

Housing First Solano
Vallejo-Solano County Continuum of Care
Board Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2017
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Board members present:

Tranine Chisom
Ron Marlette
John Evalle
Kathy Lawton-Caesar
Daniel Del Monte
Zoila Perez-Sanchez
Reginald Doss
Tamara Colden
Daniel Marshall
Ruth Matz
Norma Ramos
Chari Barrera (Alternate for Anne Putney)
Scott Mulvey
Maurilio Leon
Kristin Kamm

Other attendees:

Laverne Haywood, Berkeley Food and Housing Project
Noel Vargas, Solano County
Pat Nicodemus, Sheriff's Office WRAP
Carolyn Wylie, HomeBase
John Melis, HomeBase

1. Tranine Chisom called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.
2. There was a quorum of Board members present.
3. There were no presentations.
4. There was no public comment.
5. There were no additions to or deletions from the agenda.
6. Daniel Del Monte moved to approve the agenda. Kathy Lawton-Caesar seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.
7. Consent Calendar

- 7.1. Participants reviewed the minutes from November 16, 2016.

Norma Ramos wanted to be added to the attendance for the November 16, 2016 meeting as she had attended the meeting.

Ruth Matz moved to approve the minutes with the single change. Norma Ramos seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

8. CoC Board Governance

8.1. Board Officer Elections

Staff introduced this item. Staff informed the Board the elected officer positions on the Board, namely Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, need to be elected every year. The Board was free to nominate individual candidates or nominate a slate of individuals.

Daniel Del Monte nominated the current Board Officers for re-election. He thanked the Elected Board individuals for their excellent job over the past year and believed they would continue to serve Housing First Solano well. Reginald Doss echoed Daniel Del Monte's confidence in the current Board Officers.

Staff asked the current Board officers if they would like to be re-elected. Tranine Chisom, Kathy Lawton-Caesar, and John Evalle all said they would be grateful to serve.

Reginald Doss moved to re-elect Tranine Chisom as Chair of the Board, Kathy Lawton-Caesar as Vice Chair of the Board, and John Evalle as Secretary of the Board. Scott Mulvey seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

9. Old Business

9.1. Report on Solano Regional Strategic Planning

Staff presented an update regarding the strategic plan. Staff held community outreach meetings to gather input for the strategic plan. In addition, staff attended meetings of the Fairfield City Council as well as the County Board of Supervisors to discuss the plan and receive feedback.

Staff are finalizing a draft of the strategic plan. Staff will present that plan to the Strategic Planning Workgroup at the beginning of February and receive feedback and commentary. Staff will then incorporate that feedback and create a final plan for circulation and approval in March.

John Evalle wanted to ensure all the cities in Solano County would have the opportunity to review and provide input on the plan to ensure community support. Staff ensured John Evalle the cities have actively participated in the creation of the plan to date and will continue to be involved during the implementation of the plan.

John Evalle commented that the Board of Supervisors were all dedicated to the strategic plan and solving the problem of homelessness. Tranine Chisom echoed John Evalle's comments.

9.2. Report on Coordinated Entry System Planning

Staff presented an update on the coordinated entry workgroup. Staff have held two meetings with providers who serve specific subpopulations: veterans and mental health consumers. Both meetings allowed staff to have candid conversations with providers regarding their concerns and specific needs for coordinated entry implementation.

Tranine Chisom attended the mental health provider meeting and found it extremely helpful to discuss issues with funding streams and referral requirements as they relate to coordinated entry.

Natalie Siva attended the veterans meeting. She also felt the meeting was incredibly productive and appreciated the opportunity to discuss the unique concerns regarding veterans and coordinated entry.

Staff are scheduling additional subpopulation meetings with domestic violence and family and youth providers.

Reginald Doss asked if the information gathered from these meetings would be available for the General Membership meeting in February. Staff confirmed that a report regarding the subpopulation meetings would be available.

Staff's next step will be to talk about how to prioritize populations based on vulnerability. Staff is also waiting on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to issue the funding for the Coordinated Entry grant. Staff cannot issue the Request for Proposals for that grant until HUD sends the funding.

10. New Business

10.1 Receive report on the 2017 Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count which occurred on January 24, 2017.

Chair Tranine Chisom presented on the 2017 Point-in-Time Count (PIT). Initial reports indicated the event was well run and well attended. The Chair thanked the efforts of HomeBase staff in organizing the PIT. HomeBase staff was located at each deployment site and aided with the youth focused point in time count. Staff noted there were 100 volunteers spread across the three sites. Volunteers included persons experiencing homelessness and community members. Staff noted the subpopulation surveys were still ongoing. Once that data is collected, ASR will create a report for the community.

