



Lake County Continuum of Care

Governing By-Laws

2022

The Lake County Continuum of Care is a coordinating group that aligns resources to facilitate solutions to end homelessness in our community.

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Lake County Continuum of Care

Article I – Organization

Section 1 - Organization's Name

The name of the organization is Lake County Continuum of Care, hereafter referred to as the LCCoC.

Section 2 - Geographic Area

The LCCoC is responsible for the area that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has designated CA-529. The boundary of the LCCoC is Lake County, California, hereinafter referred to as the "geographic area".

Section 3 – Purpose

A. The LCCoC serves as the Housing Urban Development (HUD) designated primary decision-making group, whose primary purpose and scope is to implement the Continuum of Care program, which is authorized by Subtitle C of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381-11389).

B. Comprised of public and private agencies, along with community members and previous and current residents experiencing homelessness; the LCCoC is designed to assist homeless or at risk of being homeless individuals and families by:

- 1.) Assessing their needs.
- 2.) Providing affordable housing services
- 3.) Developing and implementing a Continuum of Care Strategic Plan.

C. The specific purpose of the LCCoC is:

- 1.) Promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.
- 2.) Assist individuals and families who are homeless, at risk for homelessness, very low or low- moderate- income, to attain and maintain safe, decent affordable housing and supportive services.
- 3.) Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families.
- 4.) Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- 5.) Coordinate the census of homeless persons in the geographic areas, required by HUD, otherwise known as the Point in Time (PIT) Count.

Section 4 – Collaborative Applicant

Lake County Department of Behavioral Health Services will function as the Collaborative Applicant, the Administrative Entity, and submit grants to HUD, California, other federal programs, and to-be-determined, on behalf of the LCCoC.

Section 5 – Principal Office

The LCCoC shall have its principal office located at Lake County Behavioral Health Services, 6302 Thirteenth Avenue, P.O. Box 1024, Lucerne, CA 95458.

Article II - General Membership Establishment

Section 1 - Organization Representatives

Representatives from relevant organizations within the geographic area will be members of the LCCoC. “Within the geographic area” is defined as being located and/or providing relevant services within the geographic area.

Relevant organizations include nonprofit homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social services providers, mental health providers, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, and organizations that serve veterans and homeless and formerly homeless individuals.

The list of organizational groups noted is expanded to include entities that provide substance abuse recovery, youth services, employment services, neighborhood associations, civic organizations, and mainstream resources.

Organization representatives must be clearly designated as such on their membership application form. Each approved organization is authorized one vote from their perspective organization. Organizations like the County of Lake, that has multiple departments and specialized branches within those departments may elect to have one voting member represent each branch, so long as it is clearly outlined in the membership application form. Please see Article VII – Section 3 Voting.

Section 2 – Community-At-Large Voting Representatives

There will be an unrestricted number of community-at-large members representing the general community. However, any such member must reside in the Lake County area.

Community-at-large voting members may not be involved as a staff member, board member, or volunteer, or compensated volunteer with any organization that is a member of the LCCoC.

Members who are volunteers and receive no financial compensation may be voting members of the LCCoC. A LCCoC member, therefore, cannot represent both an organization and be a community-at-large member. Their designation, community-at-large or organizational representative must be clearly designated in their membership application form.

Community-members-at-large will be asked to offer four hours of service to committee work, of their choice, each year.

Section 3 – Residents Non-Voting Members /Guests

Lake County residents are welcome to attend general meetings and participate in standing committees of the Lake County Continuum of Care. Residents do not need to be community-at-large voting members to share their time, expertise, or lived experience to assist or help the LCCoC. Residents are often recruited for the PIT Count and can be a valuable resource in sharing ideas at meetings. Residents attending and participating in Standing Committees will not be able to vote, should a vote arise.

Section 4 - Nomination for Membership

A public invitation within the geographic area for new members to join will be extended at least annually in accordance with the Interim Rule of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) as described in § 578.7 Responsibilities of the Continuum of Care.

