

# HOUSING FIRST SOLANO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 P.M.

SUISUN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

701 CIVIC CENTER BOULEVARD, SUISUN CITY, CA 94585

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

Shelley Tiran called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

### 2. Roll Call and Introductions

Shelley Tiran, City of Fairfield

Kyle Wehner, Homebase

Maya Spark, Homebase

Tranine Chisom, Caminar

Candice Thomas, Caminar

Angel Mackelvie, On the Move

Amber Twitchell, On the Move

Naser Baig, Vacaville Social Services Corporation

Sandy Rose, Health and Social Services

Todd Bertani, CANB

Andrea Foti, Shelter, Inc.

Leslie Gleason, Shelter, Inc.

Rosa Elaine, Shelter, Inc.

Tamara Murphy, Lutheran Social Services

Kim Govi, Solano County Office of Education

Kat Lawton-Ceasar

Officer Mike Ambrose, City of Fairfield Police Homeless Intervention Team

### 3. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Maya Spark requested a deletion of Agenda item 8.2 “regulatory updates.”

### 4. Approval of the Agenda

Sandy Rose made a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion. Leslie Gleason seconded the motion. There were no abstentions or dissensions.

### 5. Consent Calendar

### **5.1 Approve HFS General Membership Minutes of Meeting on July 24, 2019**

Sandy Rose made a motion to approve the minutes, Leslie Gleason seconded the motion. There were no abstentions or dissensions.

## **6. Old Business**

### 6.1 Membership Distribution List Survey

Maya Spark let members know that a membership list is now on the CoC website. It includes only those members who responded to the survey consenting to have their information shared. A statement was added that details how to have contact information added or removed. A box was also added to the “Join Us” section of the website for new members to consent to having their information added to the website. Maya Spark said the survey will be sent annually and the membership list will be updated accordingly.

## **7. New Business**

### 7.1 Volunteerism Training by On The Move

Amber Twitchell and Angel Mackelvie facilitated a discussion regarding volunteerism and civic engagement for program participants. Angel Mackelvie discussed VOICES Solano and its origins in Napa County. VOICES is a HEAP-funded drop-in center for youth aged 18–24 who have been involved in the foster care system. Angel Mackelvie noted that all of the staff are located in Vallejo or American Canyon and have lived homelessness experience. Amber Twitchell encouraged community members to visit VOICES and to refer young people to them. Amber Twitchell stressed the goals of making program participants feeling worthy, empowered and explained how they work to create positive peer-to-peer interpersonal relationships between youth. Kim Govi stressed the goal of working with youth as a prevention method to avoid chronic homelessness. Amber Twitchell discussed the goal of providing strong social and job skills and a focus on civic engagement as a conduit for healing. Amber Twitchell also discussed how the staff, who are program participants, has led to a low overhead rate. Amber Twitchell discussed that the way to bridge the gap between the experience of program participants and the community is the development of these kinds of skills, with the goal of making program participants feel capable, loveable and worthy. She stressed that the best way

for people to feel valuable is to feel successful. Amber Twitchell also provided attendees copies of the VOICES Leadership Development Matrix and discussed the pathway through the volunteer spectrum program participants experience as they move through the program. Amber Twitchell emphasized how this leadership model has made certain funding opportunities possible and discussed what this could look like at other agencies. She stressed the overarching goal of reintroducing program participants back into the community by making them realize they have something to contribute. Maya Spark spoke about the role volunteerism in effective landlord engagement. Tranine Chisom talked about Caminar's peer-to-peer programs their participants are able to attend. Amber Twitchell invited community members and stakeholders to come visit their Vallejo Shelter on 646 Tennessee St. Officer Ambrose asked about whether On the Move is active in local schools; Angel Mackelvie said On the Move is working on partnerships with the schools.

## 7.2 HIC Summary

Kyle Wehner discussed the HIC- a HUD-mandated count of how many beds are available on one night, regardless of housing type. Kyle Wehner stressed that the type of beds and units that are available for certain households can often be a tricky input for providers in the HIC survey. Kyle Wehner described the role he has as HMIS lead to make sure providers are comfortable answering the HIC questions. Kyle Wehner said the HIC includes demographic data (gender, ethnicity, race) and household types (families, adults, youth). Kyle Wehner detailed that for emergency shelters (ES) and transitional housing (TH) providers, the annual sheltered Point in Time Count will have very targeted outreach to make sure ES and TH providers are comfortable answering the survey (paper and online surveys). Kyle Wehner will reach out to every housing agency well ahead of the HIC/PIT due dates (likely the last week of January in 2020).

## 7.3 2019 NOFA Debrief

Maya Spark spoke about the 2019 NOFA and the sections and data that could use improvement or that changed since 2018. Maya Spark let the CoC know that for the first time the NOFA asked about case conferencing attendees and participation in coordinated entry. Maya Spark said that the CoC intends to continue to do outreach to a diverse group of stakeholders to increase CoC and coordinated entry participation. Maya Spark mentioned that the CoC will lose points again this year in the Public Housing Authorities section, as two Public Housing Authorities are required to have a Move On Preference and a Homeless Preference to get full points. Kat

Lawton-Caesar discussed why it's difficult for Housing Authorities to implement these preferences. Maya Spark discussed that the CoC must strive to ensure that homelessness is not criminalized, as that's still an important part of the application. Maya Spark and Kyle Wehner discussed the push toward more comprehensive HMIS bed coverage to improve bed coverage rates for the CoC. Maya Spark emphasized the role of community volunteerism and civic engagement, particularly among PSH participants. Maya Spark discussed the need to improve HIC data quality with respect to the number of RRH beds in particular.

#### 7.4 CES Workgroup and Governance Committee

Maya Spark announced that the Coordinated Entry System workgroup will meet directly after the CoC meeting to review proposed updates to the CES policies and procedures. Maya Spark announced that the Governance Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> to review updates to the Governance Charter. The proposed updates to the Governance Charter were sent over the listserv.

#### 7.5 HMIS Survey

Kyle Wehner presented the results of the HMIS survey that was sent out in October, 2019. Kyle Wehner said that survey participants requested more training and the ability to improve data quality. Kyle Wehner also said there was broad support for switching to a different HMIS system (from Service Point to Clarity) but that there are cost concerns regarding switching to Clarity. Kyle Wehner mentioned that the Community Services version of HMIS is being rolled out, as certain modules have become available in demo mode. The complete rollout of Community Services should occur within the next 12 months. Kyle Wehner said that responsive to feedback, the HMIS quarterly workgroup meetings will start incorporating training sessions.

### 8. Staff Updates

#### 8.1 State and Federal Funding Opportunities

Maya Spark provided an overview of the one-time, block grant Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) state funding, including \$190 million for CoC and \$175 million for counties. Maya Spark said that the RFP to providers in the community may be released in April, 2020, assuming that HUD releases the PIT counts in a timely manner, as those feed the state funding allocations. Maya also said that the PIT results will be a factor. Maya said that the community allocation amount will be available on April 1,

Maya Spark also said that at there will be a CESH 2.0 RFP and that CSBG funds will also be available and that the JPA meetings and the listserv are the best places to get information on those funding streams.

## **9. Comments from Members**

Kat Lawton-Caesar commented that the JPA received approval for free technical assistance to evaluate any of the programs that they receive funding for and that the JPA opted to use this for a CES evaluation. Kat Lawton-Caesar said that the technical assistance team will provide a webinar on these efforts at the next CoC meeting in November.

## **10. Adjourn**

Shelley Tiran adjourned the meeting at 11:09 AM. Kat Lawton-Caesar made the motion. Tranine Chisom seconded.