

Housing First Solano
Vallejo-Solano County Continuum of Care
General Membership Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

1. Ruth Matz called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.
2. There were no additions to or deletions from the agenda.
3. Cecilia Jungkeit moved to approve the agenda. Emily Cantu seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.
4. Dawn La Bar moved to approve the minutes of last month's CoC General Membership meeting. Lori Bowley seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.
5. Old Business

5.1. NOFA update. Staff noted that the NOFA is expected soon based on the recently released HUD documents. Once released, HomeBase will schedule technical assistance sessions. The turn around time for the NOFA may be between six and ten weeks. HUD is likely to allow more time than last year due the required consolidated application. Ruth Matz offered to provide support or feedback to anyone considering applying for funds.

6. New Business

6.1. The membership came to a consensus that HomeBase will prepare draft Memorandums of Understanding (1) between the HMIS Lead and the Continuum of Care, and (2) between the Collaborative Applicant and the Continuum of Care.

6.2 Tracy Cascio from Veterans Health Administration gave an update on the continuum of services provided to homeless veterans and strategies used in different communities to end veteran homelessness. The program gives resources such as HUD-VASH, Grant and Per Diem funding, and Veteran's Treatment Court.

Different communities are using strategies such as sharing information and resources, setting goals, and increasing the housing stock. Alameda County is sharing information by using a by-name list where the VA and the county can target those veterans. Other counties are coordinating services between the VA and the community in order to make sure the resources are effective and efficient. Setting monthly goals can also be effective. Contra Costa County set a goal of twenty homeless veterans housed each month. This is based on their Point-in-Time count from last year and projected number of homeless veterans in the upcoming year. Communities can also try to increase the housing stock by reaching out to landlords and having landlords apply for funding. Currently, there are no incentives for landlords to provide housing to homeless veterans. Ms. Cascio noted that she spoke with the mayor of Oakland who crafted an email to send to property managers to get them interested in housing veterans.

Staff asked what planning was required and how the monthly goals were set in order to determine how Solano could implement these strategies to end Veteran homelessness.

Tracy Cascio stated that Contra Costa County signed up for the Zero: 2016 initiative and used specific guidance from that program. Solano could borrow the guidance from the Zero: 2016 initiative in implementing their goals. Contra Costa County used a gap analysis tool by Community Solutions and input from the VA. They also looked at their Point-in Time Count and annualized it by HMIS data. There are also some assumptions: a percentage will resolve their

housing problem without intervention, some only need brief housing, and some will need more intensive support. These assumptions are built into the tool and then Solano can target resources where they are needed.

The CoC reached consensus to pursue the following goals and to hold a planning summit to focus on preventing and ending veteran homelessness as part of the strategic planning process:

- Using data and analytics to identify veteran populations and local needs, measurable system goals (including a monthly numerical take-down target), and developing or improving a prioritization and placement strategy to meet needs and goal
- Identifying resources for veterans who are unable to receive VA health or housing services
- Creating a by-name list of all homeless veterans within the CoC

6.6 Staff summarized funding opportunities

7. The membership came to a consensus to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m.