Membership is achieved by: 1) A request to be added to the LCCoC by completing and submitting a Membership Application online at www.lakecoc.org and 2) a commitment to actively participate in the responsibilities of the LCCoC, **which will include four hours of committee participation**. Election to the LCCoC General Membership can happen during any scheduled meeting and is determined by a majority vote of all voting members present. New members and/or organizations approved are active immediately.

Section 5 – Executive Committee Establishment

The Lake County Continuum of Care will establish an Executive Committee comprised of ~~eight~~ **nine up to 16** voting members to act on its behalf using the process established as a requirement by § 578.7 (a)(3)1 and must comply with the conflict-of-interest requirements a § 578.95(b)2.

The Executive Committee will include a CoC Chair, Vice-Chair, ~~a homeless or formerly Homeless Person~~, and the Chair of each of the following LCCoC Committees: Strategic Planning, Point-in-Time Count, Homeless Management Information System and Coordinated Entry Working Group, Performance Review and ~~Grant Working Group~~, Grant Selection Committee, Interfaith Committee, **Housing Navigators Committee and an Equity Advisory Committee which will include six voting representatives for 2022, including a homeless or formerly homeless person, Veteran representative, LGBTQ+ representative, Hispanic representative, a Native American representative, and Person of Color Other than White representative** The committee will also include the Collaborative Applicant's representative and the Executive Committee Secretary who will be non-voting members on the Executive Committee.

The LCCoC Executive Committee will be representative of the relevant organizations, agencies and of projects serving homeless subpopulations required by HUD which are: chronic substance abusers, chronically homeless individuals, chronically homeless families, families, persons with HIV/AIDS, seriously mentally ill, veterans, veterans-females, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth under age 18 and youth aged 18-24.

Nominations for Executive Committee members will be made by the general members of the LCCoC General Membership. Members of the LCCoC Executive Committee will be elected during the first regular meeting of the new calendar year. The election of Executive Committee members will be determined by a majority vote of all voting members present. Executive Committee members will hold office for a term of two or three years, to ensure staggered terms. Each Executive Committee Member may serve up to two consecutive terms.

Vacancies among the Executive Committee membership may be filled by a vote of the majority of the LCCoC General Membership at any meeting a quorum is present. The elected successor will be the committee chair for the remainder of the term, of the person vacating the Executive Committee. At the end of the term, a regular election will be held as described in this governing document.

Article III - Responsibilities of the Lake County Continuum of Care (LCCoC)

The four major responsibilities of the LCCoC consists of (1) operating the Continuum of Care, (2) designating a Homeless Management Information System for the Continuum of Care, (3) planning for the Continuum of Care, (4) preparing an application for funds which is in accordance with § 587.7. Responsibilities of the Continuum of Care and in the Interim Rule and § 578.79 Preparing an Application for Funds and are as follows:

Section 1 - Operation of the Continuum of Care.

- 1.) Hold meetings for the full membership, with published agendas, at least four times a year.
- 2.) Make an invitation for new members to join publicly available within the geographic area at least annually.
- 3.) Adopt and follow a written process, included in Article II Section 4, to select an Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Continuum of Care. The process must be reviewed, updated, and approved by the LCCoC at least once every year, in accordance with the Interim Rule of the HEARTH Act, as described in § 578.7 Responsibilities of the Continuum of Care.
- 4.) Appoint additional committees, sub-committees, and workgroups.
- 5.) In consultation with the collaborative applicant and the HMIS lead, develop, follow, and update annually the governing by-laws, which will include all procedures and policies needed to comply with Article III Section 2 HMIS requirements as prescribed by HUD, a code of conduct and recusal process for committee chair(s), and any person acting on behalf of the Executive Committee.
- 6.) Consult with recipients and sub-recipients to establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type, monitor recipient and sub-recipient performance, evaluate outcomes, and act against poor performers.
- 7.) Evaluate outcomes of projects funded under the LCCoC grant funded projects, and report to the state and/or HUD.

