deferred to the June 25, 2025 HC Board meeting.

14. Review Agenda for June Coalition Board Meeting (03:59:00 – 04:10:20)

- James Alexander presented the draft agenda for the June 25, 2025 HC Board meeting for review.

Araceli Rivera commented that today's Item #13, Shelter Access in Community, was deferred and will be added to the upcoming meeting agenda.

At the request of Stephen Zollman, an agenda item will be added for discussion of a timeline for a possible Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) vendor.

Public Comment: None.

15. Board Member Questions and Comments (04:10:24– 04:10:43)

- None.

Public Comment: None.

16. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (04:10:44– 04:10:55)

- None.

Adjournment: 4:08 PM (04:10:56 – 04:12:03)