

Subject: Lived Experience Support Letter

Dear U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

As members of the Sonoma County Lived Experience Advisory Planning (LEAP) Board, we are writing in support of the Homeless Coalition, representing the Sonoma County Continuum of Care, and their efforts to include the voices and expertise of people with lived experience of homelessness in the decision-making and planning processes of the CoC's work.

Sonoma County CoC staff was instrumental in helping us originally create the LEAP Board and now remains involved in a lesser, more technical aspect including providing compensation for the LEAP Board's advisory. The Lived Experience Advisory and Planning (LEAP) Board is currently comprised of eleven members with lived experience of homelessness, with an emphasis on racial and ethnic diversity in its composition. The purpose of the LEAP is to advise Sonoma County on homeless-related programs, policies and how to spend money targeted for homeless services. The LEAP Board advises and plans with the Homeless Coalition Board, and homeless service agencies how to improve homeless programs, services, shelters, and housing.

There are currently two seats on the Homeless Coalition Board that are reserved specifically for people with lived experience of homelessness. The two seats include an adult seat and one reserved for someone 18-24 years old. The LEAP Board Chair represents the LEAP Board as a non-voting member of the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board and participates in all conversations and discussions as well as provide advisory over various funding decisions and policies. An update of the LEAP Board's current work is also provided during each Homeless Coalition Board meeting.

The LEAP Board is responsible for electing the adult Lived Experience seat on the Homeless Coalition Board and we currently have at least one LEAP Board or lived experience member serving on each standing committee of the Homeless Coalition. We also have multiple members which serve on the CoC's Competition Evaluation workgroup which is responsible for overseeing the local CoC Program competition rating factors, evaluation process, and Final Priority Listing. Lived experience members are compensated for their time and expertise on these standing committees and workgroups as well.

The LEAP Board has been very involved in the Homeless Coalition's work, providing input and feedback to multiple priorities for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs in the CoC's geographic area, including consultants and lead staff for the development of various programs and projects such as the Homeless Coalition's strategic plan and re-development of the Coordinated Entry process. Outreach efforts remain ongoing to recruit more people with lived experience of homelessness to participate in these efforts. We are pleased with the County's inclusion of people with lived experience in its efforts to try to end homelessness in our community and look forward to contributing even more.

Sincerely,

x Aaron P Mello

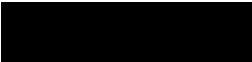
Chair, Lived Experience & Advisory Planning Board
Sonoma County Continuum of Care, CA- 504

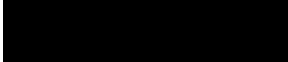
x Rebekah Sammet


Vice Chair, Lived Experience & Advisory Planning Board
Sonoma County Continuum of Care, CA- 504

x Angie Sebring

Time-Keeper, Lived Experience & Advisory Planning Board, Sonoma County Continuum of Care, CA- 504

Signature: 
Aaron Mello (Oct 8, 2024 09:19 PDT)
Email: aaronmello112358@gmail.com

Signature: 
Rebekah Sammet (Oct 7, 2024 16:50 PDT)
Email: sammetstyle@gmail.com

Signature: 
Angie Sebring (Oct 11, 2024 08:00 PDT)
Email: angie.sebring@gmail.com












CoC Lived Experience 2024 Support letter

Final Audit Report

2024-10-11

Created:	2024-10-07
By:	Andrew Akufo (andrewakufo@gmail.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAXYBvWHmtiQIKNDhyoHcBWiv-MJTs4BLv

"CoC Lived Experience 2024 Support letter" History

-  Document created by Andrew Akufo (andrewakufo@gmail.com)
2024-10-07 - 11:29:26 PM GMT- IP address: 209.77.204.154
-  Document emailed to Aaron Mello (aaronmello112358@gmail.com) for signature
2024-10-07 - 11:29:30 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Rebekah Sammet (sammetstyle@gmail.com) for signature
2024-10-07 - 11:29:30 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Angie Sebring (angie.sebring@gmail.com) for signature
2024-10-07 - 11:29:30 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Rebekah Sammet (sammetstyle@gmail.com)
2024-10-07 - 11:49:54 PM GMT- IP address: 66.249.84.197
-  Document e-signed by Rebekah Sammet (sammetstyle@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2024-10-07 - 11:50:42 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 174.194.193.35
-  Email viewed by Aaron Mello (aaronmello112358@gmail.com)
2024-10-08 - 4:16:19 PM GMT- IP address: 66.249.84.197
-  Document e-signed by Aaron Mello (aaronmello112358@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2024-10-08 - 4:19:47 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 172.56.209.66
-  Email viewed by Angie Sebring (angie.sebring@gmail.com)
2024-10-11 - 2:57:12 PM GMT- IP address: 66.249.84.197
-  Document e-signed by Angie Sebring (angie.sebring@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2024-10-11 - 3:00:32 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 12.74.250.183
-  Agreement completed.
2024-10-11 - 3:00:32 PM GMT