

# HOUSING FIRST SOLANO CoC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 | 10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

## Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

Kari Rader called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

### 2. Roll Call

#### Present CoC Board Members:

Akon Walker, Solano County Office of Education

Amani Sawires, VOA

Antonio Pizano, Voices Youth Program, Lived Experience Member

Brandon Wirth, SHELTER, Inc.

Chris Sheridan, Nation's Finest

Colleen Berumen, VSSC

DeAndre Richard, RCS

Don Hendershot, City of Dixon

Joey Carrizales, Coordinated Entry Co-Chair, Lived Experience Member

John Eckstrom, SHELTER, Inc.

Kari Rader, CAN-B

Lynna Magnuson, Caminar

Meghan Freebeck, City of Benicia

Miranda Ramirez, Solano County Behavioral Health

Natalie Peterson, City of Vallejo

Reggie Sironen, Berkeley Food and Housing Project

Renee Trotter, LOGIC Ministries

Samantha Meyer, Eden Housing

Tamara Colden, City of Vacaville

Tara Beasley-Stansberry, Black Chamber of Commerce

### 3. Additions or Deletions

Reneé Parham stated there would be a deletion of items 5.1 and 7.1.

### 4. Approval of the Agenda – ACTION

Chris Sheridan made a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of items 5.1 and 7.1. Colleen Berumen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no abstentions or objections. The motion was approved.

## **5. Consent Calendar – ACTION**

### **5.1 Approve March 22, 2023 HFS CoC Meeting Minutes**

Item deleted from Agenda.

## **6. Old Business/Standing Agenda Items**

### **6.1 Veterans Affairs Update**

Chris Sheridan gave an update that the VA has waived the 60/40 split for SSVF Grantees for the 2022 Fiscal Year until October 1, 2023, explaining that Nation's Finest is not required to allocate 40% of funds to homelessness and 60% to rapid rehousing, which gives more flexibility on spending so it can be spread across the board. Chris also stated that Nation's Finest grant year will end December 31<sup>st</sup> and that the Stafford Act that gave them flexibility on SSVF spending would be ending May 11, 2023, so they will go back to traditional funding.

Reggie Sironen gave an update that Berkeley Food and Housing Project is changing its name to Insight Housing.

### **6.2 Committee/Work Group Updates**

#### **6.2a Coordinated Entry System Committee**

DeAndre Richard welcomed Mike Shelton to the Resource Connect Team who came over from Berkeley Food and Housing Project and will also be working with Veterans at RCS.

DeAndre also gave an update that the last Coordinated Entry Committee meeting was on April 5<sup>th</sup> and attendees discussed an HMIS and CE System update, the need to streamline an intake process to create ease of access across the county, the importance of leaving notes in HMIS to show contact with a participant and not having them fall off the list after 90 days, having program managers speak directly to participants about placement into their program so the participant is clear on what is being offered and can accept or deny on their own behalf, prioritization for defunded projects, the pilot program started to create more access sights for Coordinated Entry in the community, and the VI-SPDAT assessment that will be brought to the next CE Meeting for input.

#### **6.2b Governance Committee**

Kari Rader stated the next meeting would be June 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 12 pm.

#### **6.2c HMIS Committee**

Bill Matson gave an update that the Committee met and discussed the responsibilities per the CoC Charter, what HMIS implementation is going to look like moving forward, the importance of data quality, the data quality auditing process for policy and reporting, the HUD

requirements of having a By Names List in our community, and that Pathways would be reaching out to every organization involved with HMIS and scheduling meetings with their HMIS Administrator to build connection and simplify the HMIS interface.

#### **6.2d Lived Experience Committee**

Antonio Pizano gave an update that Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera had received a scholarship to attend the National Human Services Data Consortium Conference in Arizona and gave a presentation entitled “Nothing About Us Without Us”. Antonio discussed the LEC Committee giving an introduction to the JPA, was invited to be part of the Rank and Review Panel for Solano County, Behavioral Health Rapid Rehousing Program, and announced the upcoming Surviving to Thriving Training for Solano County Staff and Participants was tentatively planned for May or June.

