

HOUSING FIRST SOLANO BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016 | 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

SUISUN CITY CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 701 CIVIC CENTER BLVD., SUISUN CITY, 94585

HFS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. **Roll Call** – Board members present: Maurilio Leon, Emily Cantu, Reginald Doss, Janice Lewis, Ron Marlette, Kat Lawton, Isaac George, Norma Ramos, Lori Bowley, John Evalle, Tranine Chisom, Ruth Matz

A quorum of board members are present.

3. Presentations

None

4. Public Comments – 2 Minutes

No public comments.

5. Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda ACTION

None.

6. Approval of the Agenda ACTION

Moved by Kat Lawton, seconded by Reginald Dawson.

All in favor, none opposed – Approved.

7. Consent Calendar ACTION

7.1 Approve HFS Board Minutes of Regular Meeting July 27, 2016

No changes to the minutes. Approval Moved by Kat Lawton, seconded by Lori Bowley

All in favor, Anne Putney, Maurillo Leon, Reginald Dawson abstained - Approved

8. Old Business

8.1 Review of Solano Regional Strategic Planning Process UPDATE

Gillian Morshedi from HomeBase is facilitating the process. She will be available in the coming weeks and months to do one on one interviews, surveys of service providers/consumers, consumer focus groups, community meetings, and other forms of community engagement. We are hoping to have strong participation from the CoC throughout.

She is helping organize three issue summits focused on system navigation, affordable housing, and strengthening support system to help residents maintain housing. Plan drafting will follow that information gathering. The goal is to draft the plans towards end of the year.

Moving to the second page of the document. You will see the priorities listing. These will evolve and be developed over time. We want community feedback on these ideas.

On to the third page, you will see information about the focus groups. Let us know if you want to be involved in one of those groups or have other ideas.

Regarding the issue summits, we want to also reach out to different subpopulations. And, we want to do a specific panels with those who serve youth, families, seniors, etc.

Get in contact with Gillian (Gillian@homebaseccc.org and on the materials and website) if you want to be involved in that process, and we can help set you up one on one interviews with Gillian.

Thank you for the last meeting, by the way. And, thank you for reaching out to Safequest (DV/Youth provider) to get them involved in this process. Who else might be in community that may be able to provide feedback on these issues?

We are trying to broaden the scope of the discussion, trying to expand who is included in the conversation, and we are seeking feedback and discussion.

Board member wondered how we can make the CoC's work public to gain larger interest in these efforts?

The City Managers/JPA would want to give feedback on that idea before cities did individual press releases. We did an annual report release last year, but it wasn't reported by the local newspapers.

HomeBase held a public meeting last year, and put an ad in paper to promote the meeting. And, a few reporters showed up to cover the event.

What do we want to publicize? I think we need to get the word out there

HomeBase can put something together to publicize this work, we want to put together a package of information to share it with them. We will discuss these issues with the JPA/planning group.

Is there an issue with each city putting up a page on their websites to promote what they are doing? HomeBase is planning to put something up on its site today or tomorrow.

8.2 Emergency Solutions Grant Awards Process Update UPDATE

We had one applicant: CAN-B. The application was successful. So, congratulations to them and for the collaborative effort in setting up the partnership with SHRA. Soon they will have ESG funding. Thank you CAN-B!

8.3 System Performance Measures UPDATE

HUD required for the first time that communities recorded, and report on systems performance measures. Regarding the seven measures, we are not being scored on data, just being scored based on the fact that we recorded them and reported them.

This is a big step and we should be proud of that. The Committee will start working on these measures. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you to HomeBase staff for their work on that project.

8.4 2017 Unsheltered Point-In-Time Count UPDATE

We don't have a big update at this time. The committee met to discuss outreach on that topic. Dawn La Bar and Ron Grassi are talking to CAO of County/City Managers right now about funding the PIT count.

There is some potential that we could use past funds that PJ applied for, but we are waiting to hear back from HUD about that. So, we will have more updates next month.

As soon as we have a funding update, we will get back to you on that and the planning grant.

What is funding needed to do the PIT count?

We talked to ASR about costs last year. We think it will cost \$60,000. It was \$50,000 in 2015, but that was a last-minute agreement, they didn't do training in advance, and didn't do sheltered count as they normally would either. Sonoma is getting it for \$85,000, so \$60,000 is a deal, especially since that \$60,000 will also include ASR doing the separate youth count as well.

9. New Business

9.1 CoC Competition Update UPDATE

We have completed review and rank part of the process. Specific amounts that were allocated to the CoC are listed here. It is up to each CoC to decide how funds will be allocated. The total annual renewal amount is listed on the first page.

There is also a bonus funding amount for permanent housing and rapid rehousing that can be used for homeless housing and services. The only opportunity to apply for that funding is if there those was is if the community focused on system performance, as we did.

HUD wants the strategic plan to address homelessness to look at local and national priorities, such as ending veteran and family homelessness, and permanent housing. And, HUD wants to see how each project is improving system performance. They want to see that we evaluate how the the projects impact system performance.