- 8.) In consultation with recipients of LCCoC project funds within the geographical area, establish and operate either a centralized or coordinated assessment system that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and services. The LCCoC must develop a specific policy to guide the operation of the centralized or coordinated assessment system on how its system will address the needs of individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from non-victim service providers.
This system must comply with any requirements by HUD by Notice.
- 9.) In consultation with recipients of LCCoC project funds within the geographic area, establish and consistently follow written standards for providing LCCoC assistance. At a minimum, these written standards must include:
 - (a) Policies and procedures for evaluating individual and family eligibility for assistance under this section.
 - (b) Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive transitional housing assistance.
 - (c) Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive rapid rehousing assistance.
 - (d) Standards for determining what percentage or amount of rent each program participant must pay while receiving rapid rehousing assistance.
 - (e) Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive permanent supportive housing.
 - (f) Where the Continuum is designated a high-performing community, as described in Subpart G, policies and procedures set forth in 24 CFR 576.400(e)(vi), (e)(vii), (e)(viii), and (e)(ix). In governance not by-laws.

Section 2 - Requirement for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- 1.) Recommend a single Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the geographically area.
- 2.) Recommend an eligible applicant to manage HMIS, which will be known as the HMIS Lead.
- 3.) Review, revise and approve a privacy plan, security plan, and data quality plan for the HMIS.
- 4.) Ensure consistent participation of recipients and sub-recipients in the HMIS.
- 5.) Ensure the HMIS is administered in compliance with requirements prescribed by HUD.

Section 3 - Lake County Continuum of Care Planning

- 1.) Coordinating the implementation of a housing and service system within the geographical area that meets the needs of the homeless individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families. At a minimum such system encompasses the following:
 - (a) Outreach, engagement, and assessment.
 - (b) Shelter, housing, and supportive services.

- (c) Prevention strategies.
- 2.) Planning for and conducting, as least biennially, a point-in-time count of homeless persons within the geographic area that meets the following requirements:
 - (a) Homeless persons who are living in a place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans must be counted as unsheltered homeless persons.
 - (b) Persons living in emergency shelters and transitional housing projects must be counted as sheltered homeless persons.
 - (c) Other requirements established by HUD by Notice.
- 3.) Conducting an annual gaps analysis of the homeless needs and services available within the geographic area.
- 4.) Providing information required to complete the Consolidated Plan within the LCCoC's geographic area.
- 5.) Consulting with state and local government grant project recipients within the LCCoC Geographic area, on the plan for allocating grant project funds and reporting on and evaluating the performance of LCCoC grant project recipients and sub-recipients.

Section 4 - Preparing an Application for Funds

In compliance with § 578.9, the Lake County Continuum of Care, through the Collaborative Applicant, will:

- 1.) Assist in the recommendation process for the development of applications and approve the submission of applications in response to a Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) published by HUD under § 578.19 of this subpart.
- 2.) Determine if one application for funding will be submitted for all projects within the geographical area or if more than one application for the projects within the geographic area:
 - (a) If more than one application will be submitted, designate an eligible applicant to be the collaborative applicant that will collect and combine the required application information from all applicants and for all projects within the geographic area that the LCCoC has selected funding. The collaborative applicant will also apply for LCCoC planning activities. If the LCCoC is an eligible applicant, it may designate itself.
 - (b) If only one application will be submitted, that applicant will be the collaborative applicant and will collect and combine the required application information from all projects within the geographic area that the LCCoC has selected for funding and apply for Continuum of Care planning activities.
- 3.) The LCCoC retains all its responsibilities, even if it designates one or more eligible applicants other than itself to apply for funds on behalf of the Continuum. This includes approving the LCCoC application.

Article IV - LCCoC Executive Committee

Section 1 - Executive Committee

- 1.) The LCCoC Executive Committee shall be comprised of ~~eight-nine~~ up to 14 voting members to act on the LCCoC's behalf.
- 2.) LCCoC Executive Committee members will not be compensated for their services.
- 3.) Five committee members make a quorum.
- 4.) At Executive Committee meetings, business items may be decided by arriving at a consensus. The Secretary and Collaborative Applicant Representative, also known as the Administrative Entity, are non-voting members. When a vote is necessary, all votes will be by voice, hand, or ballot, at the will of the majority in attendance. No Executive Committee member may vote on any item which presents a real or perceived conflict of interest.

Section 2 - Executive Committee Responsibilities

- 1.) The Executive Committee Chair is responsible for scheduling and setting the agenda for the meetings and shall give all notices required by law or this Governing By-Laws.
- 2.) The Chair will:
 - (a) Convene and preside at regularly scheduled Executive Committee and General Membership meetings or arrange for other members of the Committee to preside at each meeting.
 - (b) Act as the spokesperson and point of community contact for the LCCoC.
- 3.) The Vice-Chair will:
 - (a) Preside at regularly scheduled Executive Committee and General Membership meetings in the absence of the Chair.
 - (b) Succeed the Chair upon the Chair's resignation or vacancy.
- 4.) The Executive Committee Secretary will:
 - (a) Keep accurate records of the acts and proceedings of all LCCoC meetings, including the names of those in attendance.
 - (b) Prepare, at the direction of the Executive Committee Chairs, and distribute meeting agendas at least 72 hours (3 days) prior to all regular meeting; distribution includes emailing the agenda to the General Membership and posting the agenda to the LCCoC website.
 - (c) Prepare and distribute prior meeting Minutes at all regular General Membership meetings.
 - (d) Have general charge of LCCoC records and shall keep records at the principal office of the LCCoC.
- 5.) The Collaborative Applicant Representative will:
 - (a) Provide grant status reports to the Executive Committee.
 - (b) Make financial records and statements available to the Committee and to the public, see Article VI Section 1.

- 6.) The LCCoC Executive Committee will appoint committees, subcommittees, or working groups to assist the Executive Committee in carrying out the LCCoC goals and policies.
 - (a) Standing Committees will meet at least four times a year.
 - (b) The LCCoC Executive Committee will determine the appropriate number of committee members.
 - (c) The Standing Committees will be comprised of at least five LCCoC members and a minimum of five members will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Standing Committee meeting.
 - (d) The LCCoC Executive Committee will determine whether a committee meeting will be an open or closed meeting.
- 7.) The Executive Committee is the governance body and is the final decider for LCCoC Business, **including all policies and procedures**, from Standing Committees, Working Groups and General Members recommendations.

Article V – LCCoC Standing Committees

Section 1 – Strategic Planning Committee

- 1.) The Strategic Planning committee shall assist the Executive Committee and General Membership in the annual update of the Governing By-Laws, the development of the LCCoC structural framework written standards and assist in the making any recommendations for revisions to such standards.
- 2.) The committee shall assist in the development of the LCCoC Strategic Plan and make recommendations to the Membership regarding implementation and revisions to such plan. The committee shall assess the community needs in writing the LCCoC plan.
- 3.) The Committee shall provide an annual report to the Membership on the LCCoC program framework objectives and on the goals and strategies for ending homelessness in Lake County.

Section 2 – Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee and Coordinated Entry System (CES) Working Group

A. The Homeless Management Information System Committee is responsible for planning, coordinating, and evaluating the implementation of HMIS for the LCCoC. The HMIS committee is also responsible for data collection and processing, as well as making recommendations to improve the process to the Membership. The committee will be comprised of five LCCoC members in good standing, who have utilized or utilize HMIS. The HMIS committee will (Article III Section 2):

- 1.) Recommend to the LCCoC a single Homeless Management Information System for the geographic area.
- 2.) The HMIS Chair will be responsible for HMIS user agreements.
- 3.) Review, revise and approve a privacy plan, security plan, and data quality plan for HMIS.

- 4.) Ensure consistent participation of recipients and sub-recipients in the HMIS.
 - 5.) Ensure the HMIS is administered in compliance with requirements prescribed by HUD.
- B. The Coordinated Entry System (CES) Working Group will assist the HMIS Committee with:
- (a) The CES working group shall assist the LCCoC in establishing either a centralized or coordinated assessment system that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and/or services.
 - (b) The working group shall assist the LCCoC Membership in developing a specific policy consistent with the requirements established by HUD to guide the operation of the centralized or coordinated assessment system to address the needs of individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from non-victim service providers.
 - (c) The working group shall also make recommendations to the General Membership regarding discharge planning to ensure to serve that current and appropriate agreements are in place with local institutions that may release individuals into a situation as opposed to homelessness.