#### **6.2e Youth Advisory Board Core Planning Work Group**

Akon Walker gave an update that the first Focus Group was held at Vaca Pena Middle School in Vacaville for three youths who signed up but did not make it. Akon explained that this gave the work group an opportunity to strategize and connect with Vacaville Unified School District on helpful steps for rolling out the next Focus Groups. Akon stated that they will be working in connection to find the youth where they are already meeting and asked if any attendees are holding meetings or have youth activities planned for those between the ages of 16-24 to please let them know. Akon also mentioned the need for funding to help get the YAB stabilized, functioning, and off the ground, so that will be a topic brought back for more discussion.

#### **6.2f CA REAL Team**

Kari Rader explained that the California Racial Equity Action Lab was an initiative to eliminate racial disparities in community homelessness systems throughout the state and to assist in developing racial equity goals, provide intensive support, and promote collaboration to reduce racial disparities.

Reneé Parham added to Kari’s comment by stating that the meetings were provided to support HHAP Grant initiatives and goals to promote racial equity in the community and a small core group had been assigned to work on streamlining the implementation of goals that had been set during Phase 1 and would be brought to the community during Phase 2.

Miranda Ramirez shared the initial goals being discussed by the core group, one of adopting a coordinated entry screening tool that is more racially equitable, as the VI-SPDAT is not the most equitable tool, and two, the role of expanded outreach efforts that would collaborate to implement outreach services in a racially equitable manner.

### **6.3 NOFO Policies/Procedures & Scoring Tool – DISCUSSION and ACTION**

Maya Spark quickly shared the 2022 CoC NOFO Debrief, stating that the community scored over 5 points higher than the Weighted Mean score for all CoC's in the country, meaning a higher chance of getting the Annual Renewal Demand, and Bonus Funding, which happened and every project was funded. Maya congratulated the CoC and explained that this would be brought back at the May or June meeting for a deeper dive.

Maya Spark spoke about the scoring tools for the upcoming CoC NOFO that were reviewed and discussed at the Performance and Evaluation meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> and now need to be approved by the Board. Maya shared the draft Scoring Tool and draft Competition Policies and Procedures that were found in the [public folder](#).

John Eckstrom made a motion to approve the Scoring tool and Policies and Procedures. Brandon Wirth seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no abstentions or objections. The motion was approved.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Coordinated Entry System – PRESENTATION**

This item was deleted from the agenda.

## **8. Staff Updates**

### **8.1 Staff Communications**

Reneé Parham gave the following updates:

- The Tripartite Advisory Board had their Q2 Meeting on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and welcomed Ashley Banta as the new Low-Income Representative seat and the new Chair is Supervisor Wanda Williams.
- The JPA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Planning Meeting would be held on Thursday, April 27 from 3-8 p.m.
- On May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. there would be a 2023 Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (HUD CoC NOFO) 101/New Project Workshop to learn more about HUD CoC Funding for housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. The invitation was extended to community members who may have not planned to apply for a new project, as it could be helpful to attend as a reminder of the various eligible costs CoC projects can spend funds on.

- May 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 p.m. would be the first of two online training to help engage Tribal Communities. The first one is called California Native Americans and Their History. The link to register would go out on the Listserv and website.

## **8.2 Funding Opportunities**

Reneé Parham shared the Mini-Grant information available for Community Partners that was posted on the website and ends on May 26, 2023, to support self-isolation for low-resourced individuals that test positive for COVID-19 or are at the highest risk for the disease.

Maya Spark shared that will be a Youth Capacity Building NOFO, and PSH Development NOFO, and there would not be another unsheltered NOFO like there was last year.

## **9. Adjourn**

John Eckstrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 am. Colleen Berumen seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The meeting was adjourned.