



# Overview of Homeless System of Care Study Session

City Council Meeting  
September 26, 2017

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# Federal Policies Drive Sonoma County's Local Efforts

## HEARTH Act 2009

- Simplified Targeted Homeless Assistance (“Continuum of Care” funding) rules
- Aligned assistance with evidence-informed practices
- Created funding for Rapid Re-Housing nationwide
- Required Coordinated Entry focusing on most vulnerable, in every community

## *Opening Doors*

## Fed Strategic Plan

- Mandated by the HEARTH Act
- Defined metrics for ending homelessness:
  - Immediate access to shelter and permanent housing
- Designated special populations: veterans, chronically homeless, families, youth

# HUD Requirements: Continuum of Care

- Engage government, non-profits, homeless and formerly homeless persons, and community to end homelessness
- Adopt Housing First strategies
- Sonoma County 2016 award of \$3 million for 19 projects county-wide
- Administered by Community Development Commission
  - Room for organizational improvement

# HUD Requirements: Homeless Data Initiatives

## Annual Point-In-Time Homeless Count

Steady decline in homelessness since 2011, due to

- Fewer people entering homelessness
- Rapid Re-Housing for more than 800 households



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2009-2017). Sonoma County Homeless Census.

## Point-In-Time Housing Inventory

Type	Beds
Shelter (year-round)	605
Winter shelter	210
Transitional housing	331
Rapid Re-Housing	339
Permanent supportive housing	812
Permanent supportive housing in development	241

# HUD Requirements: Performance Measurement

Required by HEARTH  
Act

Incorporated into  
Commission and City  
contracts and  
deliverables

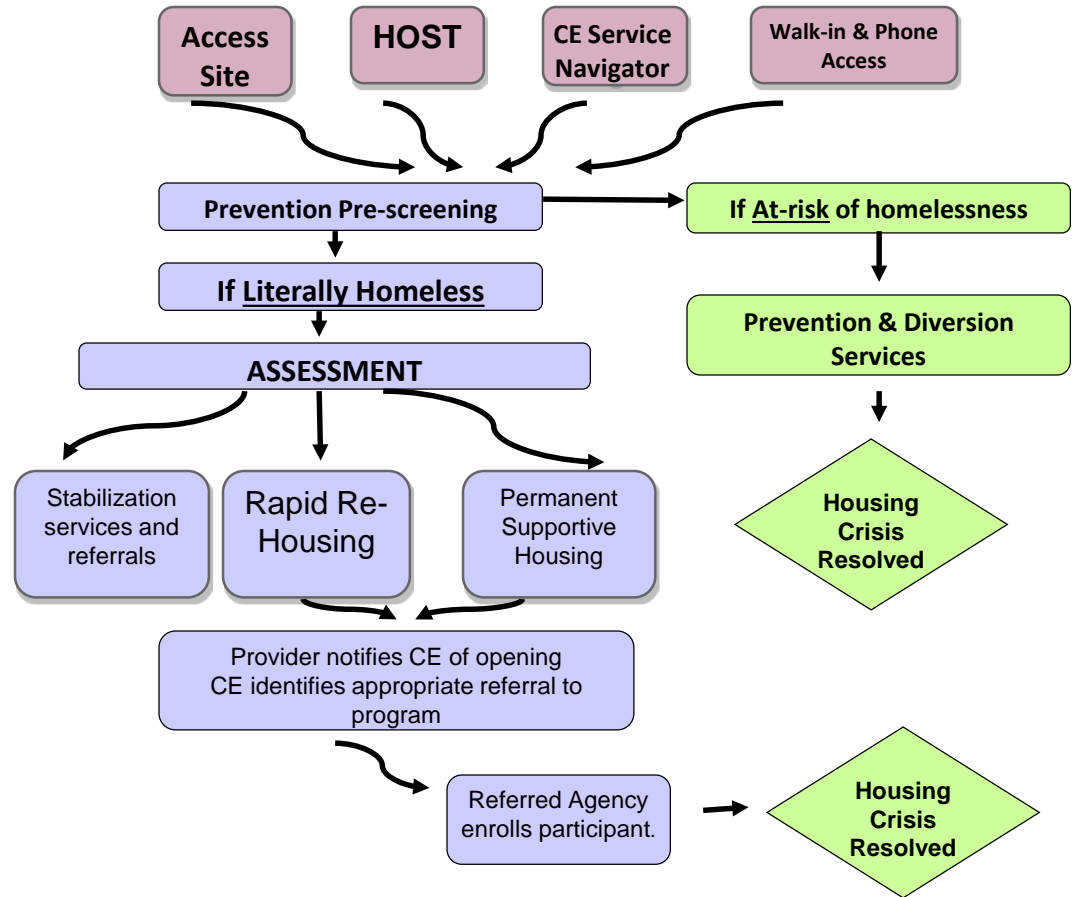
Key Performance Measures	2015-16 Performance	Change from 2014-15
<b>Total number of homeless persons</b>		
a. Point In Time Count Number	2,906	-191
b. Served Year-Round	3,883	+1,257
<b>Rate of Return to Homelessness</b>		
a. Within 6 months	14%	-2%
b. Within 12 months	6%	-2%
c. Within 24 months	28%	-1%
<b>Successful Exits from Homeless Services</b>		
a. From Shelter or Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing	a. 37%	+1%
b. Retention of Permanent Housing (by Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing participants)	b. 98%	+6%

