



**Plumas-Sierra Counties
CoC Advisory Board Meeting
May 23, 2023
10:00am**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

2. Establish Quorum (In-Person)

A quorum of voting members, including Tracey Ferguson, Aimee Heaney, Laurie Marsh, and Cathy Rahmeyer, was established. Laurie Marsh was acting as Lea Salas' alternate, as Lea Salas has retired from Sierra County Behavioral Health Department.

Other participating members present include James Wilson, Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal Plan, and Kristy Pierson, Plumas County Behavioral Health Department MHSA Coordinator, and Sharon Sousa, Interim Director of Plumas County Behavioral Health.

3. Introductions

There were no new introductions.

4. Public Comments (limited to 3 mins. per comment)

No public comment was presented.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2023, Regular Meeting

Board members reviewed for approval the regular meeting minutes from March 28, 2023.

There were no corrections or changes. A motion to approve was made by Cathy Rahmeyer and seconded by Aimee Heaney. Motion was unanimously approved.

6. Discussion

A. NorCal CoC Executive Board Meeting Updates (Plumas and Sierra Counties)

- i. April 20, 2023, Full Member Meeting did not meet due to lack of quorum. The next Full Member Meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:00pm.
- ii. Brown Act requirements for meetings.

There has been no clarity from Lead Agency per Shasta County Counsel on whether the Brown Act allows non-COVID-19 remote (not in-person) participation. Tracey Ferguson stated there are still questions and no answer to-date from Lead Agency. More to come.

- iii. Process for project/grant review (at minimum evaluate Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)- and HUD-funded projects once per year).

Comments are being sought about having a committee formed for grant administration. Would the Advisory Board (AB) be responsible for this oversight? A minimum of ESG and HUD funded projects must be reviewed annually. Matrix or checklist and evaluation tools will be created by Lead Agency. Oversight responsibility to be discussed at the Executive Board. The necessary evaluations will be tied to project outcomes and funding. Criteria will be different for each project. HUD's 78.7 Rule states the responsibilities of care. The CoC must be in compliance with these HUD criteria/requirements. Cathy Rahmeyer added that NorCal CoC receives all administrative funds for this oversight. She went on to say that local CoCs should have more local control and funding independent of the Lead Agency. The impact of these issues has not been addressed. Laurie Marsh added that Lead Agency hasn't stated when the checklist will be completed.

- iv. ESG 2023 Status (anticipate HUD to release funds in June 2023 – Lead Agency NOFA thereafter).

Unknown when Lead Agency will release a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Cathy Rahmeyer stated this isn't timely nor consistent. She added that this is a set-up for failure process, because of the small windows of time allowed for funding, completing program activities, and subsequently having to give funds back. She stated grantees end up leaving money on the table.

Sharon Sousa contributed that Plumas County Behavioral Health doesn't have the capacity to apply for these program funds and that it's bigger than what Behavioral Health provides to their serious mental illness (SMI) population.

Cathy Rahmeyer added that PCIRC seeks other funding that is less onerous. The populations that PCIRC serves are still going to be served.

- v. Lead Agency, Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency, contact email address is norcalcoc@co.shasta.ca.us

7. New Business/Action Items

- A. NorCal CoC Governance Charter review proposed edits and provide Advisory Board input (see attachment) – discussion and possible action

Page 8 of the Governance Charter shows that Lead Agency is now Shasta County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) – this is the codification of Lead Agency. To solicit a new outside lead agency can be procured through an RFP to allow other potential lead agencies. Page 9 – HMIS Lead and Systems Administrator (SA). The CoC Executive Board will enter an MOU with the HMIS SA; language states that this may be extended after a performance review every 5 years. Laurie Marsh stated that she supports a possible RFP process, because administration has been slow to respond and fund program applications. At the last Executive Board meeting, there seemed to be a power struggle between the Shasta County and NorCal CoC Lead Agency (HHS). An outside RFP process could possibly help Lead Agency organization get its business done. Page 10 – decision on voting majorities (unanimous, simple majority, or $\frac{3}{4}$ vote). There needs to be a system of checks and balances vs. no accountability of Lead Agency. Review years and the MOU language concerning the performance review needs to be clarified. On Page 4, agency language needs to be clarified.