Section 3 – Point in Time (PIT) Count Committee

- 1.) The PIT Chair will appoint, from this committee, a team leader for each geographical location of Lake County. Other team leaders may be appointed, as needed, from the General Membership.
- 2.) The PIT Committee shall be responsible for establishing the survey methods and tools for the annual homeless count in Lake County.
- 3.) The PIT Committee will coordinate the annual homeless count ensuring that proper procedure is followed.
- 4.) The PIT Chair will report the findings to the General Membership and to HUD.

Section 4 – Performance Review Committee

The Performance Review Committee shall be comprised of five to seven LCCoC members in good standing, of whom two or three should be recipients or sub-recipients of LCCoC funding. The Performance Review Committee shall:

- 1.) Be responsible for recommending to the General Membership performance targets for population and program type.
- 2.) Assist the General Membership in monitoring recipient and sub-recipient performance and evaluating outcomes; allowing the General Membership to act against poor performers and to report outcomes to HUD.
- 3.) Evaluate the outcome of any project(s) funded allowing the LCCoC to report those outcomes to HUD.
- 4.) The committee will be responsible for providing technical support to the Collaborative Applicant to assist in the completion of the applications for grant funds in response to a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).
- 5.) Provide guidance in preparing the application and updates to assist the LCCoC in the application and grant process as outlined at 24 CFR 578.15 et seq.

~~6.) The Grant Selection Working Group shall be established by the Performance Review Committee to establish the process for the distribution of grant and other LCCoC designated monies. The Grant Selection Working Group shall report to the Executive Committee and to the General Membership as needed.~~

Section 5 – Grant Selection Committee

The Grant Selection Committee shall be comprised of five or more LCCoC members in good standing, with a minimum of decided members to score any Request for Proposal for LCCoC grant projects. The Grant Selection Committee shall:

- 1.) Meet regularly to review the annual gaps analysis and strategic plan for project guidance: to align projects with the Coordinated Entry System in what is needed in the Lake County community.
- 2.) Make recommendations to the Administrative Applicant for community based projects with future Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) applications to the state or HUD.
- 3.) Follow the grant model protocols review the NOFA from the state, help write the local Request for Proposal (RFP), add the grant selection process timelines, vet and train the scoring members, score the grant application proposals, interview each applicant, and send the scores and recommendations to the Executive Committee, **for final approval.**

Section 5-6– Interfaith Committee (Ad-Hoc Committee)

The Interfaith Committee helps coordinate faith-based groups to align their ministry and outreach to serve our homeless neighbors in collaboration with one another and LCCoC partner agencies. Some examples of this collaboration include but not limited to the Pop-Up Care Shower Project and food programs for those experiencing homelessness.

Section 7- Equity Advisory Committee

The Equity Committee will be a body of representatives from special population groups, including a homeless individual with present or past lived experience, a veteran, a representative for the LGBTQ+ community. The Equity Committee will also include a representative for the threshold ethnic Hispanic community and racial representation for Native Americans and a representative for People of Color Other than White. Racial representatives will be chosen to represent a specific racial population when it reaches 5% of Lake County's total population of the most current Lake County PIT Count. Until that time one representative will be chosen to represent People of Color Other than White from the current 2020 PIT Count. The Equity Advisory Committee will select the six Executive Committee representatives and they will be confirmed by votes from the General Membership. Each Representative will have a vote on the Executive Committee. This is to ensure equity implementation, with a voice on the decision-making body of the LCCoC.

The Equity Advisory Committee shall:

- 1.) Review all policies and procedures of the LCCoC to ensure proper language and considerations are included. This body will review each Notice of Funding

Availability (NOFA) that is released, to make sure there is no bias, actual, or perceived.

