



# Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

## Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

1:00 – 5:00 PM, Pacific Time – Meeting held via Zoom

Zoom Recording:

[https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/P\\_c15g8vMUGuqOSAd-1NiSXMlKozp4PTilG3X\\_o3vvu182Zg3t\\_AjDvE7Wbks08\\_m8tToyltk7kKxcd2](https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/P_c15g8vMUGuqOSAd-1NiSXMlKozp4PTilG3X_o3vvu182Zg3t_AjDvE7Wbks08_m8tToyltk7kKxcd2)

Passcode: b0#u&rD8

### Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:06:45–00:08:38)

Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 2 pm and explained the Zoom rules regarding public comment and Brown Act guidelines.

**Present:** Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Ben Leroi, Santa Rosa Community Health | Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa | Dennis Pocekay, City of Petaluma | Sean Hamlin, proxy for Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Chessy Etheridge, Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAP) | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Dave Cade, proxy for Salvina Norris, Sonoma County Indian Health Project (SCHIP) | Aaron Mello, LEAP Board

**Absent:** Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Una Glass, City of Sebastopol | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Salvina Norris, Sonoma County Indian Health Project (SCHIP) | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat

A quorum was present.

### 1 - 4. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:08:39 – 00:10:46)

- Jennielynn Holmes, CoC Board Chair, presented the consent calendar items:
  1. 12/18/24 meeting agenda
  2. 11/20/24 meeting minutes
  3. Summary of Follow-ups from Previous Meeting(s)
  4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Motion:** Martha Cheever moves to approve the Consent Calendar.

**Second:** Natalie Rogers seconds the motion.

**Abstentions or Objections:** None.

**Motion passes.** The consent calendar is approved.

## 5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:10:47 – 00:49:24)

- Homeless Encampment Access & Resource Team (HEART): James Alexander reported that there are three HEART staff dedicated to outreach to encampments - two Alcohol & Other Drugs (AODS) Counselors and one Senior Client Support Specialist - and outlined their roles.

The new HEART program manager, Chris Inclan, was introduced and presented slides with information about efforts to integrate HEART into the subregional street outreach report.

- Lead Agency Evaluation: Michael Gause offered insight from comparisons with other Continuum of Care charters and policies with regard to Lead Agency evaluations, as well as monitoring guidance from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).
- Homeless Memorial Day: Friday, December 20, 2024, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, at the Arlene Francis Center, 99 6<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Rosa
- SoCo Homeless Coalition 2025 Elections: Karissa White presented an update on the recent Homeless Coalition elections, and announced the successful candidates for the following seats:
  - Homeless Advocacy seat - Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services
  - Adult Lived Experience seat - Chessy Etheridge, Lived Experience Advisory Planning (LEAP) Board.

The Board was asked for recommendations regarding how to proceed with filling the following two vacant seats for which no nominations were received:

- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Led/Serving Organization seat
  - Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Lived Experience seat
- **Public Comment on Reports from Lead Agency Staff:** None

Further information concerning the reports from Lead Agency staff can be found in the meeting packet materials for Item No. 5.

- **Motion:** Dennis Pocekay moves to open a new election process for the vacant BIPOC and TAY seats, with the stipulation that the new process does not overlap the timeline

for upcoming Homeless Coalition (HC) Board Committee elections. Martha Cheever seconds.

**Roll Call Vote:** Approve – 11, Objection – 1

**Motion is approved.**

**6. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update and Presentation (00:49:25 – 00:49:51)**

- No SPR meeting was held – no report this month

**7. Sonoma County Governance Charter Ad Hoc Committee – Charter Revision Recommendations and Updates (00:49:54 – 00:59:26)**

- The Governance Charter Ad Hoc Committee met and developed recommendations for charter revisions. Karissa White presented slides outlining the recommendations and items yet to be addressed. The Charter Ad Hoc Committee will continue to meet to address outstanding items. Detailed information regarding the committee’s findings is available in the meeting packet materials for Item No. 7., Staff Report.

