

Housing First Solano
Vallejo-Solano County Continuum of Care
Board Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2015
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Board members present: Kathy (Kat) Lawton, Emily Cantu, Anne Putney, Ruth Matz, Scott Mulvey, Raymond Courtemanche (alternate for Ron Marlette), Lori Bowley, Ron Grassi, Dawn La Bar

Other attendees: Carolyn Wylie, Carrie Ellen Sager, & Katrina Hite, CoC Staff, HomeBase

1. Ruth Matz called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.
2. There was a quorum of Board members present.
3. There were no presentations.
4. There was no public comment.
5. Dawn La Bar moved to amend the agenda to add board discussion of the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between the CoC and HMIS Lead and Collaborative Applicant. The members of the board gave full consensus.
6. Kat Lawton moved to approve the agenda as amended. Dawn La Bar seconded. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.
7. Anne Putney moved to approve the June Board Meeting minutes. Kat Lawton seconded. Dawn La Bar abstained. The motion passed with no opposition.
8. Old Business
 - 8.1. Continuum of Care NOFA Update: Staff noted the NOFA has not been released, but anticipate it will be released soon based on the HUD communication released. Once the NOFA is released, a notice will be sent to the CoC and staff will schedule training sessions. Candidates for the Review and Rank panel are in place.
9. New Business
 - 9.1. Preparations for Continuum of Care Application. HomeBase is preparing for the consolidated application and have identified areas that need additional discussion or investigation to determine how the CoC is addressing these areas.

9.1(a). Discharge Planning.

For foster youth, HomeBase will reach out to agencies to determine if there are any agencies that target children. Ron Grassi will check with child welfare services and report to HomeBase. For prisons there is a reentry council who works directly with veterans that are homeless and in prison. Board members will set up a committee that can advocate and work on policy.

Lori Bowley noted that Parole Officers often do not call back, even when trying to house a veteran outside of the county.

The Board agreed that policies need to be put in place regarding discharge planning for veterans and others re-entering the community.

For hospitals and mental facilities, it was noted that the CoC could not enforce the policy if the hospitals are not a part of the CoC. The Board expressed a wish to establish stronger relationships with all stakeholders and hoped they would be willing to join the CoC. Ron Grassi will contact the Executive Director, Joni Ericson, to set up a forum for discussion with the CoC. There may be other funding resources through the hospital for a discharge social worker.

Anne Putney noted that Rosewood House may be resurrected to provide housing for the mentally ill.

9.1(b). Homelessness Prevention. Salvation Army may have limited emergency funding through CSBG funds.

9.1(c). Serving Survivors of Domestic Violence. Dawn La Bar noted that the Family Justice Center had a meeting about the needs of victims and how it coincides with the CoC; especially the lack of transportation, legal services, and housing. There is potential for collaboration and partnerships.

9.1(d). Serving Transition-Aged Youth. Staff noted this was discussed within discharge planning. In Santa Clara County and San Francisco, transition-aged youth utilize shared housing successfully.

9.1(e). Family Homelessness. Vallejo Housing Collaborative just obtained the first permanent supportive housing unit for families. The new Housing Express program is designed for thirty-five families and will likely serve all thirty-five families by December. Mission Solano's family units are currently at capacity. Members discussed the possibility of having a committee for landlord outreach.

9.2. Funding Opportunities. Staff noted funding opportunities flyer is incorporated in the agenda packet for review.

9.3. Conflict of Interest Forms. Staff noted a copy of the Conflict of Interest form is available to sign and return to HomeBase if members have not already completed the form.

10. Discussion on the MOUs. HMIS Lead and Collaborative Applicant have to be decided at the CoC level. This is a HUD guideline as the HMIS Lead and Collaborative Applicant are representatives of the CoC. Some board members expressed concern that the governance charter changes allowing anyone to vote could result in abuse.

Emily Cantu, who served on the Governance Committee, noted that the CoC could amend the policy if it became necessary.

11. Comments from Board Members. Ruth Matz requested that, when possible, staff try not to duplicate agenda items from general CoC meeting and Board meeting.

12. Staff had nothing new to report given the time constraints.

13. Dawn La Bar moved to adjourn. Scott Mulvey seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.