# HUD Requirements: Coordinated Entry System

Planning began 2011

Pilot opened 2015:  
reduced average days  
homeless from 196 to 57

Expansion open by  
January 2018



# HUD Requirements: Housing First Systems

- Low barriers to entry
- Connect people to permanent housing as quickly as possible
- Strategic targeting of Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing resources
- California law requires system-wide implementation by July 2019

# Sonoma County Funding & Decision Making

**Community Development  
Commission: \$4 million**

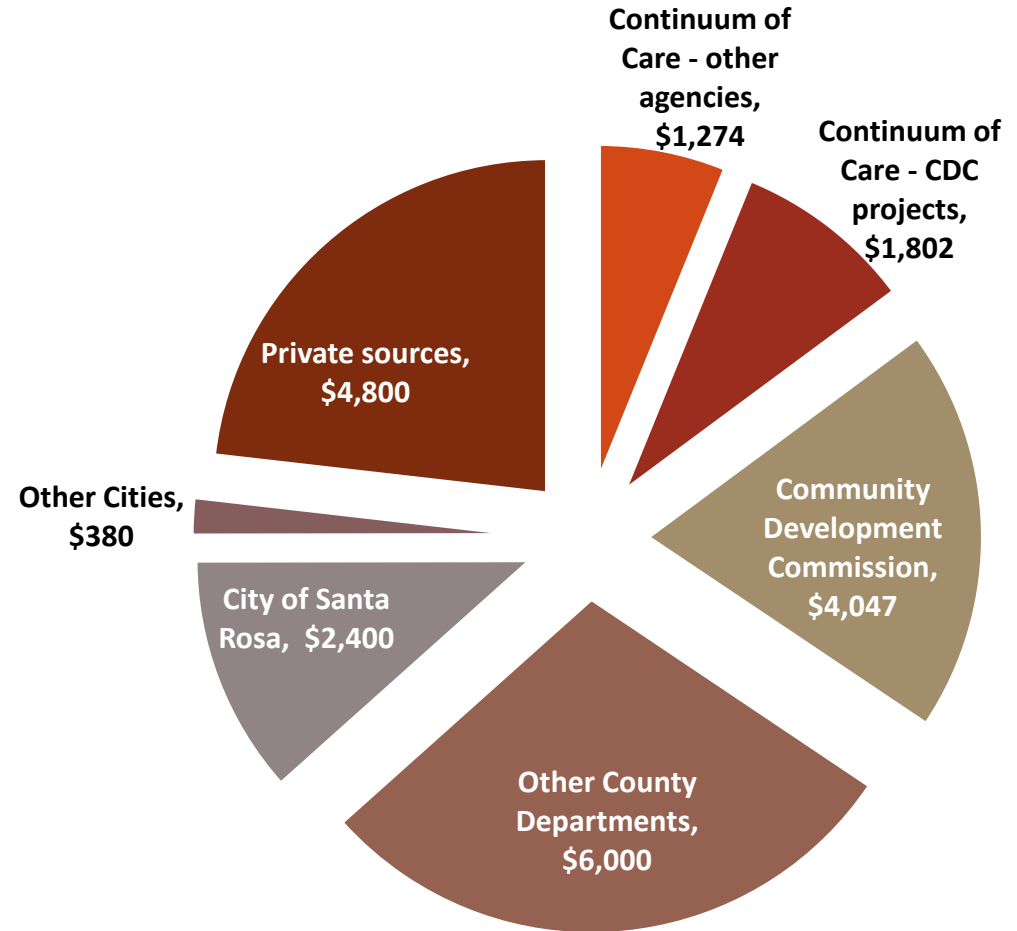
*(plus \$1.8 million Continuum of Care funds)*

