

Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time – Meeting held by Zoom

Welcome and Roll Call (00:04:24: - 00:07:14)

- Dennis Pocekay called meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and went over the Zoom rules around public comment and Brown Act guidelines.
- *Present: Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma; Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities Diocese of Santa Rosa; Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa; Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health; Chris Coursey, BOS County of Sonoma; Stephen Sotomayor proxy for Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home; Chris Keys, Redwood Gospel Mission; Kathleen Pozzi; Martha Cheever, Sonoma County CDC; Chessy Etheridge arrived late at 1:12pm; Una Glass, City of Sebastopol; Don Schwartz, City of Rohnert Park; Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park; Danielle Danforth, West County Community Services; Mark Krug, Burbank Housing.*
- *Absent: Jack Ding, Cheyenne McConnell*



A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:07:15 – 00:22:14)

Dennis Pocekay, CoC Board Chair went over consent calendar, 5/24 and approval of 4/26/2023 meeting agenda.

Don Schwartz posed questions for Item # 3 and 5.

Martha Cheever motions to approve consent calendar; Jackie Elward seconds.

Public Comment: none

Abstentions or objections: None

Natalie Rogers posed question about budget that was included in packet under, lead agency and related costs total sources. Corrections to be made to spread sheet to show accurate amount.

Chessy Etheridge motioned Word on the Street is not reported on this meeting and moved to next month so that time can be allotted to conversation about NOFA Item #9, Una Glass seconds motion.

Public Comment: none

Abstentions or objections: None

Approved

2. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:22:18 – 00:58:29)

- May 2023 Regional Communications update: Dave Kiff provided update on regional monthly updates-provided update/item in writing, link included in meeting packet.
- Funding and evaluation Committee Process: Dave Kiff provided update in Funding and Evaluation local services NOFA. Proposed new process moving forward; process/proposal is individuals recuse themselves in a vote-by-vote basis. Example provided to board on how this would work /what this could look like. Recommendation from here forward including the upcoming vote is that the board consider the recusal process outlined by Dave Kiff.

Public comment: Gregory Fearon

Motion: From this point, going forward here at 1:37pm on Wednesday, the 24th; the recusal process for the CoC Board will be as recommended by Brendan Kerns of RWG which means that each individual funding decision or funding grouping for a service provider would be voted on individually. And then as a motion and second is made the individuals representing the specific service provider step out of the room. The remaining body discusses and votes on the recommendation. When vote is completed, the service provider moves back in the room and then you move to the next service provider allocation. Jennielynn Holmes made motion, Una Glass seconds motion.

Ayes: Dennis Pocekay, Jennielynn Holmes, Natalie Rogers, Stephen Sotomayor as proxy for Margaret Sluyk, Martha Cheever, Chessy Etheridge, Una Glass, Don Schwartz,

Jackie Elward, Mark Krug, Danielle Danforth, Chris Keys

Noes: Chris Coursey, Kathleen Pozzi

Abstain: Ben Leroi

Absent: Cheyenne McConnell, Jack Ding

Motion passes with one abstention and two oppositions

Update (00:58:44 – 00:59:50): Dave Kiff informed board that preliminary point in time count information for the point in time count that occurred on January 27th, 2023, is in. The Sonoma County communications office will be doing a press release and sharing that the number showed a 22% decrease including a significant decrease in persons experiencing chronic homelessness and youth experiencing homelessness

3. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (00:59:57 – 01:11:50)

Margaret Sluyk thanked provider group for hours spent participating, spoke about letter that was shared with press democrat. Today's update: wanted to highlight that there has been no NOFA process in 3 years, the last increase was 4 years ago. Pointed out this will be the first increase in 4 years due to flat funding for the last 3. Group is against straight/flat percentage increases across program. In need of funding decisions today. Majority of providers from group feel that funding should be used towards projects that renewals were not funded for at all or funded partially. Michael Gause shared that providers group including CoC Lead staff will be meeting again next week.

