



Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

1:00 – 3:00 PM, Pacific Time – Meeting held via Zoom

Zoom Recording:

https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/PDwGIBP2yKq9WkKUq9n17lk2OrQuH6UaT_03r8lfGG58YW_16zxFxy3O3RMBdUJAY.rvIE3gByerjbBKhz?startTime=1776887912000

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Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:03:35– 00:06:50)

Chair Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and explained the Zoom rules regarding public comment and the Brown Act guidelines.

Present: Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Kelli Kuykendall, proxy for Caroline Bañuelos, City of Santa Rosa | Sean Hamlin, proxy for Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Stephen Zollman, City of Sebastopol | Sylvia Lemus, Cities of Cotati/Rohnert Park | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Akash Kalia, At-large Seat | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Rosie Traversi, Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat | Jessica Wolfe, Lived Experience Seat | Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat

Absent: Caroline Bañuelos, City of Santa Rosa (sent proxy) | Karen Nau, City of Petaluma | Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (sent proxy) | Chessy Etheridge, Adult Lived Experience Seat | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Ash Culver, Transitional-aged Youth Seat

A quorum was present.

1 - 3. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:06:52– 00:08:35)

- Chair Holmes presented the following consent calendar items for approval and explained that the consent calendar may be expanded at times due to the recent decision to attempt to reduce the overall length of the monthly Homeless Coalition Board meetings.
 1. 5/27/26 Meeting Agenda
 2. 4/22/26 Meeting Minutes
 3. Reports for Standing Committee Updates & the LEAP Board

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Councilmember 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 (00:08:36 – 00:26:04)

- Department of Health Services (DHS) Director Updates:

DHS Director Nolan Sullivan was unavailable due to his required attendance at a meeting of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Interim Homelessness Services Division Director Desiree Ohlstrom provided a brief update on his behalf.

- Hunter Scott, Vice President of HomeFirst Sonoma County, will join the Department of Health Services (DHS) on May 12, 2026, to fill the new position of Deputy Health Services Division Director – Homelessness, and will be guiding the transition of the Homelessness Services Division to become the Housing Support and Services Section of the Behavioral Health Division.
- Desiree Ohlstrom, Interim Homelessness Services Division Director, will return to her original role as Health Program Manager with the DHS Behavioral Health Division.

Councilmember Zollman requests a future agenda item to provide a thorough overview of the progress and timeline for the Homelessness Services transition to Behavioral Health, as well as a review of the job description for the new Deputy Division Director position.

Public Comment: Matthew Verscheure

Informational item only; no action taken.

5. Lead Agency Evaluation Ad Hoc Update (00:26:07 – 00:34:46)

- Chair Holmes reported that the ad hoc committee has made progress on developing a survey focused on evaluation of the Lead Agency, and it is expected to be distributed soon. The survey will be divided into two components: one intended for the general public, and a second, more technical, version for those more closely acquainted with Continuums of Care and homelessness issues.

Each survey contains ten questions, developed with technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The surveys are anonymous and the version intended for the general public will be available in Spanish.

The Lead Agency will distribute the surveys through their listservs. The ad hoc committee also anticipates convening two public input sessions in June 2026 to solicit additional feedback from the survey responses.

Public Comment: None.

Additional information for Item #5 is within the packet of meeting materials, pg. 15.

Informational item only; no action taken.

6. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Local Homelessness Contracts (00:34:37) – (00:48:42)

- Recusals were made for Margaret Sluyk, Jennielynn Holmes, Chris Cabral, and Dannielle Danforth. Councilmember Karen Nau was also subject to recusal but was absent.

Councilmember Zollman volunteered to preside over Item #6 upon the recusal of Chair Holmes.

At the March 2026 meeting, the HC Board was notified that all local homelessness projects would face reductions of nearly 15% in FY 2026-2027. Michael Gause reported today that the imminent 15% reduction in funding is now anticipated to be lowered to 10.5%, as additional savings have since been identified.

The minimum funding threshold for homelessness projects has been set by longstanding Lead Agency policy as \$30,000. With funding reductions in 2026-2027, two projects will drop below that threshold:

- Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) – Kids First Family Shelter: \$27,824
- HomeFirst – Labath Landing: \$24,800.

The staff recommendation is to approve the elimination of these two projects, which would result in an increase in available funding for all other projects.

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Councilmember Lemus moves to approve staff's recommendation to eliminate two projects.

Second: Maria Rico seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes - 9, No - 0.

Motion passes.

Councilmember Zollman requests a report be provided at a future meeting to delineate projected savings that might be realized by identifying attainable reductions to County projects.

Recused HC Board members were returned to the meeting, and Chair Holmes resumed facilitation over the remaining proceedings.

Additional materials for Item #6 are included in the meeting packet, pgs. 16-17.

7. 10-Minute Break (00:48:44) – (00:49:12)

- In the interest of time, staff opted to omit the 10-minute break.

8. Word from the LEAP Board

- Chair Holmes had been informed that the LEAP Board would not have an update today.

9. Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Overview (00:49:14 – 1:14:57)

- Karissa White presented an in-depth overview of the current CoC Competition Renewal Project Evaluation process and specifics of HUD grant requirements. The presentation was particularly geared to acquaint new HC Board members with these funding processes.

A summary of this overview, along with the timeline for project evaluations, a list of renewal projects, the delineation of project budgets, and the renewal project scoring tool description of system performance measures, are available in the staff report for Item #9, pgs. 18-30, in the packet of meeting materials.

Public Comment: None.

Informational item only; no action taken.

10. Review Agenda for May Coalition Board Meeting (01:14:59 – 01: 20:03)

- Chair Holmes presented the draft agenda for the May 27, 2026, HC Board meeting.
- Clarification was made regarding Councilmember Zollman’s agenda request during discussion for item #4 of this meeting.
 - The desired agenda item would include updates regarding the DHS Homelessness Services Division merger to the DHS Behavioral Health Division and the associated next steps suggested in a previous report from the consulting firm, MRG.
 - The agenda item should also include a brief overview of the specific job duties and responsibilities intended for the newly created position of Deputy Health Services Division Director – Homelessness.

- Desiree Ohlstrom requests a postponement of a merger update until the June 2026 HC Board meeting to allow sufficient time for merger details and activities to be solidified and for the preparation of a presentation. Councilmember Zollman suggests that an informal verbal update would suffice for the May 2026 meeting in lieu of a full slide presentation.
 - Staff will check with DHS Director Sullivan regarding the timeline for providing a merger update.

The draft agenda for the May 27, 2026, meeting of the Homeless Coalition Board is included in the meeting packet of materials, pgs. 32-33.

Informational item only; no action taken.

11. Board Member Questions & Comments (01:20:04 – 01:20:28)

- None.
- **Public Comment:** None.

12. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (01:20:30 – 01:20:46)

- None.

Adjournment: 2:19 pm (1:20:48 – 01:21:25)