

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
MANAGER  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: HOMELESS SYSTEM OF CARE REDESIGN  
AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that 1) the Council, by motion, approve the Redesign Plan and formation of the Leadership Council and Technical Advisory Committee of the new Sonoma County Homeless System of Care, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated Continuum of Care (CoC) program for Sonoma County, and 2) the Council, by motion, approve the Mayor's appointment of two members of the Council to the nine-member Leadership Council.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, with support from HomeBase/The Center for Common Concerns, a national technical assistance provider for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (CDC) undertook an examination of Sonoma County's homeless system of care. The CDC is the lead agency for the Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC) which receives approximately \$3 million annually in HUD CoC funding. HomeBase presented preliminary recommendations for redesigning the system of care to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on August 22, 2017, and the City Council on September 26, 2017. On November 7, 2017, a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the City Council was held during which representatives from each body were appointed to a Joint County of Sonoma and City of Santa Rosa Homeless System of Care Redesign Ad Hoc Committee.

As a result of the HomeBase study and ten months of planning between staff, stakeholders, and the Ad Hoc Committee, including meeting with the existing CoC Board, the Ad Hoc Committee developed a governance structure for a new Sonoma County Homeless System of Care, comprised of a Leadership Council and a Technical Advisory Committee, outlined in the Redesign Plan (attached). It is necessary to have the new Leadership Council formed by or before November 2018 in order to authorize and access approximately \$12.1 million in State funding through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), which will become available in January 2019.

Staff is seeking 1) Council's approval of the Redesign Plan and formation of the Leadership Council and Technical Advisory Committee of the new Sonoma County Homeless System of Care, the HUD mandated CoC program for Sonoma County and 2) Council's approval of the Mayor's appointment of Council members Julie Combs and Tom Schwedhelm to the Leadership Council.

### BACKGROUND

1. In 2017, with support from HomeBase/The Center for Common Concerns, a national technical assistance provider for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (CDC) undertook an examination of Sonoma County's homeless system of care, including its decision-making process for funding and implementing best practices for ending homelessness. The CDC is the lead agency for the Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC) which receives approximately \$3 million annually in HUD CoC funding.
2. HomeBase's study highlighted challenges in Sonoma County's current approach to ending homelessness, including a fragmented structure for funding decisions and implementation of Housing First, a lack of coordination among the whole system of care, and a lack of overall vision in Sonoma County for ending homelessness.
3. HomeBase presented preliminary recommendations for redesigning the system of care to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on August 22, 2017, and the City Council on September 26, 2017.
4. A joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the City Council was held on November 7, 2017, during which Supervisors Hopkins and Gore, Mayor Coursey and Council Members Combs and Schwedhelm were appointed to a Joint County of Sonoma and City of Santa Rosa Homeless System of Care Redesign Ad Hoc Committee.
5. As a result of the HomeBase study and ten months of planning between staff, stakeholders, and the Ad Hoc Committee, including meeting with the existing CoC Board, the Ad Hoc Committee developed a governance structure for the new Sonoma County Homeless System of Care, comprised of a nine-member primary decision-making group, the Leadership Council, and a 25-member Technical Advisory Committee. Details are provided in the attached Redesign Plan.

### PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On September 26, 2017, Council received a report from HomeBase with preliminary recommendations for redesigning Sonoma County's homeless system of care.

On November 7, 2017, a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the City Council was held during which Supervisors Hopkins and Gore, Mayor Coursey and Council Members

Combs and Schwedhelm were appointed to a Joint County of Sonoma and City of Santa Rosa Homeless System of Care Redesign Ad Hoc Committee.

## ANALYSIS

1. The vision of the new Sonoma County Homeless System of Care is: To achieve functional zero homelessness in Sonoma County through the utilization of a Housing First strategy. Functional zero, used in this context, is reached when the number of homeless individuals or families, whether sheltered or unsheltered, is no greater than the monthly housing placement of all homeless individuals or families. 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.
2. The nine-member Leadership Council will serve as the CoC Board and include the following positions:
  - Five elected officials from the three HUD entitlement jurisdictions: two from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, two from the Santa Rosa City Council, and one from Petaluma City Council.
  - One Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) member who is currently experiencing homelessness or has experienced homelessness in the past five years (lived experience).
  - Three TAC members elected by the TAC which represent a diversity of sectors, including rural and urban constituencies. These TAC members may not be elected jurisdictional officials or staff of jurisdictions represented by the five elected officials on the Leadership Council.
3. The TAC will be comprised of 25 voting members who will serve on at least one of six Task Groups: Coordinated Entry and Housing First, Performance Management and Evaluation, Data Initiatives, Housing Unit Production/Rapid Re-Housing, System Funding, and Emergent Issues. These members will be high-level decision-makers (not line staff) from the following relevant organizations, as identified in the HUD regulations for establishing a CoC: nonprofit homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless individuals.
4. It is necessary to have the new Leadership Council formed by or before November 2018 in order to authorize and access approximately \$12.1 million in State funding through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), a \$500 million block grant designed to provide funding to CoCs and large cities with populations over 330,000 to provide immediate emergency assistance to people experiencing homelessness.

The Round 1 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was issued on September 5, 2018, with applications due by December 2018 and funds awarded in January 2019.

5. The proposed implementation timeline is outlined below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
September 2018	Appointment of Elected Officials to Leadership Council	Board of Supervisors, Cities of Santa Rosa and Petaluma
October 2018	Finalize Governance Charter for Leadership Council	Sonoma County Community Development Commission (Lead Agency)
November 2018	Selection of Technical Advisory Committee	Leadership Council Selection Committee
November 2018	Appointment of Remaining 4 Members of Leadership Council	Technical Advisory Committee
December 2018	First Meeting of Leadership Council and Approval of HEAP Funding	Leadership Council

6. Staff is seeking 1) Council's approval of the Redesign Plan and formation of the Leadership Council and Technical Advisory Committee of the new Sonoma County Homeless System of Care, the HUD mandated CoC program for Sonoma County and 2) Council's approval of the Mayor's appointment of Council members Julie Combs and Tom Schwedhelm to the Leadership Council.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this item does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

#### BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

#### NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

#### ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Sonoma County Homeless System of Care Leadership Plan (Redesign Plan).

CONTACT

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