Public Comment: Adrienne Lauby, Gerry La-Londe-Berg, Tim Miller

4. Local Homelessness Services NOFA 23/24 Funding Decisions (01:11:55 – 03:42:17):

Michael Gause went over slides for refresher on 2023-2024 Local homeless services NOFA, previous board direction given on April 26th and recommendations for the funding and evaluation committee.

Dave Kiff shared and went over document that was provided in meeting packet and presented recommendations from the CoC Funding and Evaluation Committee (F/E) for FY2023-2024 funding allocations in the Local Homeless Services NOFA comprised of state and local funds under the purview of the Continuum of Care Board.

Recommended action is for CoC Board to review and approve recommendations from the F/E Committee for FY 23-24 local homeless services funding and approve a set-aside of funds for a future NOFA to be released in FY23-24.

Public comment: Rebekah Sammet, Annie Falandes, Wendell Coleman, Gerry La Londe-Berg, Adrienne Lauby, Kathy Kane, Amy Appleton, Cindy Pasko, Leo Chyi, Tim Miller, Debra Johnson, Alice Linn, Bryan Hughes, Mags Russian River Chamber Commerce, Elizabeth Goldman

The CoC board discussed Fiscal year 2023-2024 funding recommendations by agency,

5. 10-minute break (02:00:13 – 02:13:57)

Meeting resumed; role call was taken to confirm a quorum was present.

Present: Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma; Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities Diocese of Santa Rosa; Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa; Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health; Chris Coursey, BOS County of Sonoma; Stephen Sotomayor proxy for Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home;

Chris Keys, Redwood Gospel Mission; Kathleen Pozzi; Martha Cheever, Sonoma County CDC; Chessy Etheridge arrived late at 1:12pm; Una Glass, City of Sebastopol; Don Schwartz, City of Rohnert Park; Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park; Danielle Danforth, West County Community Services; Mark Krug, Burbank Housing.

- *Absent: Jack Ding, Cheyenne McConnell*

The CoC board discussed Fiscal year 2023-2024 funding recommendations by agency. Spread sheet was shared and names of service providers that are recommended to receive funding have been randomized.

1. TLC Child & Family Services
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
2. Social Advocates for Youth- Submitted 4 programs, 3 recommended for funding
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
3. West County Community Services-Submitted 5 programs, 3 recommended for funding
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
4. Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa- Submitted 6 programs, 6 recommended for funding.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
5. Reach for Home- Submitted 3 programs, 3 recommended for funding.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
6. COTS- Submitted 2 programs, 2 programs recommended for funding.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
7. YWCA- Submitted 1 program, 1 program recommended for funding.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
8. Share Sonoma County- Submitted 3 programs, 2 programs recommended for funding, voting on Community Shared housing and RRH.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
Home Share Program will be revisited after other programs are discussed due to possible error.
9. HomeFirst- Submitted 3 programs, 2 recommended for funding.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
10. Interfaith Shelter Network (IFSN)- 1 program submitted, 1 program recommended for funding.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**
11. City of Santa Rosa- Submitted 1 program, 1 program recommended for funding.
Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**

12. CSN- Submitted 1 program, 1 program recommended for funding. Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**

Share Sonoma County- was discussed in more detail, Amy Appleton provided additional information. Project type-Other, Home Share Program.

Does the recommendation from funding and evaluation committee stand; **Unanimously Approved**

Motion: Don Schwartz motions that the board adopt the recommendation from the Funding and Evaluation Committee, which is to use the additional funding pot as a basis for an additional NOFA that request services to address chronic homelessness and/or prevention.

Competing Motion: Una Glass motions that the board consider allocate pot of money that has not been used thus far to and that priority is given to prevention programs that are existent rather than new ones. After seeing how far board gets, potential allocations for specific programs that were underway but did not get funding this year could be considered.

Kathleen Pozzi seconds Una Glass's motion.

Friendly amendment to above motion: Chris Coursey amendment to include the other 2 prevention programs that are newer. Kathleen Pozzi approves and seconds.

Recusals from West County Community Services and SAY.

Motion on the floor is to fund \$31,830.00 for SAY and \$94,805.00 for West County. Amount remaining - \$413,000.

Motion passes with 1 opposition; Don Schwartz.

