

HOUSING FIRST SOLANO CoC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 | 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Kari Rader called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

2. Roll Call

Present CoC Board Members:

Akon Walker, Solano County Office of Education

Amanda Russell, Caminar

Brandon Wirth, SHELTER, Inc.

DeAndre Richard, RCS

Don Hendershot, City of Dixon

Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera, Lived Experience Co-Chair

John Eckstrom, SHELTER, Inc.

Kari Rader, CAN-B

Katie Ward, Solano County Probation

Meghan Freebeck, City of Benicia

Miranda Ramirez, Solano County Behavioral Health

Natalie Peterson, City of Vallejo

Samantha Meyer, Eden Housing

Scott Mulvey, City Church

Tamara Colden, City of Vacaville

Tara Beasley-Stansberry, Black Chamber of Commerce

3. Additions or Deletions

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda – ACTION

John Eckstrom made a motion to approve the agenda. Natalie Peterson 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 June 28, 2023 HFS CoC Meeting Minutes

John Eckstrom made a motion to approve the June 28, 2023 meeting minutes. Brandon Wirth seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Meghan Freebeck, Samantha Meyer, and Scott Mulvey abstained. There were no objections. The motion was approved.

6. Standing Agenda Items

6.1 Veterans Affairs Update

Kim Fu announced a Town Hall for Veterans on August 3, 2023, regarding the PACT ACT. The PACT ACT is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for those exposed to toxic substances.

6.2 Committee/Work Group Updates

6.2a Coordinated Entry System Committee

There was no report. The next CES Meeting is on August 2, 2023.

6.2b Governance Committee

There was no report. The next Governance Committee Meeting is on August 3, 2023.

6.2c HMIS Users Committee

William Matson gave an update that the last committee meeting was focused on review and changes to the HMIS Policies and Procedures and that most of the changes that were recommended were minor and a reflection of changes that occurred over time but needed updated documentation. The next meeting would be August 29 where the edits will be reviewed for approval by the committee.

6.2d Lived Experience Committee

Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera gave an update that the LEC had met the previous week and reviewed membership and open seats, as well as the Solano Employment Eligibility Training that had been presented to staff. Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera stated that a member of the committee would be part of the HUD NOFO Rank and Review Panel and that the next meeting was scheduled for August 8, 2023.

6.2e Youth Advisory Board Core Planning Work Group

Akon Walker reported that there would be a presentation later in the meeting.

6.2f CA REAL Core Team

Miranda Ramirez stated that the team continues to meet every other Monday morning and is currently looking to fill one vacant spot on the team, particularly a County employee who is an existing participant on the County's equity team, in an effort to streamline what is being done with other equity initiatives taking place. Miranda Ramirez shared the two goals being focused on currently:

- Developing an equitable coordinated entry system assessment
- Developing street outreach to equitably connect people experiencing homelessness with services and housing

The new coordinated entry assessment tool will be piloted by the outreach team and it is expected to unfold over the course of a year.

7. Presentations

7.1 Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

Adrianna Ames gave a presentation on the mission of the Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California and the laws in place to help protect families with children and protect against different types of discrimination.

7.2 Preventing Family Separation

Devra Edelman gave a presentation on the HUD Equal Access Rule regarding Preventing Family Separation. The slides were provided in the Public Folder found on the [Housing First Solano CoC website](#).

8. New Business

8.1 Youth Advisory Board Planning

Akon Walker and Serena Eastman gave a presentation on what a Youth Board is, how to create one, what efforts were currently underway, and next steps. With the help of many in the community, there has been success in hearing the concerns of the youth in participation. Some of the concerns expressed were the lack of knowledge regarding available assistance in the community, the need for people other than Child Protective Services or the Police to be involved when there is a need for assistance or direction, and more trauma-informed communication/consideration. Akon Walker expressed that next steps involved getting funding from the JPA/CoC to provide incentives for the participation of the youth on the board and continuing with more focus groups in an effort to have the full formation of the Board and to eventually be able to apply for Federal and State funding to help youths throughout Solano County.

9. Staff Updates

9.1 Staff Communications

Megan Richards gave a reminder that the July JPA Meeting had been canceled and the next one would be in August. Rebecca Farris was introduced as the upcoming Project Manager for the 2024 Point-In-Time Count with final approval of the JPA at the August meeting and the JPA was considering some staffing models that would hopefully be brought back for planning in the near future.

9.2 Funding Opportunities

Megan Richards stated that there would hopefully be some progress on getting funding out in the community via RFP's connected to HHAP 3, HHAP 4, and HHIP.

Devra Edelman shared the information regarding the HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity that had been released.

10. Board and Public Comment

10.1 Comments from Board Members

10.2 Public Comments

There were no Board or Public Comments.

11. Adjourn

Don Hendershot made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 am. Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no abstentions or objections. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned.