

Housing First Solano Lived Experience Committee

July 19, 2023 ~ Meeting Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions LEC

Members:

- Antonio Pizano, Co-Chair
- Joey Carrizales
- Sally Griffith
- Anne McGrath
- Reggie Sironen

Other Attendees:

- Devra Edelman, Homebase
- Kari Rader, CoC Chair/CANB
- Charlene Jackson, Prospective Member

II. Introductions / Icebreaker

- Freedom Singers Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLTeYJ4PPxg>
- Members and other attendees introduced themselves and commented on the video
- Review Meeting Group Agreements
 - Respect one another.
 - Be present during meetings – please mute cell phones and other distractions.
 - Speak one at a time.
 - There are no right or wrong answers.
 - All thoughts and ideas are valued.
 - It is ok to have different opinions. We agree to disagree.
 - Please be respectful of time when speaking.
 - What is said here stays here; Stories stay – lessons leave.
- Reggie Sironen suggested adding “or questions” to the agreement: “There are no right or wrong answers.” All members present agreed to do so going forward.

III. LEC OUTREACH/STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

- LEC Membership – Vote to Dismiss
 - LEC Co-Chair, Antonio Pizano, explained that the current LEC Members List includes 10 total current members. Of those members, there are 3 people who have not attended 50% of the meetings in the past year and have not been in touch with the Co-chairs or responded to attempts to contact them.
 - Homebase staff reviewed the members who have not attended 50% of the meetings within the past year and attempts that have been made to contact them and the LEC Bylaws, which states:

If a standing member misses more than 50% of meetings held in a one-year period (i.e. 2 quarterly meetings) without written notification to the Committee Co-chairs, then that member can be presumed to have resigned. In this situation, a majority vote of members present can dismiss the missing member. Before dismissing such a member, other members should attempt to get into contact with the individual and

- resolve the situation in a manner in line with the missing member's desired outcome if possible.
 - Co-chair Antonio Pizano asked if the committee wishes to vote to dismiss these members so that the LEC can recruit new members since the LEC has a maximum of 11 seats, with one seat currently open.
 - Reggie Sironen made a motion to vote to dismiss each member who has not been attending the required amount of meetings. Antonio Pizano seconded the motion.
 - All members agreed that they would be open to welcoming any of the members back to the LEC and that if they want to rejoin they would have the option to re-apply for any open seats.
 - The vote passed with four ayes and one no. The member who voted no stated that they would like to try to reach out to the members who have not been attending.
- LEC Recruitment
 - Antonio Pizano explained that with the previous vote there are now 4 open LEC seats for which to recruit new members.
 - Kari Rader stated that she has 3 applications from people who are currently homeless and that Ely Muniz-Palomera has applications from participants at the last HOPE event.
 - Devra Edelman shared that HUD is emphasizing engagement of people who are currently homeless or who have been homeless within the past seven years. She also suggested reaching out to participants in the Solano County Employment and Eligibility division's Surviving to Thriving training that Antonio presented.
- Call for Co-chair Candidates – September Vote
 - Antonio Pizano explained that Ely Muniz-Palomera's 2-year term as LEC Co-chair will be up in September and that the LEC will need to identify a new Co-chair to take her place.
 - Two members expressed interest in running for the seat and requested additional information, which staff will send to all LEC members.
- Report on LEC Activities
 - Solano Employment & Eligibility Participant and Staff Training – Surviving to Thriving
 - Antonio Pizano reported that he presented a training to Solano County Housing Support Program participants on housing navigation and retention, including credit history; relationships with landlords, etc.; There was a good turnout and a lot of resources and information was shared.
 - Other LEC members were interested in this training and Antonio stated that he could do one for LEC members at an upcoming meeting, possibly in October.
 - Fairfield Homeless Roundtable
 - Two LEC members attended the City of Fairfield Homelessness Roundtable on July 12th. The members stated that there were some unsettling comments made about people experiencing homelessness and not wanting to change their situation. LEC members expressed dismay about a lack of understanding of what is going on with people and of flexibility around processes and suggested having a panel presentation with LEC members at the Roundtable to increase attendee's understanding of why people are in the situations that they are in and how to work with them. Members who attended also shared that they got some outreach resources and made some good connections there.

IV. ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT PLANNING

- HUD NOFO - LEC representatives on HUD CoC Rank & Review and Appeals Panels; Letter of Support
 - Devra Edelman reviewed information about the HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) funding competition process and that HUD is emphasizing inclusion of people who are currently or have previously experienced homelessness in the local planning process. Devra stated that this includes having people with lived experience of homelessness on the panel to review and rank project applications and requiring a letter signed by a working group comprised of persons with lived experience of homelessness.
 - Devra stated that staff will present a draft letter to be reviewed and approved by the LEC at the August meeting. Devra also explained the Review and Rank panel and Appeals Panel for the competition and asked if any LEC members are interested in serving on either of the panels.
 - One LEC member expressed interest in serving on the Review and Rank Panel and requested further information. One LEC member stated interest in the Appeals Panel as long as they have time and another LEC member stated that they are also open to it and can be back-up if the timing doesn't work out for the other member.
- HFS CoC Trainings and LEC Participation
 - Staff, Devra Edelman, shared that Homebase would like to know if any LEC members are interested in working with them to present another training to the Housing First Solano CoC members on Authentic Engagement of People with Lived Experience, to build off of the training that was provided last year. A couple of LEC members expressed interest and Devra stated that she will share the recording and information from last year's training with the members prior to the August LEC meeting.
- CA State LEAB, UCSF Study Summary, and Petition regarding LE Stipends and SSI
 - Staff, Devra Edelman, shared that the State of California is currently taking applications for a state-wide Lived Experience Advisory Board and that she would forward information about how to apply to the LEC members.
 - Devra also shared a summary that Homebase did of a study that was recently published by UCSF. The study interviewed people with lived experience of homelessness from throughout the State. Many LEC members also stated that they saw the study and found it very on point and interesting.
 - Devra shared information about a sign-on effort of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and the National Coalition for the Homeless to introduce and pass federal legislation that seeks to exclude compensation received by people with lived experience from SSI benefits calculations for consultation services similar to what LEC members provide to the HFS CoC . The petition may be found here:
<https://www.lahsa.org/policy/legislative-affairs/ssi-proposal/>

V. LOGISTICS AND NEXT STEPS

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 8th, 2023, 1 pm – 3 pm
- Quarterly Public Meetings: September 5th, December 5th

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.