



# Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

## Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

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

Zoom Recording:

[https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/Ccfd9A4ZMBIqtivrKy8KGT0H0Or3kbqxMS7G98Zf3-wON2MmHwfo08clTXPkuyMw.4DHwZIS\\_pFM56Orp?startTime=1769633914000](https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/Ccfd9A4ZMBIqtivrKy8KGT0H0Or3kbqxMS7G98Zf3-wON2MmHwfo08clTXPkuyMw.4DHwZIS_pFM56Orp?startTime=1769633914000)

Passcode: ORfF#. ?U

### Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:02:15 – 00:12:56)

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 | Karen Nau, 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) | Akash Kalia, At-large Seat | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Rosie Traversi, Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat | Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat | Jessica Wolfe, Lived Experience Seat | Ash Culver, Transitional-aged Youth Seat

**Absent:** None.

A quorum was present.

### 1 - 4. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:12:55 – 00:15:00)

- Chair Holmes presented the following consent calendar items for approval:
  1. 2/25/26 meeting agenda
  2. 1/28/26 meeting minutes
  3. Summary of Follow-ups from the Previous Meeting(s)
  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.

#### **5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:15:02 – 00:35:36)**

- **Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Schedule 2026:**

A survey was distributed to HC Board members in December to determine the 2026 HC Board meeting schedule. The majority of respondents chose to retain the previous meeting schedule of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday of each month, from 1:00 – 4:30 PM.

- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Committee and HMIS Lead Staffing:**

HMIS Data Committee members were notified that committee meetings are currently in a holding pattern because of insufficient staffing levels. A vacant HMIS Lead staff position is not expected to be filled due to funding uncertainties, and the remaining HMIS Lead must prioritize current federal HMIS reporting deadlines and other HMIS requirements at this time. A special meeting of the HMIS Data Committee may be convened should any urgent matters arise prior to the anticipated resumption of committee meetings in May 2026.

- **Homeless Coalition Board Composition and Law Enforcement Seat:**

In anticipation of aligning with prospective new scoring priorities upon the eventual release of a 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the HC Board began a conversation in consideration of adding two law enforcement representatives to seats on the HC Board.

**Public Comment:** Gregory Fearon

**Informational item only. No action taken.**

Additional information is available in the staff report for Item #5, pgs. 18-19, in the packet of meeting materials.

#### **6. Lead Agency Evaluation Update (00:35:38– 00:40:34)**

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

verbal public input sessions: one from cities and jurisdictions, and a second session for more general membership providers, individuals with lived experience, etc.

Further description is included within the packet of meeting materials, Item #6, pg. 20.

**Public Comment:** Celeste Austin (Re: the law enforcement seat referenced in Item #5)

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

## **7. Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Reallocation Approval (00:40:34 – 01:06:07)**

- Recusals were made in advance of this item in consideration of any potential conflicts of interest: Jennielynn Holmes, Martha Cheever, Angelica Smith, Chris Cabral, Dannielle Danforth, Akash Kalia. A quorum remained.

Councilmember Zollman volunteered to facilitate the proceedings while Chair Holmes was recused.

HUD has reopened the FY 2024-2025 CoC NOFO and has agreed to renew projects from last year. One project, Buckelew Programs' SCIL Sonoma PSH, is in the process of closing, so will not be renewing. The funds originally designated for that project (\$292,397) must be reallocated to other projects to prevent the loss of the funding. Current CoC providers were asked to submit proposals to the Lead Agency by January 20, 2026.

The staff recommendation is to approve new projects to be submitted for the reallocation funding for the 2025 CoC Competition Priority Listing, as follows:

1. Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) Community Based Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Expansion: \$88,010
2. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Expansion: \$165,000
  - A. If approved, HMIS fees may be adjusted to include only the \$25% matching requirement for HMIS participating agencies.
3. Coordinated Entry (CE) Expansion: \$39,387

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion:** Rosie Traversi moves to approve the referenced three new projects to be submitted for reallocation funding: COTS PSH expansion, HMIS expansion, and CE expansion.

**Second:** Supervisor Coursey seconds the motion.

**Objections / Abstentions:** None.

**Motion passes.**

Recused members re-joined the meeting, with Chair Holmes returning to preside.