**City of Santa Rosa: \$2.4 million**

**Other County Departments  
Homeless Services Funding:  
\$6 million**

**Need for better coordination  
with other funding streams**

Homeless Services Funding, 2017-18  
(thousands of dollars)





# Local Funders and Decision-Makers

- Other Municipalities: \$380,000 in FY 2017-18
- Private Funders: at least \$4.8 million in FY 2017-18
  - Community Foundation: \$504,500 (including Sonoma Wine Country Weekend)
  - St. Joseph Health Systems: \$800,000 Well Being Trust in 2018

*Increasing coordination on funding policies and deliverables*

# Sonoma County Safety Net Services

**Strategic Priority:** ensure more vulnerable people have better access to services and support they need to improve health and well-being

- Close the gaps in the safety net
- Improve coordination and share data more effectively
- Make it as easy as possible for people experiencing poverty and homelessness to get the help they need

Departments of Human Services, Health Services (including Behavioral Health), Child Support, Probation, Community Development, and the Public Defender

*Presented to City Council May 24, 2017*

# Sonoma County Safety Net Services

## Human Services Examples:

### Adult Protective Services

Child welfare, foster care, transition-aged youth

CalFresh, General Assistance, Medi-Cal

Sonoma WORKS

# Sonoma County Safety Net Services

## Health Services Examples:

*No Place Like Home*

Whole Person Care

Community Intervention Program

Mobile Support Team

Crisis Stabilization

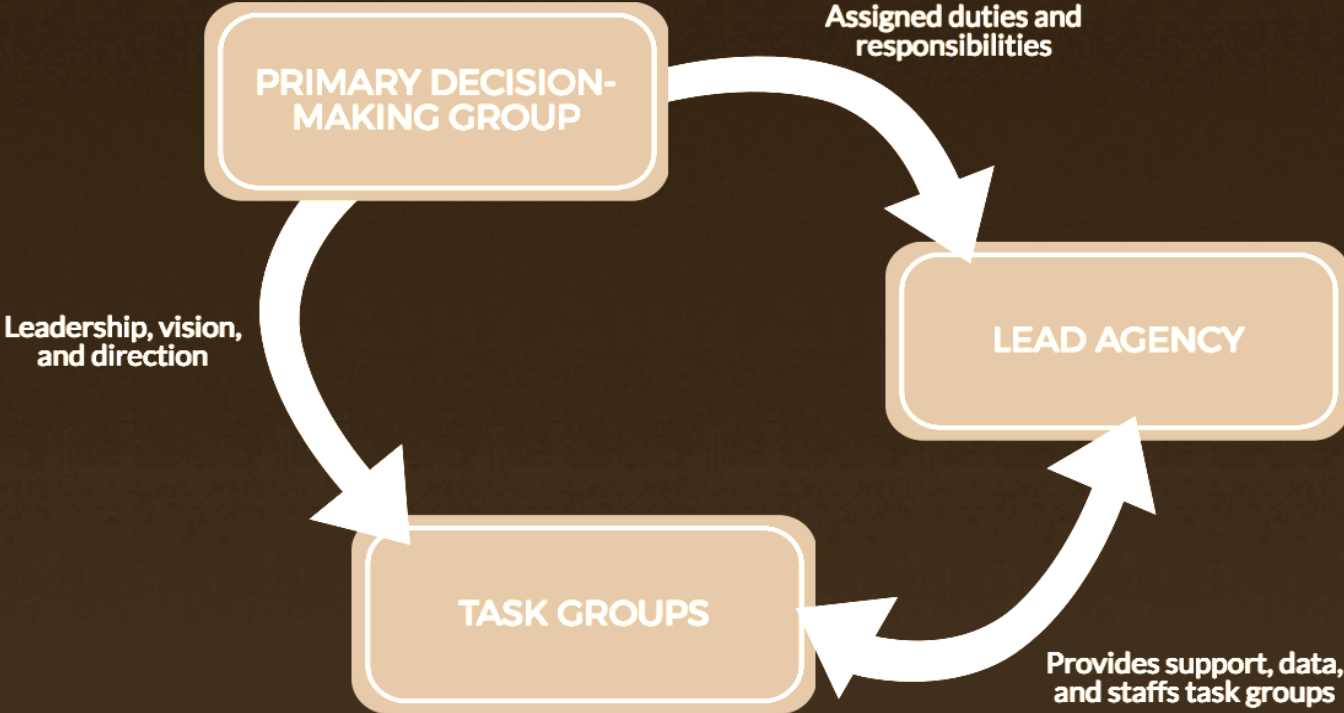
# Homeless System Redesign Call for Change