The blue sheet is an important part of the CoC application: strategic resource allocation.

Regarding the tiers that were mentioned earlier, it's not just a list you submit, they are separated into Tier 1 and 2. If you are in the first tier, you are usually safe, HUD usually has funds to support Tier 1.

If you are in Tier 2, you are more at risk and a different scoring tool is used. Last year, all the projects that applied were funded except for last project on the list. 93% of the funding is likely safe, and the remaining 7%+bonus amount will go into Tier 2. So, the Tier 1 amounts are likely to be safe, and the Tier 2 amounts are more at risk.

In terms of projects that were recommended for reallocation, LUHAD's BLISS Project was reallocated. They chose not to apply. We engaged in repeated outreach. We contacted them by phone, emails, and even certified mail. The panel had no choice but to reallocate.

So, a supplemental competition was held, notice was sent out, and Cap Solano JPA applied for a Coordinated Entry Expansion Project. The panel felt that the existing list was a strong list. So, it added

Cap Solano JPA to the bottom, not because it was lowest scoring, but out of fairness to others who applied earlier.

In terms of new projects, Edge Community Church applied for a rapid rehousing project. The review panel was concerned about the applicant's ability to provide housing given lack of expertise on the issue. HomeBase worked with them and jointly they decided that pairing up with the City of Fairfield as the applicant and Edge Community Church as the subrecipient would strengthen the project and the application b/c they have the administrative capacity needed to handle the grant and experience necessary to ensure compliance.

9.1 Review Recommended Priority Listing ACTION

Back to Tier 2, looking at the strength of CoC application, Tier 2 is all permanent housing and supportive services only for Coordinated Entry. All of the permanent housing projects are committed to Housing First. So, we are confident you have the strongest tier 2 possible.

At the bottom, you will see projects with double stars. Those are projects in their first year of operation who have no performance data so they were put at the bottom of Tier 1 and will give them one year to perform before being evaluated fully.

No questions or concerns

The entire JPA board is conflicted, just to be clear as are all service providers who have funding applications in the competition.

Now, we need to take action on the priority listing. Motion to approve listing as recommended? Maurilio moves to approve, Reginald seconds.

All in favor: Marulilio, Reggie, Janice, Norma, Lori voted in favor, all else abstained due to conflict, None opposed. Priority Listing is approved.

9.2 Consider and develop strategies to prevent and end homelessness and to align with HUD policy priorities , including:

- **Focus on specific subpopulations with gaps in services.**

In preparing the CoC application, we did power point earlier on youth outreach and homeless youth, and outreach and services for survivors of human trafficking, and explained that the risk factors for both groups aligned. This is a great area of need that the CoC can help to serve, this year's application has a lot more questions, points, and emphasis on that.

In terms of strategies for youth outreach, the county currently doesn't have any CoC providers with **beds dedicated to** serving youth, and runaway homeless youth. HUD will likely look at that, and may mark the county down a few points for that. We need to continue working on our strategies to incentivize someone to do this.

Someone spoke earlier that they have expanded their domestic violence program to provide housing for homeless youth. We will continue with those outreach efforts, and HUD will keep pushing for that.

And, there was a recently announced NOFA on Monday, that is source of funding we should consider applying for and likely need to make a decision about that soon. The CoC can't just put out an

application, it will require collaboration with schools and police.

Can we get Safequest on the CoC Bd? We reached out and invited them to the general meeting, they have been to past meetings, but stopped participating. That's why we reached out today. To be on board, they need to fill out an application. Their attendance today was encouraging.

Collaboration with the schools is very important. Schools are the front-line touch points. That is where we will hear about it. We have McVento Liaison on Board, but need to do even more.

And, the prevention piece is really important too.

Let them take the lead on it, use the model in Fairfield and apply that across the county.

In regards to the PIT count, having a youth count will help us identify and understand the needs of this population so we can better target services to them.

The youth homeless issue has to be addressed. The question is are we ready to really deal with it? It needs to be addressed. There are people here who have info, and want to help, and I would like to know why they fell off to make sure it doesn't happen anymore.

• **Regarding improving CoC bed coverage rates.**

HUD wants at least 86% or more. But Solano has only 35% participating in HMIS. We have some faith-based groups involved, they are not doing HMIS.

The VA requires that we enter into HOMES and not HMIS.

If VA uses one system, and someone else uses a different one, Congressman Garamendi's office can do something about that.

HomeBase can work with them on a letter post-NOFA

This is problem across the nation.

• **Other Notes:**

If others have updated info on sources of funding, housing placement rates, low income housing opportunities, please email us with that information. Thank you.

We are being ranked on 2013-2015 PIT count comparison so we may lose some points on those questions. We will do the best we can, but the application does not include an opportunity for a narrative on those issues.

10. Comments from Board Members COMMENTS

11. Staff Report

11.1 Funding Opportunities – Listed in the materials for Board review UPDATE

Please refer to the opportunities listed in the packet.

12. Adjourn Anne, Kat -

Motion to adjourn? Move to adjourn, seconded. Motion passes.