

HOUSING FIRST SOLANO CoC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 | 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Kari Rader called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

2. Roll Call

Present CoC Board Members:

Akon Walker, Solano County Office of Education

Brandon Wirth, SHELTER, Inc.

Chris Sheridan, Nation's Finest

DeAndre Richard, RCS

Don Hendershot, City of Dixon

Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera, Medical Representative

Joey Carrizales, Lived Experience Representative

John Eckstrom, SHELTER, Inc.

Kari Rader, CAN-B

Lynna Magnuson, Caminar (alternate for Amanda Russell)

Meghan Freebeck, City of Benicia

Miranda Ramirez, Solano County Behavioral Health

Natalie Peterson, City of Vallejo

Reggie Sironen, Insight Housing

Samantha Meyer, Eden Housing

Scott Mulvey, City Church

Tamara Murphy, Lutheran Social Services

Tara Beasley-Stansberry, Black Chamber of Commerce

3. Additions or Deletions

Item 8.1, the Racial Equity Improvement Project, was deleted and moved to November's Agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda – ACTION

Tamara Murphy made a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of item 8.1. Scott Mulvey 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 September 27, 2023, HFS CoC Meeting Minutes

Tara Beasley-Stansberry motioned to approve the August 23, 2023 meeting minutes. Brandon Wirth seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Akon Walker, Miranda Ramirez, Natalie Peterson, and Samantha Meyer abstained. There were no objections. The motion was approved.

6. Standing Agenda Items

6.1 Veterans Services Update

There were no updates.

6.2 Committee/Work Group Updates

6.2a Coordinated Entry System Committee

DeAndre Richard stated the last meeting was on October 4, 2023, where the CE Annual Report was presented, the meeting dates for 2024 were approved, and the VISPDAT was discussed along with a presentation from Pain Into Purpose about client-centered language. Additionally, two phone specialists were added to the Resource Connect Solano Team.

6.2b Governance Committee

John Eckstrom reported that the last meeting was on October 12, 2023, and there were several applications reviewed that will be brought forward at this meeting and they are still looking for applications for the Tribal Seat.

6.2c HMIS Users Committee

William Matson shared that they are looking at changes to the Release of Information that are now with County Counsel, in addition to an update to the User Agreement and suggested edits to the Data Quality Plan. William Matson also shared that emails would be going out about the Site Visits coming up November 13-16 in Solano County for HMIS Agencies to help them meet HUD's and the CoC requirements for the 2024 Audit.

6.2d Lived Experience Committee

Joey Carrizales stated that there were no current updates but invited attendance at the Public Meeting on December 5th and that they are still in the process of recruiting.

6.2e Youth Advisory Board Core Planning Work Group

Akon Walker stated that they are still moving towards the creation of the YAB and gave thanks to all who have been part of the Core Planning Team to make sure they are taking care of the first step to conduct focus groups. Akon Walker announced that there would be another focus group on October 26th in Vallejo and that they were looking forward to the continued input they are getting from youth regarding the needs in the community, especially as it relates to youth experiencing housing instability in impoverished areas. Akon Walker also stated that there are a few youth who have stated their interest in being involved in the YAB, a budget has been submitted for expenses related to having focus groups, and they are waiting for finalization on that process.

6.2f CA REAL Core Team

Kari Rader restated the goals of the Team 1) creating a new assessment tool to replace the VI-SPDAT and 2) Target Street Outreach. Miranda Ramirez added that they are looking for additional participants to join the two working groups, and put contact information in the chat.

7. New Business

7.1 CoC Board Representative Seat Elections

7.1a Domestic Violence/Victim Service Provider Representative

Mayra Sanchez from the Family Justice Center submitted her application to the Governance Board for initial review and it would now be voted on by the full CoC Board. The Board placed their votes, there were no abstentions or objections. Mayra Sanchez was approved as the Domestic Violence/Victim Service Provider Representative.

