Homeless Update and System Redesign

SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OCTOBER 9, 2018
“In [the Sonoma County Homeless System’s} current state, the decision-making process for funding and best practice implementation is so fragmented that without a significant restructuring these recommendations would not be achievable.”

-HomeBase Legal and Technical Assistance, September 2017
SONOMA COUNTY DECISION MAKING BODIES

Santa Rosa City Council
Various City Councils
Continuum of Care Board
CD Committee
Private Foundations
Board of Supervisors
Health Action

SONOMA COUNTY "LEAD AGENCIES"

Community Development Commission
Santa Rosa City Staff
Petaluma City Staff
Provider Staff
District Attorney

SONOMA COUNTY TASK GROUPS

HOST Street Outreach
Homeless Youth Task Force
Housing Development Sonoma Committee
Point in Time Count

Rent Sonoma County
Human Trafficking Task Force
Evaluation Review and Rank

Cocktail Parties/Events
Benefits SOAR Committee
DV Death Review
HMIS Policy Committee
Veterans Committee
Program Standards Committee

Upstream
Homeless Action
Health Care for the Homeless

Coordinated Entry
Steering Committee
Referral
Data Committee
Access and Assessment
IDEAL SYSTEM OF CARE SYMBIOSIS

PRIMARY DECISION-MAKING GROUP

Assigned duties and responsibilities

LEAD AGENCY

Provides support, data, and staffs task groups

Leadership, vision, and direction

TASK GROUPS
Goal:

To achieve *Functional Zero* homelessness in Sonoma County through utilization of a *Housing First* strategy.

*Functional Zero* is reached when the number of individuals experiencing homelessness within a community is less than the average number of individuals being connected with permanent housing each month.

*Housing First* is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.
SONOMA COUNTY HOMELESS SYSTEM OF CARE - GOVERNANCE

Roles & Responsibilities:

• Provide leadership and policy direction
• Develop county-wide homeless plan
• Set annual priorities for action
• Pursue strategies for significant impact
• Steward homeless plan implementation and funding
• Focus on plan implementation and prevent mission creep

• Ensure plan and program accountability
• Align public and private homeless funding to plan
• Act as public face for ending homelessness
• Serve as county Continuum of Care Board
• Build relationships across sectors
• Determine the necessary task groups to support the Leadership Group
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- Business
- Health Dept.
- Human Services Dept.
- Private Funders
- Education
- Public Safety
- Volunteer Center
- Hospitals
- Youth
- Non-Profit Housing
- Lived Experience
- Clinics
- Service Providers
- Housing Depts.
- Faith Based

4 TAC Members (chosen by TAC)
5 Elected Officials
October:
• County designation of Leadership Council representatives
• Recruitment of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

November:
• Selection of Technical Advisory Committee
• First meeting of Technical Advisory Committee
  ➢ Selection of TAC representatives to Leadership Council
  ➢ Establishment of key Task Groups

December:
• First meeting of Leadership Council
• Recommendations for Homeless Emergency Assistance Program funds
California State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)

- $12.1 million awarded to the Continuum of Care, to be spent over 2 years
- Must declare “Shelter Crisis”
- A broad range of “emergency” supports to individuals, families and transition-aged youth:
  - Services, including outreach, prevention services, navigation services, operating support
  - Rental assistance or subsidies, including rapid re-housing and eviction prevention
  - Wide range of eligible capital improvements, including permanent supportive housing
- Leadership Council must be formed by December 2018 to access and authorize funds
California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH)

- $843,907 for up to 2 years, administered by Community Development Commission
- Serving homeless individuals and families through:
  - Rapid Re-Housing
  - Operating subsidies for permanent housing units for homeless persons
  - Flexible housing subsidy funds
  - Operating support for emergency shelter & housing, including
    - Navigation centers
    - Street outreach
    - Shelter diversion and homelessness prevention
  - System planning and infrastructure needs (data, coordinated entry, planning)
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

• Approve the creation of a new leadership body for the Sonoma County Homeless System of Care

• Approve a revised Declaration of Shelter Crisis for Sonoma County to align with State requirements

• Designate the Community Development Commission as the recipient for California State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)

• Authorize the Community Development Commission to apply for and receive California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH) funds.