Motion: Una Glass moves that board consider funding for SLOAN House and SAVs outreach; Jennielynn Holmes seconds.

Motion: Jackie Elward motions that the remaining funds \$413,000 be split between the remaining programs that were not funded.

Motion: Chris Coursey motions to send this to the Funding and Evaluation Committee for recommendations on how to spend the \$413,000 remaining and bring back to full board at next CoC Board meeting; Kathleen Pozzi second's motion.

Una Glass withdraws above motion

Jackie Elward withdraws above motion

Final Motion: Chris Coursey motions to send this to the Funding and Evaluation Committee for recommendations on how to spend the \$413,000 remaining and bring back to full board at next CoC Board meeting; Kathleen Pozzi second's motion.

Direction/request to staff- provide as much information as possible about the programs as well as offsetting or other funding that has been/will be awarded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Jennielynn Holmes, Natalie Rogers, Ben Leroi, Chris Coursey, Stephen Sotomayor, Chris Keys, Kathleen Pozzi, Una Glass, Don Schwartz, Jackie Elward, Mark Krug

Noes: Dennis Pocekay, Martha Cheever, Danielle Danforth, Chessy Etheridge

Abstain:

Absent: Cheyenne McConnell, Jack Ding

Motion passes with 3 opposition

6. **Bridge Housing Initiative Update (03:42:23 – 04:13:43)**- Board agreed to have visiting presenters speak first, item to be brought back at next CoC Board meeting.
7. **Oakland Housed Presentation (03:44:06 – 03:59:32)**-: Jonathan Russel, Bay Area Community Services (BACS); Mary Kate Johnson, All Home; Logan McDonnell, Keep Oakland Housed provided presentation on Keep Oakland housed program. Went over program background, partners, services, prevention platform and answered CoC Board member questions.

Public Comment: Ludmilla Bade

8. Reports from Standing Committees: (00:16:08-00:52:31)

- **Coordinated Entry Advisory (CEA) Committee:** Hunter Scott, Homefirst presented/ shared slides; Lead Agency and HomeFirst staff are seeking approval of 3 items, 2 policies changes and the approval of a new approach to prioritization.

Public Comment: Gerry La Londe-Berg

Jennielynn Holmes motions to approve the approach and policy changes presented; Ben Leroi seconds.

No oppositions; **Unanimously Approved**

- **Funding & Evaluation Committee:**

Teddie Pierce provided update spoke about the upcoming June 8th meeting. Two committee members sat in on the HMIS evaluation and will discuss on June 8th the HMIS evaluation process. Requesting to have a detailed discussion about the HMIS evaluation at the June 8th meeting; feels it deserves a written report and review by funding and evaluation committee.

Don Schwartz requested that funding and evaluation committee has this as an agendized item at a brown act meeting. The Board concurred with ensuring this is agendized at a funding and evaluation committee for full discussion.

- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Michael Gause, shared sheet that goes over lead agency initial 2023 efforts on SP, and provided updates. Stated the plan is to keep this included in all meeting packets.
- **Homeless Information System (HMIS)/Data Committee:** Daniel Overbury-Howland gave update on HMIS and shared slides on preliminary summary of evaluation and what will be presented at June Meeting.
- **Lived Experience Advisory & Planning Board (LEAP):**
Andrew Akufo provided update; LEAP Board is full, board is working with Homefirst and the CEA Committee to establish LE members to participate in case conferencing, working to establish peer support groups at new county emergency shelter, LEAP members participating in Conversational Tribal Nations Workshop and Training Series.

Public Comment: none

9. Review Agenda for Next CoC Board Meeting: (00:52:45-00:56:41)

Dennis Pocekay went over June 2023 Draft agenda. Opened it up for proposals on additional agenda requests.

Additional items to be added:

- Report back on the Local Homeless services NOFA; residual amount \$413,000 from Funding and Evaluation committee.
- Overview of preliminary point in time count results.
- Long term funding strategy
- MOU's- report on status/update to full board
- Keep Oakland housed/prevention conversations, next steps

Public Comment: none at this time

10. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items: (00:56:43-00:57:31)

None

Meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.