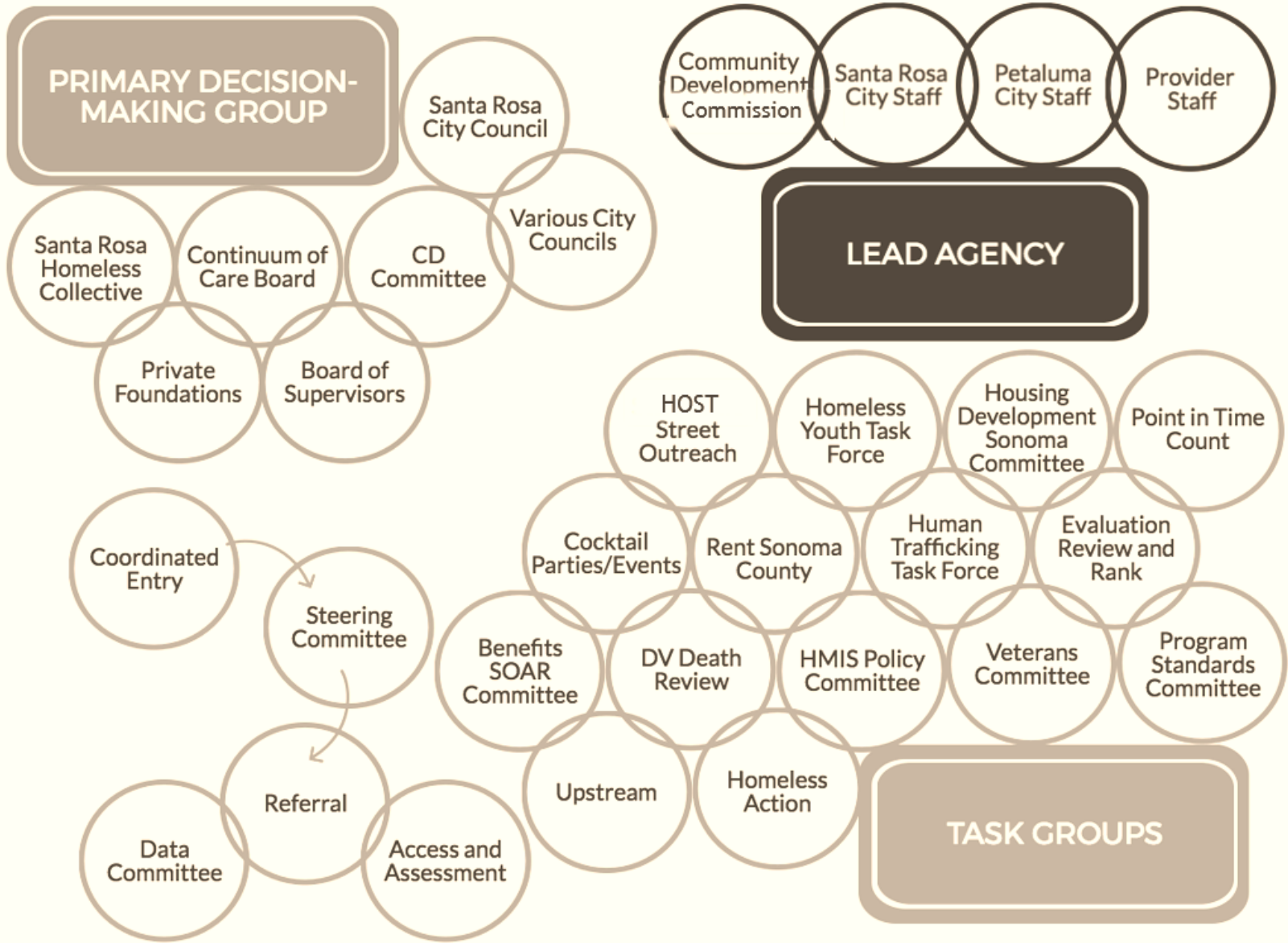
- Repeated shortfalls in available public funding to meet the need
- Recognition of need to more fully operationalize Housing First
- Large and growing number of groups assuming leadership role
- Providers seek predictability
- Alignment with *Safety Net* and *Housing for All* Strategic Priorities

# Homeless System Redesign Scope

- Technical Assistance for Commission
  - Revise funding policies to address scarce resources
  - Incorporate performance measures into contracts
  - Assist with implementation of Housing First practice
- Organizational Assessment
  - How to best organize vision and decision-making
- HomeBase: National HUD Technical Assistance provider
  - Patrick Wigmore, Lead