- 2.) The committee will review HMIS data annually for equity in service.
- 3.) The Equity Advisory Committee will advise the Administrative Agency on how best to provide cultural proficient trainings to the General Membership.
- 4.) Outreach to their specific population group for opportunities and engagement for the LCCoC

Section 8 – Housing Navigators Committee

The Navigation Committee will be a committee mostly comprised of agency navigators. The Navigation Committee shall:

In consultation with recipients of LCCoC project funds within the geographic area, establish and consistently follow written standards for providing LCCoC assistance:

- 1.) Landlord/Tenant Policies and Procedures for obtaining and maintaining housing and mediation when problems arise.
- 2.) Client Rights for receiving services from the LCCoC
- 3.) Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive rapid rehousing assistance.
- 4.) Standards for determining what percentage or amount of rent each program participant must pay while receiving rapid rehousing assistance.
- 5.) Client termination policies and procedures.

Article VI – Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead

Section 1- Collaborative Applicant

The Collaborative Applicant/fiscal agent (also known as the Administrative Entity) of the LCCoC is the designated legal entity to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- a. HUD Responsibilities of the Collaborative Applicant:
 - 1.) Collects and submits the LCCoC Registration, Consolidated Application and CoC Priority Listing.
 - 2.) Applies for LCCoC planning funds on behalf of the LCCoC.
 - 3.) Acts on behalf of the LCCoC when applying for HUD grants and is the point of contact with HUD representatives.
- b. Collaborative Applicants Additional Responsibilities:
 - 1.) Has a leadership role in the development of the LCCoC Consolidated Application, aligning with the Notice of Funding Availability.
 - 2.) Applies for additional funding as directed by the LCCoC.
 - 3.) Recommends an eligible applicant to manage the LCCoC HMIS, which will be known as the HMIS Lead.

- 4.) Fulfills fiscal responsibilities for the LCCoC planning and related project funds in accordance with HUD requirements (OBM 2 CRF 200), as well as state and non-federal funds, that include, but are not limited to maintain all financial records of related expenses for HUD-required and LCCoC activities, ensure match requirements are fulfilled, provide at least quarterly financial reports to the LCCoC Executive Committee and General Members, contract with all LCCoC awarded Request for Proposals (RFP) and execute and oversee fulfillment of contracts as directed by the LCCoC.
- 5.) Make available LCCoC records to the public, by written request, within seven to ten working days. The Collaborative Applicant representative will inform the Executive Chair of public disclosure requests.

Section 2 –Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

The HMIS Lead is the legal entity that has been designated by the LCCoC in accordance with the Federal Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Continuum of Care Program (24 CFR 578) to operate the LCCoC Homeless Management Information System on its behalf. The LCCoC Executive committee will vote to approve the HMIS Lead services. The HMIS Lead agency will work with the LCCoC to assist in following all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations and protocols. The HMIS Lead will assist the LCCoC with annual reports and will consult with the LCCoC on annual updates made to this Governing By-Laws.

Article VII - General Items Pertaining to the LCCoC Executive Committee, Members and Standing Committees

Section 1- Meetings

Regular meetings of the General Membership with published agendas will occur at least four times a year. Meeting agendas will be published at least 72 hours before the regular meeting and will be posted on the LCCoC Website, www.lakecoc.org. Currently monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 3:00pm. Meetings for 2022 will be held virtually, until such time that we can meet in person. Special meetings may be called by the Chair.

The Executive Committee will meet monthly, and the Standing Committees and Work Groups will meet as needed. Meeting notices will be placed on the LCCoC website.

Section 2 – Quorum

A minimum of nine members will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any General Membership meeting. A minimum of five members will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any committee meeting.

Section 3 – Voting

At General Membership and Executive Committee meetings, business items may be decided by arriving at a consensus. If a vote is necessary, all votes will be by voice, hand or ballot as

determined by the majority in attendance. A simple majority is needed to pass a business item, to vote on members and to elect Executive Committee members. A two-thirds majority will be required to approve the Governing By-Laws. No member may vote on any item which presents a real or perceived conflict-of-interest.

