

Sonoma County Continuum of Care Funding and Evaluation Committee



Michael Gause, Ending Homelessness Program Manager, Andrew Akufo, PPEA, DHS/CDC, Chuck Mottern, Community Development Associate, Karissa White, Continuum of Care Coordinator, Ending Homelessness, Thai Hilton, Coordinated Entry Coordinator, Dave Kiff., Interim Executive Director, Daniel Howland Overbury, HMIS Coordinator, Araceli Rivera, Homeless Projects Specialist, Adam Siegenthaler, Department Information Systems Technician II, Alea Tantarelli, PPEA, DHS
Committee members: Teddie Pierce | Andrew Hening | Don Schwartz | Una Glass | Chessy Etheridge | Dennis Pocekay | Danielle Danforth | Rebekah Sammet | Kelli Kuykendall | Margaret Sluyk | Hunter Scott | John Baxter | Wendell Coleman

Funding and Evaluation Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2023

2:00pm-5:00pm

Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 2:03pm

Present

Teddie Pierce
Dennis Pocekay
Una Glass
Don Schwartz
Dannielle Danforth
Rebekah Sammet
Chessy Etheridge
Wendell Coleman
Hunter Scott
John Baxter

Not Present

Margaret Sluyk
Kelli Kuykendall
Matthew Verscheure

Public

31 Members

Staff

Michael Gause
Thai Hilton
Dave Kiff
Adam Siegenthaler
Chuck Mottern

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2. Consent Calendar (00:06:07)

- Teddie recused herself as Chair and requested Una to take over the approval Consent Calendar, Una agreed. Una ask the committee for any requested item to be pulled. Seeing none, Una requested comment on the consent calendar.
- John Baxter did not recall receiving a copy of the Agenda or Consent Calendar due to technical issue. John requested to have them sent to him ahead of next meeting.
- No Public Comment
- **Minutes from 5/3/23 – ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes - Rebekah motioned to approve minutes. Chessy seconded motion. Motion passed. Abstained: Don, Teddie, Danielle, Wendell, John**

3. Resume FY 2023-24 Funding Recommendations (00:10:06)

- Una requested recusals of committee members. Members recused:
 - Teddie
 - Danielle
 - Hunter
 - Dennis
- Don Schwartz reminded the committee there is a motion on the table from last meeting regarding West County Community Services non-congregate shelter project. Una requested a restatement of the motion.
- Michael Gause reiterated the motion is to reduce funding by an additional 464,000 to the West County Navigation Center.

Public comment (00:34:35)

- Adrian Lauby- I do think you should not take more money from them, because that navigation center is a really important resource.
- Bryan Hughes- Do you guys have a plan if you remove our funding to deal with 35 unhouse people?
- Tim Miller- Thank you. This is a bit disturbing to me. The CoC is the Continuum of Care and I think we need to be thinking of a few things in conjunction, one is links to permanent supportive housing there is quality and impact with the funding the program receives.
- Leo Chyi- The Fifth Supervisor District sent in a letter asking the Coc's Funding and Evaluation Committee to please consider fully funding the WCCS Navigation Center Project at the \$960,000 level.
- Gerry La Londe-Berg- submitted 2 letters to request the committee to the table the

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motion until a dialogue on public comment from last meeting.

- Tracy Lyons- provided statistics and anecdotes on the successes of the program.
- Mags- We have a great inequity out here, and we need to keep the funding over here in West County.
- Gregory Fearon- it is wrong-headed to defund Emergency Shelters program in exchange for Permanent Supportive housing using the pool of funds prescribed in the local NOFA.
- Bryan Hughes- Increased fire danger is possibility of closing the shelter.
- Lynda Hopkins- The operation of the 24/7/365 shelter in Guerneville is critical to supporting the LBTQIA community in Sonoma County.
- Debra Johnson- The program has been super successful in housing our homeless population out here, and also transitioning many of them into permanent support of housing. It's an absolute tragedy for you to defund this program here in our county.
- Paco- I think it's about serving the people in that geographical area and we cannot only focus on Santa Rosa.