7.1b Nonprofit Homeless Assistance Provider Representative

Zach Anderson from Volunteers of America submitted his application to the Governance Board for initial review and it would now be voted on by the full CoC Board. The Board placed their votes, with two abstentions, one from Brandon Wirth, and the other from Kate Ward, there were no objections. Zach Anderson was approved as the Nonprofit Homeless Assistance Provider Representative.

7.2 Lived Experience Committee Co-Chair Election

Joey Carrizales was elected by the Lived Experience Committee (LEC) to be the new CoC Co-Chair. The CoC Board placed their votes for his approval. There were no abstentions or objections.

7.3 2024 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count

Becky Farris stated that jurisdictional leads had been identified and the PIT Count would be conducted on January 31, 2024, from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. Becky Farris stated that she is working with the team to provide outreach materials and backpacks full of helpful items that will be provided by Partnership HealthPlan and distributed to the unhoused on the day of the count. Becky Farris asked for those interested in receiving an informational presentation on the PIT Count process and reasoning, to reach out to her at rlfarris@solanocounty.com. Volunteers were encouraged to look at the [CAP Solano JPA](#) or [Housing First Solano CoC](#) website to access the Volunteer Portal starting November 1, 2023.

7.4 2024 Meeting Dates

Reneé Parham shared the proposed CoC Meeting dates for 2024 as reviewed by the Governance Committee, with an adjustment for the meetings to be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted. The Governance Committee recommended the dates. A roll call vote was taken. There were no abstentions or objections. The 2024 Meeting dates were approved. Please see the [2024 Meeting dates](#) on the CoC website.

8. Presentations

8.1 Racial Equity Improvement Project

This item was deleted from the Agenda and moved to the November Agenda.

8.2 Community Supports Partnership Program

Debra McAllister presented on Partnership HealthPlans' Community Supports, Enhanced Care Management and California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAim). Debra McAllister's presentation on the services, populations, provider requirements, capacity, rates, and contracting can be found in the [Public Folder](#).

9. Staff Updates

9.1 Staff Communications

- CAP Solano JPA Board Meeting 10/26/23 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the County Events Center 601 Texas St. Conference Room A

9.2 Funding Opportunities

- Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Youth Request for Proposal (RFP) released 10/2/23 and due 11/2/23. All information and documents are posted on the JPA Website.

10. Board and Public Comment

10.1 Comments from Board Members

DeAndre Richard asked if anyone had resources for people looking to improve their credit scores. Reggie Sironen suggested SPARKPOINT. Kari Rader said she was going to be meeting with Travis Credit Union and would ask.

Akon Walker announced the [Winter Warmth and Wellness Drive](#) for collecting new coats, blankets, hats, gloves, socks, and hygiene kits from November 1 – December 1, 2023. Akon Walker also discussed the [Foster and Homeless Youth Services Survey](#) being done by the Solano County Office of Education to collect community input and feedback to inform and better meet the educational needs of students experiencing housing instability in Solano County.

10.2 Board Member Intro –

- Samantha Meyer – Affordable Housing Developer Representative working with Eden Housing. Eden Housing is a nonprofit affordable housing developer with around 12,000 properties across California and a little over 22,000 tenants. Samantha Meyer has been with Eden Housing for a little over three years with a background in affordable housing policy and development and is the Program Manager for the Blue Oak Landing residence in Vallejo.
- Reggie Sironen – Homeless or Formerly Homeless Representative working with Insight Housing, previously known as Berkeley Food and Housing Project. Reggie Sironen shared his experience as being homeless and incarcerated to being released from jail and residing at Shelter Solano where he worked and went to school to become a case manager. Reggie Sironen was able to get another job at Berkeley Food and Housing where he worked his way from Job Specialist to Program Manager. Insight Housing offers services for Veterans including housing services, income and benefits specialists, housing navigation, and healthcare navigation.

10.3 Public Comments – There were no public comments.

11. Adjourn

Akon Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Vice Mayor Don Hendershot seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no abstentions or objections. The motion was approved and meeting adjourned.