**8. 10-Minute Break: 2:04 – 2:15 PM (01:06:09 – 01:17:15)**

**9. Word from the LEAP Board (01:17:17 – 01:54:55)**

- Chessy Etheridge and Jessica Wolfe reported that the LEAP Board perceives an urgent need to reevaluate how referrals to Sonoma County Behavioral Health are accessed, as the current process presents significant gaps and barriers to those in the unhoused community who need assessment.

**Public Comment:** Celeste Austin, Gregory Fearon  
**Informational item only; no action taken.**

**10. Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Transfer: Sonoma County Community Development Commission (SCCDC) to Face to Face (01:54:57– 01:59:27)**

- Martha Cheever, SCCDC staff, was recused for this item.

The SCCDC is the current recipient of a HUD CoC Program award for the Renewal Rental Assistance HIV/AIDS project. This award provides rental assistance for thirty-eight (38) units of PSH. The SCCDC and the organization Face to Face have requested that the COC Lead Agency initiate a transfer for this award.

The staff recommendation is for the Homeless Coalition to approve the transfer. If approved, the transfer request would be submitted to HUD after the current HUD NOFO application period has closed.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Motion:** Councilman Zollman moves to approve the transfer.

**Second:** Dannielle Danforth seconds the motion.

**Objections / Abstentions:** None.

**Motion passes.**

Martha Cheever rejoined the meeting.

Additional information regarding this item is included in the Staff Report for Item #10, pg. 21, in the packet of meeting materials.

### 11. Board Chair and Vice Chair Election (01:59:30 – 02:37:38)

- **Chair:** The staff recommendation is to elect a 2026 HC Board Chair, a one-year term. In accordance with the HC Board charter, service providers may serve in either the Chair or Vice Chair positions but may not fill both positions.

Nominations were received for the 2026 HC Board Chair position, with two candidates accepting their nominations. A roll call vote was held.

Jennielynn Holmes was re-elected as HC Board Chair for 2026.

- **Vice Chair:** The staff recommendation is to elect a 2026 HC Board Vice Chair, a one-year term.

Nominations were received for the 2026 HC Board Vice Chair position, with three candidates accepting their nominations. A roll-call vote was held.

Caroline Bañuelos was elected as HC Board Vice Chair for 2026.

**Motion:** Supervisor Coursey moves to let the record reflect unanimous support for both the Chair-elect and the Vice Chair-elect.

**Second:** Ron Wellander seconds.

**Objections / Abstentions:** None.

**Motion passes.**

Additional information is available at Item #11, pgs. 22-23, in the packet of meeting materials.

### 12. Review Agenda for February Coalition Board Meeting (02:37:40 – 02:46:34)

Chair Holmes presented the draft agenda for the January 2026 HC Board meeting, and the following items were discussed.

- Update from the charter ad hoc may also be forthcoming.
- Request from Councilmember Zollman for a presentation about the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Coordinated Entry (CE) flow and connection.
- Councilmember Elward announced that this will be her last meeting with the HC Board. Mayor Sylvia Lemus of Cotati will be taking the lead for Rohnert Park and Cotati beginning with the February 2026 meeting. Chair Holmes expressed thanks and

appreciation for Councilmember Elward's significant efforts and contributions to the Homeless Coalition Board throughout her years of service.

- Councilman Zollman requests that staff present an overview of different governance models, perhaps from Yolo and Solano counties, that might be adopted to enable the HC Board to move forward in a stronger and leaner capacity, with particular regard to developing enhanced oversight of administrative costs on both the county side and the nonprofit providers' side. Supervisor Coursey suggests that staff discuss the elements of the proposed presentation with the HC Board Chair and Vice Chair and provide an estimated agenda date at the February meeting should it not be feasible to produce the presentation within the requested timeframe.

**Public Comment:** Sylvia Lemus

The February 2026 meeting agenda is included in the meeting packet of materials, pgs. 25-26.

**13. Board Member Questions and Comments (02:46:36 – 02:47:02)**

- No comments.
- **Public Comment:** None.

**14. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (02:47:05 – 02:52:56)**

- None.
- Chris Cabral inquired about holding an in-person Board informal gathering in the future, possibly at COTS. Several members concur with the suggestion. Chair Holmes suggests that this might be added to the February agenda for further consideration.

**Adjournment: 3:51 PM (02:52:57 – 02:53:16)**