Ad-Hoc Committee charter revisions recommended for approval by the HC Board:

**A. Replace:** “The Board has the authority to choose its legal counsel, and may following majority Board approval, direct work by counsel within the Coalition Lead Agency’s budget for Coalition legal services (if any). Individual members of the Board may not direct legal counsel’s work or time incurred.”

**With:** “Coalition Staff, as the Lead Agency, shall consult with counsel if questions arise at the Board, if needed.

- B.** If the TAY Lived Experience seat cannot be filled, the Lived Experience Advisory Planning Board (LEAP) Board can appoint an individual with lived experience to remain seated until that seat is filled.
- C.** Expand the age limit for nominations to the TAY Lived Experience seat from 18-24 to 18-30.
- D.** Continue to have a LEAP Board representative on the Board as a non-voting member.

- **Public Comment:** None
- **Motion:** Martha Cheever moves to approve the recommendations of the Governance Charter Ad Hoc Committee as outlined in items A-D above. Natalie Rogers seconds.

**Abstentions / Objections:** None.

**Motion passes.**

**8. MOU Between SoCo Homeless Coalition and Lead Agency: (00:59:28 – 01:38:34)**

- James Alexander reported that the Department of Health Services has reviewed the Lead Agency draft Memo of Understanding (MOU). A draft “red-lined” version was presented for the HC Board to view. DHS staff entertained questions and discussion with HC Board members.

Clarification and adjustment was requested from the Board for the language in item #5 under “Roles and Responsibilities,” as well as an adjustment to the 180-day time-frame for written notice under “Termination.” County Counsel will be consulted to discern if a timeline with specific date ranges is needed within the MOU.

- **Public Comment:** None

**9. 10-Minute Break: 2:34 – 2:45 PM (01:38:38 – 01:50:07)**

**10. Word from the LEAP Board: (01:50:15 – 01:51:14)**

- No report today.

**11. Point in Time Count: (01:51:15 – 01:55:40)**

- Karissa White reported that the Point in Time Count will take place on January 31, 2025. The adult count will be from approximately 5:00 – 10:00 AM and the youth count from 2:00 – 7:00 PM. Volunteer sign-up information has been sent out.

Additional information is available in the packet of meeting materials for Item #11.

- **Public Comment:** None.

**12. Quarterly Membership Meeting January Agenda: (01:55:41 – 01:57:30)**

- The agenda was presented for the January 16, 2025 Quarterly Membership meeting, which will be held in person at the Department of Health Services, 1450 Neotomas Ave., Santa Rosa, Suite 200, in the Santa Rosa Conference Room, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

**13. Review Agenda for January Coalition Board Meeting (01:57:33 – 02:01:50)**

- The January meeting date is yet to be determined. A poll will be sent to Board members to determine the preferred schedule for 2025 meetings. The January meeting agenda was displayed and reviewed. Elections for Board Chair/Vice-Chair will be placed at the end of the meeting. Michael Gause stated that an overview of the 2025-2026 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be added to the January agenda, as applications will be due at the end of January 2025.

Araceli Rivera requested the addition of a Racial Equity Workgroup update.

**Public Comment:** None.

**14. Board Member Questions and Comments: (02:01:51 – 2:02:55)**

- Martha Cheever expresses her appreciation for the hard work of the Ending Homelessness Team throughout the year.
- Michael Gause is happy to announce that “Keep People Housed” began this Monday, December 16, 2024 and the launch went smoothly. He thanks all of the partners who worked on bring this program to fruition. .
- **Public Comment:** None.

**14. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda: (02:02:56 – 02:07:57)**

- **Public Comment:** None.
- Board Members took this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Dennis Pocekay for his great efforts, diligent service, and dedication to the HC Board, also serving as Chair and on various committees throughout the years, and to Salvina Norris for her important service in the interim at-large seat this year, as they will not be returning to the HC Board in 2025. Gratitude and appreciation were also extended to Jennielynn Holmes for her service as Chair of the Board this year, as well as to all Board members and DHS staff for their time and efforts throughout the year.
- Chris Cabral mentioned that “Keep People Housed” has only been open for less than 72 hours, and 168 applications have already been received.

**Adjournment: 3:08 pm (02:07:59 – 02:08:36)**