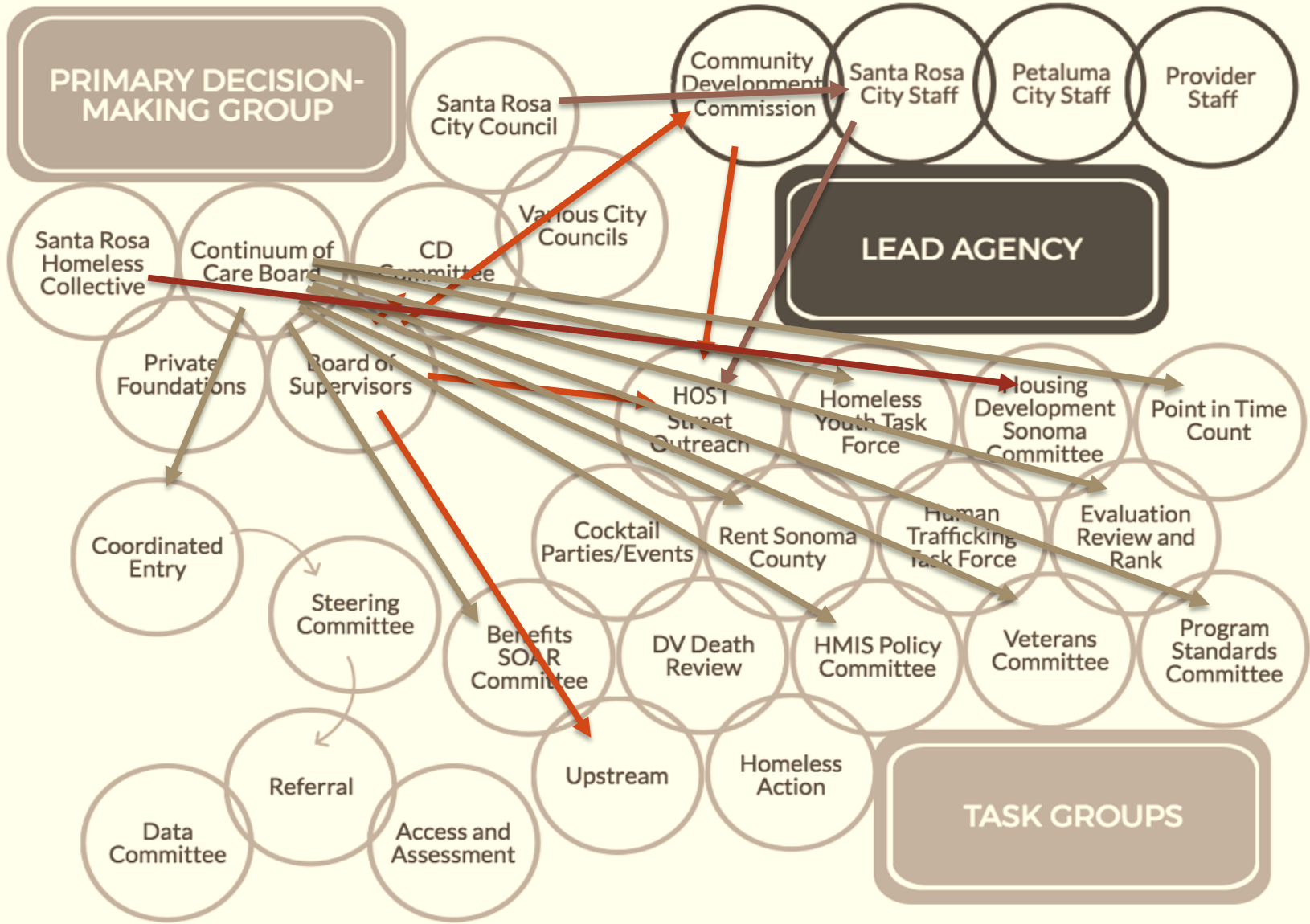
# IDEAL SYSTEM OF CARE SYMBIOSIS





## Current Organization





# Homeless System Redesign

## Next Steps

- Coordinate funding processes and deliverables across jurisdictions and funders
- Drive data integration
- Continue technical assistance for Housing First
- Continue to convene cities and others
- Refresh contracting practices

## Preliminary Recommendations

- Rebrand and revise Continuum of Care
- Establish a unified Primary Decision Making body

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## Discussion

