



Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
2022 Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: Chessy Etheridge Agency: LEAP

Telephone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Geographical Area or Subpopulation(s) Represented: _____
Sonoma County

Other reasons the nominee should be considered for the CoC Board: _____
On LEAP

Please fill out this section only if you are nominating someone other than yourself. Please ensure you forward the Statement of Interest form to the individual you are nominating for completion.

Name of Nominator: Chessy Etheridge Agency: LEAP

Contact Information: SAB Signature of Nominator: *Chessy Etheridge*

Vacant Seats for Election

1 Second Provider: One representative of a homeless services provider different than the one with an appointed seat, as elected by CoC voting members

1 Licensed Health Care Organization: One representative from a licensed health care organization, as elected by CoC voting members.

2 At Large: at large seats as selected by voting CoC members; the candidates need not be CoC members themselves.

Lived Experience: individual currently experiencing homelessness or who has experienced homelessness within five years (at the time of election) prior to the Board election, as elected by the Lived Experience and Planning body if functioning (as determined by the Board) or if not then by the CoC voting membership.

Candidates may run for no more than two seats. Should a candidate run for two seats, one of them must be an at-large position.

Please select which seat(s) the individual is being nominated for:

- Provider Licensed Health Care Organization At Large Lived Experience

Nominations and Statement of Interest must be received by 5:00 pm on February 23, 2022

Signed forms may be scanned and emailed to Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org or delivered to Sonoma County Continuum of Care, c/o Sonoma County Community Development Commission, 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa CA 95403. The information on the statement of interest is to be filled out by the nominee. This information will be shared publicly and personal contact information will be redacted. Self-nominations are permitted.

Background:

I, currently homeless, 45 year old mother of two young children, that sought shelter after leaving a domestic violence situation.

I have a history of 23 years as a Sonoma County Paramedic, County Preceptor, Field Training Officer, and a Relief Supervisor.

In addition, I was employed as joint faculty at the Santa Rosa Junior College, teaching evaluating, and mentoring Paramedic students, for 10+ years.

I was humbly chosen to be 1 of 3 Paramedics, after extensive interviews for the Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) out of over 30 applicants.

I, ignorantly thought it would be a somewhat easy task to rehouse myself and my two daughters. Having to re-evaluate my situation, realizing the difficulty of my situation, I threw myself into networking, utilizing the advocates and professionals I met along the way, as well as my own tireless research, tenacity, and grit, am finally making strides. Thus regaining hope, encouragement, and a second wind.

I have formed many incredible, compassionate, educated, professionals, that have had invaluable advice and support, directly related to Homelessness.

Problems / Barrier

Chronic homeless is an epidemic in our county, as we see on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, a very small margin of homeless, with all the tenacity of successfully finding permanent housing will fail..

Facing nearly impossible odds, there are multiple missing links to the many, many homeless... that thrive to have permanent housing.

No fault of their own, most have fallen through the cracks.

Elderly, non- computer literate, language barrier, no transportation, mental illness, addictions, leaves many feeling helpless. Helplessness leads to Hopeless..

It becomes so overwhelming, like deciding what to eat for the rest of your life, versus, what's for dinner tonight.

3.) Solutions:

Breaking tasks into small tangible goals, brings hope, and more importantly, momentum, to continue in a forward and closer goal of permanent housing. Also, encourages, and motivates others, to follow in their footsteps.

Solution:

Through the trenches, I have been blessed to find so many short cuts through this muddled system, and find hope, and results. I have developed a passion at helping people in my similar situation find hope, small changes forward, and would be honored to be of help..

Here are a few tidbits I have found that were invaluable...

A) Sonoma County Library has chrome books for free check out.

B) In addition, free portable WiFi, for check out.

C) Non profit food organizations that will deliver food to wherever you are, home cooked, even in a creek..

D) voucher for ID card. (invaluable!)

E.) New free phones(better then stand-up) that will deliver to wherever you are!

F.) Vouchers for application fees for applying for housing..

(\$25 a place 4= \$100!)

G.) How to apply for a free donated car (sober and clean a must) to anyone in need.

H.) Free bus passes

I.) Non-profit organizations that will fill out disability, food stamps, etc, especially to our language barrier and elderly.

That is just to name a few, and through trial and error, taking one thing, example ID, and setting a goal of a week, is tangible, not so overwhelming that you just give up...it causes a feeling of accomplishment. Which in turn leads to the next step and so on.

I know with the current COVID it has been hectic and I would love to, at an opportune time, sit down and borrow a little of your time to see if I could be of assistance..

I once had compassion, now I have empathy...

Sincerely,

Chessy Etheridge



Upon request references and letters of support:

Thuy Hilton- Sonoma County Housing Authority

Emily Gross- Sonoma County Human Resources, senior case worker.

Steven Stiles- Director Elisha's pantry

Rico- Assistant Manager, Redwood Food Bank

Jerry Dunn-Sonoma County Director of Human Resources

Kaitlin Carney-Coordinated entry system Program Manager, Catholic Charities

Marie- Director of Women's Sloan House

Dillian- Edd, Disability
specialist Job Links

Coordinated entry:

Robbie Moore

Lulu

Stephanie

Alan

Eric Freed- CEO- Reach/AMR

Bryan Cleaver- Regional EMS Director Costal Valleys EMS Agency

Gary Mishkin- 37 years Emergency Room Doctor