



Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

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

Zoom Recording:

https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/_S6G4s93QaXMExm-fehG_u2q7eySwxNMkK1HHqGjyp8rNVSTNUvwaDwk2gV3zXJK.v5ElAnenGGRXlhZ?startTime=1753300679000

Passcode: DQE\$8YDN

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:02:47–00:04:57)

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 | 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) | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Rosie Traversi, Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat | Rebecca Sammet, LEAP Board | Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat |

Absent: Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma

A quorum was present.

1 - 3. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:04:59 – 00:06:28)

- Chair Holmes presented the following consent calendar items for approval:
 1. 7/23/25 meeting agenda
 2. 6/25/25 meeting minutes
 3. Summary of Follow-Ups from the Previous Meeting(s)
 4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates

- **Public Comment:** None.

Motion: Mayor Stephen Zollman moves to approve the Consent Calendar.

Second: Mayor Kevin McDonnell seconds the motion.

Abstentions: None.

Objections: None.

Motion passes. The consent calendar is approved.

5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:06:30 – 00:24:15)

- **Department of Health Services (DHS) Director Updates:**

-Due to recent leadership changes within DHS, new DHS Director Nolan Sullivan is also currently filling the role of interim DHS Homelessness Services (HS) Division Director.

-Within the HS Division, Director Sullivan envisions that changes will be forthcoming to the structure of the Homeless Encampment Access & Resource Team (HEART) and (Solving Obstacles in Unhoused Lives) SOUL Team, as well as to the utilization practices for the shelters at Mickey Zane Place and Eliza's Village.

-California's Proposition 1 Behavioral Health Services Act provides new funding resources to facilitate housing interventions for those with behavioral health disorders. To maximize those benefits, Director Sullivan foresees the possible enhanced interweaving of the HS and Behavioral Health (BH) divisions over the next several months.

- Feedback sessions for the Homeless Coalition (HC) Board and other stakeholders will be established to afford the opportunity for all to provide input in a collaborative process as innovative plans for the HS Division develop. A consulting firm is also engaged in an analysis of the overall DHS system and components, with areas in need of improvement to be identified.

-The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has approved several million dollars of Measure O funding for mobile crisis systems throughout the County.

-A Measure O Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be released in the next few weeks in the amount of ten million (\$10,000,000) dollars for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to address gaps in existing programs related to behavioral health or homelessness services that have experienced funding cuts.

- **Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Lived Experienced Seat Recommendation**

Karissa White addressed the HC Board to recommend that the Lived Experience Advisory Planning (LEAP) Board be approved to make a recommendation to fill the vacant TAY Lived Experience seat, with final approval by the HC Board. If the seat cannot be filled

right away, the LEAP Board will be allowed to appoint an individual with lived experience to temporarily fill the vacancy.

Additionally, a recommendation is made to approve an adjustment to the language within the Homeless Coalition Governance Charter to allow the LEAP Board to recommend a candidate for approval in the event of a vacancy outside the annual elections.

Motion: Supervisor Coursey moves to approve the staff recommendations as outlined above.

Second: Mayor Stephen Zollman seconds the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Abstentions or Objections: None

Motion passes.

In anticipation of this motion being approved, the LEAP Board had previously selected Rebekah Sammet to temporarily fill the vacant TAY seat until such time as elections are held. The HC Board affirms that Rebekah Sammet shall be a voting member, and her term shall begin with today's HC Board meeting.

Additional information may be found on pages 15-16, Item #5, Reports from the Lead Agency, in the meeting materials packet.

6. Homeless Services Website Redesign Update (00:24:17 – 00:35:24)

- Michael Gause thanked Adam Siegenthaler, Anna Edgerton, and Andrew Akufo for their tireless efforts in updating and redesigning the Continuum of Care (CoC) / DHS Homelessness Division website, the implementation of which had been identified as a priority within the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Anna Edgerton, Web Support Specialist, Sonoma County Information Systems Department, presented slides detailing the steps involved in developing the new features of the updated website, and also provided a tour of the website staging. The new website is planned to launch this week.

Public Comment: None.

Informational item only; no action taken.

7. Continuum of Care Program Performance, Spenddown Reports, and 2025 Evaluation Workgroup. (00:35:27 – 01:09:13)

- Martha Cheever, Jennielynn Holmes, Angelica Smith, Chris Cabral, and Dannielle Danforth were recused from this item due to conflicts of interest. A quorum remained.

Karissa White presented an in-depth analysis of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process, with background on HUD's Two (2)-Year NOFO Plan, conditions under which HUD may issue a new or amended NOFO for FY 2025, and details for understanding the HUD CoC Competition process, along with an explanation of the local support provided by the \$4.5 million in NOFA funds. In anticipation of a NOFO, a light performance review was also presented, as a progress report to discern how projects are currently performing and to identify any possible issues with spenddown.

HUD has announced the intent to release a NOFO for 2025 with a new application, which may involve new application questions and could potentially require a significant increase to staff workload. A timeline for the release is as yet unknown.