The EB has scheduled a special meeting to be held on June 1, 2023, to discuss.

After board discussion, Cathy Rahmeyer motioned to grant Tracey Ferguson authority as chair of the Plumas-Sierra Counties CoC AB to provide this feedback to the NorCal CoC EB at its special meeting. Aimee Heaney seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

B. Appointments due to retirement of Lea Salas, Sierra County Behavioral Health

- a. Plumas-Sierra Counties Advisory Board Membership Director
- b. Nor Cal CoC Executive Board Member – Sierra County

Items B(a) and B(b) were taken together. Tracey Ferguson motioned to appoint Laurie Marsh as Membership Director (voting member) and the Executive Board member for Sierra County. Cathy Rahmeyer seconded. The action items were unanimously approved.

C. Addressing Homelessness (standing item)

PCIRC – Cathy Rahmeyer reported that the agency is working hard to continue the building of the Northstar Navigation Center and Ohana Village, and that the Workforce Development-focused Dragonfly Café is progressing. PCIRC has received a new grant for parolees of the Bureau of State Community Corrections (BSCC), which is funding that allows continuation of a prior program.

Plumas County Behavioral Health – Sharon Sousa, Interim Director, stated that there is no one currently in the transitional housing program units; Plumas Rural Services gave Plumas County Behavioral Health notice of discontinuing their contract for managing transitional housing. The Behavioral Health Department is discussing the possibility of Environmental Alternatives (EA) to continue the transitional housing program. For Emergency lodging, Plumas County Behavioral Health houses their clients through motel sheltering and they are investigating how to run this program in house at Plumas County Behavioral Health as opposed to contracting for services.

Related to housing Plumas County Behavioral Health clients and Plumas County's 5-year PHLA grant – Tracey Ferguson added that she needs to check in and understand what has and has not been provided from the state with PLHA funds with Che Shannon, Plumas County Behavioral Health fiscal staff, managing the PLHA grant financials. Further, how the 2024 Care Court will be implemented was discussed and the requirement to provide housing. There may be overlap, as participants may be the same and similar clients that Plumas County Behavioral Health is now providing services to. While in Care Court, Plumas County Behavioral Health is responsible for housing and helping clients find permanent housing.

Sierra County – Board discussed that the PLHA grant will need to remove the Housing and Community Development (HCD) *No Place Like Home (NPLH)* funding language. Laurie Marsh added that Sherry Morgado, of Housing Tools, recommended changing the language in their grant, because both counties are not seeking nor are eligible for NPLH funding source. Also, in Sierra County, there are now more people at risk for homelessness.

D. New Member Applications (standing item)

None were received.

8. Committee Appointments (standing item)

None were discussed.

7. Requests for Letters of Support (standing item)

None were received.

8. Committee/Workgroup Updates

A. PIT Committee – 2023 PIT Count Update

Draft report was sent out in March 2023. There has been no request for review and commenting. Plumas County's count included 58 sheltered and 76 unsheltered individuals. Sierra County's count was 12 unsheltered. Sierra does not count sheltered individuals. To validate the data, Cathy Rahmeyer stated that she approves these numbers, as stated in the draft report.

B. HMIS/CEP Committee –

There was no committee meeting.

9. Agency Updates – Plumas County Behavioral Health is in talks with the Plumas District Hospital (PDH) Greenville Clinic to acquire space for therapy and medication prescribing, two days a week for telehealth and the in-person prescriber.

10. County Updates – Tracey Ferguson provided the update concerning RCHCD, Plumas County's Development Sponsor for the East Quincy permanent supportive housing project. They will be at the June CoC Advisory Board meeting for a full presentation. There was discussion of NIMBYism and the need for widespread public education and a community meeting about this permanent supportive housing project. Cathy Rahmeyer recommends finding a county that already has an equivalent program to showcase that this model can be successful.

11. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

- RCHDC Plumas County (East Quincy) permanent supportive housing project presentation
- Governance Charter edits update
- Brown Act meeting and public comment requirements status
- Project grant review and oversight update

12. Adjournment

Aimee Heaney moved to adjourn, and Cathy Rahmeyer seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2023 (10:00AM)

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec.12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.