Committee Discussion (01:03:06)

- Una disagreed with the current motion.
- **Rebekah requested to adopt Staff's funding recommendations made at May 3rd meeting and to make minor adjustments to funding recommendation.**
- **Una suggested to Rebekah make a substitute motion.**
- **Rebekah made a motion to accept Staff recommendations, with consideration of prior work completed by the committee in making minor adjustments to the funding recommendation.**
- Dave reminded the committee that the substitute motion would supersede the original motion. If the substitute motion does not pass the original motion can be brought back for discussion.
- **Rebekah motion to approve the current Staff-recommended funding evaluation list dated May 2, 2023. Una seconded.**
- Una stated to agree with Rebekah's motion to use Staff's recommendations for funding. Using the current process of re-allocation of funds from expanded projects to fund efforts to align with the Strategic Plan is premature.
- Una called for a vote on Don's previous motion and for Don to restate the motion.
- **Don motioned to reduce the West County Community services, allocation for the winter shelter and Navigation center by \$464,000 in addition to the already approved reduction. Motion does not pass with three objections (John, Rebekah, Una).**
- **Don motioned to fund Sam Jones Hall for \$232,000, \$86,759 for Coordinated Entry**

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Expansion and the balance of remaining funds to expand prevention services and/or services for chronic homelessness.

- **Wendell seconded motion.**
- **Rebekah motion to approve the current Staff-recommended funding evaluation list dated May 2, 2023.**
- **Una seconded.**
- Una called for public comment on both motions and limited to 1 minute.

Public Comment

- Jerry La Londe-Burg reference letters sent to committee.
 - Zachary Rosemore asked if the vote is for approving all project funding
 - Adriene Lauby opposed the idea of setting aside money in the NOFA.
 - BJ Bischoff Homeless Action Sonoma's proposal was in alignment in the strategic plan yet was not recommended in this NOFO or for Measure O funding.
 - Dennis is confused about the process and asked why SAY's Street Outreach program funding recommendation is reduced.
 - Tim Miller as a provider why is money being pulled back when providers and staff worked with the process
 - Kathy Kane I support Rebekah's motion and removing Prevention funding would undo provider efforts and leave money on the table
 - Gregory Fearon there are other funding opportunities that are available but not in the committee's purview.
 - Brian Hughes the process of changing a NOFA is not right and the committee's decision affects peoples' lives
 - Juan Reyes the process and staff recommendations have been discounted by some members of the committee.
 - Leo Chyi would encourage Rebekah's motion with deference to staff's work on the recommendations
 - Deborah Johnson realized there is a housing crisis and suggest to defund projects is a mistake.
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- **Rebekah motion to approve the current Staff-recommended funding evaluation list dated May 2, 2023. Motion does not pass with 2 objections (John, Don)**
 - **Don motioned to fund Sam Jones Hall for \$232,000, \$86,759 for Coordinated Entry Expansion and the balance of remaining funds to expand prevention services and/or services for chronic homelessness. Motion passes with 2 objections (Una, Rebekah)**

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4. June 2023 meeting topic discussion (02:14:33)

- Michael mentioned this item is from previous meetings and there is an agenda setting meeting scheduled for next week with the chair, vice-chair, and staff.

5. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (01:49:24)

Sasha Cohen asked to repeat what recommendation is being sent to the board.

Gregory Fearon - there are other funding opportunities for housing not being utilized.

Gerry La Londe-Berg county - safety net departments would be objective parties in the funding and evaluation process.

6. Adjourn (01:50:53)

- Don motioned to adjourn
- Una seconded
- All in favor
- Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm

Next Meeting: June 8, 2023, 2-4PM

Virtual

PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO THE COMMITTEE MEETING: Public Comment may be submitted via email to Andrew.Akufo@sonoma-county.org