John Evalle suggested that once the numbers come in the CoC should create a report which outlines the amount of funding secured using the PIT numbers and present that information to the County as it moves forward with budgeting.

10.2 Consider a letter of support for Berkeley Food and Housing Project's Regional Outreach, Advocacy, and Support Home Program and authorize the CoC Chair to sign the letter.

Natalie Siva from Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP) discussed this letter. The letter of support is for BFHP's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant. This is an annual grant which provides housing vouchers and supportive services for veterans. Since 2014, BFHP has housed 180 families across three counties. Approximately 80% of those people were from Solano County.

Kathy Lawton-Caesar expressed her support for the good work that BFHP does through the SSVF program.

Tranine Chisom noted the CoC has provided letters of support for BFHP in the past and acknowledged the good work that BFHP does.

Kathy Lawton-Caesar moved to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support for Berkeley Food and Housing Project's Supportive Services for Veteran Families application. Reginald Doss seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor and no opposition or abstentions.

10.3 2017 Housing First Solano Programmatic and Thematic Planning

Chair Tranine Chisom introduced this item. This item was intended as an open discussion regarding the planning priorities for the CoC Board during the 2017 calendar year. The CoC also wanted to know who would be willing to work with what committees and groups.

Reginald Doss noted the difficulty of organizations to get started with and input information into the Homeless Management Information System. He wanted to know what was being done to encourage more providers to utilize the database. Staff noted the Community Action Partnership Solano, Joint Powers Authority was considering financial assistance for HMIS user fees to get more providers involved in HMIS.

Ron Marlette noted the need for County-wide affordable housing for persons exiting homelessness.

John Evalle asked if staff for the CoC was reaching out regarding affordable housing. Staff noted outreach was occurring through the regional strategic planning process.

Marillo Leon commented that affordable housing is the core concern in Solano County. He noted that many are leaving the San Francisco Bay Area in search of cheaper housing, driving up rents in the area. The term "affordable" is no longer appropriate in Solano County due to high rents. He advocated the CoC look forwards towards developing new deeply affordable housing units. He noted new units will only be possible through support from the elected officials at the County and the local municipalities. Daniel Del Monte noted the Strategic Plan is the vehicle for developing this coordination and long-term change. Dan Marshall was

concerned that any housing built by the County or municipalities becomes government housing which is not integrated in the community. Ruth Matz noted CANB has built approximately 35 new affordable housing units for veterans.

Daniel Del Monte noted the need for youth support in Solano County. He advocated for the creation of a specific youth subcommittee in the CoC meant to coordinate between the County Office of Education and other youth providers. Norma Ramos also supported the need for a youth-specific focus in the CoC.

Dan Marshall commented on the need for more detox facilities in Solano County. The County currently only has one detox center. This results in individuals being sent to jail rather than receiving assistance which only makes their lives more difficult. In addition, if a client has a problem with the detox center and is not allowed back there is nowhere else for that person to go. Daniel Del Monte noted the County is pursuing Prop 47 funding to provide support for housing.

Ruth Matz proposed a theme of “shelter” for the 2017 calendar year. She advocated for creating a shelter that gets individuals off the streets. Ron Marlette noted Mission Solano now has 50 shelter beds available at the Bridge to Life center. The program is now working with the hospitals and serves both women and children. Dan Marshall advocated for a wet shelter. Staff echoed the need for a no-barrier shelter within the County.

Natalie Siva asked if the CoC would provide funding for street outreach. Staff noted many providers are not conducting street outreach. Dan Marshall noted the Mental Health Services Administration has funding for a mobile crisis unit and is working on deploying that resource in the community.

11. Board Comments

Ruth Matz noted the Veterans Affairs Grant Per Diem program is now a grant renewal process and will be asking the CoC for a letter of support.

12. Staff Report

12.1. Administrative matters

Staff noted that some board members will need to re-apply for their positions prior to the general membership meeting in February.

Staff noted the ongoing attendance issues for the Board. Recently making quorum has been difficult notably resulting a 45-minute delay at the last Board meeting. Staff encouraged all board members to appoint an alternate to ensure they do not miss the meetings.

12.2. Funding Updates

Staff directed the Board to review the funding opportunity handout. Staff noted that many funding opportunities have not been issued yet due to the lack of clarity from the federal government about funding availability.

13. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 PM.