In preparation for such an event, given an unknown timeframe and uncertainty about the evaluation and scoring needs for a new application, staff recommends HC Board approval to preemptively create a workgroup of non-conflicted members to approve scoring tools and conduct CoC evaluations for new and renewal projects in anticipation of a 2025 CoC NOFO release.

Public Comment: Matthew Verscheure

Motion: Mayor Zollman moves to approve the recommendation to form an evaluation workgroup to perform project evaluations and approve a scoring tool, should HUD release a 2025 CoC NOFO.

Second: Maria Rico seconds the motion.

Abstentions / Objections: None.

Motion passes.

Non-conflicted board members who volunteered to serve on the evaluation workgroup are Mayor Stephen Zollman and Rebekah Sammet. Community members with prior evaluation experience will also be sought to bring the workgroup to a total of five (5) or six (6).

Recused members were returned to the meeting.

An in-depth analysis is included within the meeting packet of materials, pages 18-24, Item #7, CoC Program Performance, Spenddown Reports and 2025 Evaluation Workgroup.

8. Service Provider Roundtable (01:09:15 – 01:10:17)

- The Service Provider Roundtable did not hold their meeting this month. In the absence of a report, Margaret Sluyk yielded the associated time on the agenda.

Public Comment: None.

Please note: Item #9, 10-Minute Break, is deferred by Chair Holmes to a later spot on the agenda. (01:10:18 – 01:10:41)

10. Word from the LEAP Board (01:10:44 – 01:11:54)

- Rebekah Sammet reported that the LEAP Board is staffing an event table at the cooling center within the Arline Francis Center every Tuesday.

Public Comment: None.

11. Homelessness Housing Advocacy and Prevention (HHAP) 6 Overview and Feedback. (01:11:55 – 01:33:15)

- Michael Gause presented an overview of the HHAP Round 6 application and funding process, as provided by the CA Department of Housing and Community Development. The application is due to the State in August 2025 for approximately \$5.8 million available in HHAP funding, with an allocation to the County of \$2,877,829, and an allocation to the CoC of \$3,073,571. The full application will be shared with the HC Board once it is ready for submittal, in approximately six (6) weeks. State approval of the application is not expected until late 2025 or early 2026.

Extensive HHAP 6 information was presented describing eligible activities, core regional action plan questions, system performance measures, encampments, and budgets, for the purpose of facilitating a feedback session. Michael Gause fielded questions and gathered feedback from the HC Board for incorporation into the HHAP 6 application and project design.

Public Comment: None.

Informational item only; no action taken.

Additional information may be found on pages 28-29, Item #6, HHAP Round 6 Application Feedback Session, in the meeting materials packet.

9. 10-Minute Break: 2:31 – 2:40 PM (01:33:16 – 01:43:16)

12. Point in Time (PIT) Count (01:43:17 – 02:12:53)

- Michael Gause shared a presentation depicting the 2025 Homeless Count preliminary numbers. This year's event was held on January 31, 2025, and includes a count of both unsheltered and sheltered people experiencing homelessness.

The results of the 2025 PIT Count revealed an overall decrease of twenty-three percent (23%) in homelessness (sheltered and unsheltered) in Sonoma County, similar to findings in other large Bay Area counties.

An in-depth analysis of the preliminary numbers, including the results by county jurisdiction over a three-year span, can be found in the meeting packet of materials for Item #13, pages 30-32, Point in Time Count Preliminary Results.

The full 2025 PIT Count report will be presented to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on September 9, 2025.

Public Comment: None.

Informational item only; no action taken.

Additional information is included in the packet of meeting materials, pages 30-32, Item # 13, Point in Time Preliminary Results.

13. Review Agenda for August Coalition Board Meeting (02:12:55 – 02:21:41)

- Michael Gause reviewed the draft agenda for the August 2025 HC Board meeting and described an additional item he will be placing on the agenda regarding Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

Mayor Zollman requests an addition to the August 2025 meeting agenda to consider the inclusion of all presentation slide decks within the packet of meeting materials each month.

Araceli Rivera confirmed the ability, in general, to include presentation slide decks in the monthly meeting materials packet, which is typically disseminated one week prior to the meeting date.

Additionally, plans to publish the monthly meeting video recordings on the website are being explored.

- **Public Comment:** None.

14. Board Member Questions and Comments (02:21:44 – 02:23:45)

- Chair Holmes encourages all to register to attend the 1st Annual DHS THREADS 2025 Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Symposium, Nov. 17-19, 2025, Luther Burbank Center.
- Mayor McDonnell expresses appreciation for yesterday's in-person Town Hall event in Petaluma, which explained the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the new Behavioral Health Systems Act (BHSA), as enacted by voters via Proposition 1.
- **Public Comment:** None.

15. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (02:23:46– 02:24:05)

- None.

Adjournment: 3:28 PM (02:24:06 – 02:24:55)