Only one (1) representative from each organization may vote on behalf of that organization, based on written authorization from the organization (membership application form). Each organization shall indicate in writing the names of the persons, in priority order, who may represent the organization, as an alternate voting member.

To vote at a General Membership meeting the member/organization must have been in attendance the previous meeting. The LCCoC Secretary will keep records of approved voting members/organizations for each General Membership meeting. The LCCoC Secretary will keep records of any business items that were voted on and who voted in the LCCoC minutes.

General Members will approve minutes, vote for General Members and Executive Committee Members, and approve the annual Governing By-Laws. The Executive Committee will vote on, and be the final decider for LCCoC business items, which include the HMIS contract, professional consultant contracts, applying for and distributing grant funding, and any other related general business for the LCCoC.

Proxies – Section 4

The use of proxies for the purposes of voting is not allowed.

Conflict of Interest – Section 5

All LCCoC General Members and Executive Committee members must declare any conflict of interest they or their organizations have on any voting issue. Organization and community-at-large members are required to excuse themselves from voting on any issue in which they, or their organization may have a financial interest.

Community-at-Large and organization members must sign an acknowledgment of the LCCoC Conflict of Interest policy on the application for the LCCoC, in order to participate in the LCCoC activities and functions, including voting.

The entire LCCoC Conflict of Interest Policy is posted on the LCCoC website, www.lakecoc.org.

Standard of Conduct – Section 6

Standards of conduct for all LCCoC General Members and Executive Committee members include demonstrating the highest standards of ethical conduct including respecting one another by refraining from distractions, interruptions, rudeness, and brash behaviors that are even perceived as such by another and accusing others in verbal and written communications that are unnecessary, undeserved, and unfounded; and who will demonstrate exemplary leadership in public settings on behalf of the LCCoC.

Grievance Process – Section 7

The Lake County Continuum of Care is committed to addressing problems as they arise in a transparent, prompt, and fair manner. Complaints and grievance ~~should be addressed to the LCCoC Chairperson, in writing, and will be responded to within seven to ten working days.~~ procedures are defined in our Grievance Policy. The policy is posted at LCOC.org.

Non-Discrimination – Section 8

~~It is the policy and commitment of the LCCoC that it does not discriminate because of race, age, gender, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, or religion in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to: hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers, members or vendors.~~

The LCCoC is committed to providing equal opportunity for all members, extended agency members and individuals served. All LCCoC activities, projects and practices shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, nor shall they discriminate unlawfully against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status; the perception of any such characteristic, or association with an individual or group with one or more actual or perceived characteristics, such as the LGBTQ+ community.

Non-discrimination statement for Grantee Applications

Sponsor will not deny the benefits of this grant from or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, nor shall they discriminate unlawfully against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status. Sponsor shall insure that the evaluation and treatment of employees and applicants for employment are free of such discrimination. Sponsor will comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code §12900 et seq.), the regulations promulgated thereunder (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, §11000 et seq.), the provisions of Article 9.5, Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code (Gov. Code §§11135-11139.5), and the regulations or standards adopted by the awarding state agency to implement such article. Sponsor shall permit access by representatives of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the awarding state agency upon reasonable notice at any time during the normal business hours, but in no case less than 24 hours' notice, to such of its books, records, accounts, and all other sources of information and its facilities as said Department or Agency shall require to ascertain compliance with this clause. Sponsor shall give written notice of their obligations under this clause to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other agreement. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, §11105.)

Access for Individuals with Disabilities

The Lake County Continuum of Care will work with individuals with disabilities providing equal opportunity to participate in LCCoC activities and services. These services will include meeting rooms in

compliance with the American with Disabilities Act or allowing virtual connections, taping meetings and large printed materials. Reasonable notification should be given before any LCCoC activity.

The Lake County Continuum of Care is committed to providing inclusive and welcoming environments for all members, staff, clients, volunteers, and agency sponsors. If anyone believes they have been discriminated against, you can file a complaint at Lakecoc.org using the Grievance Form.

Communications

Lake County Continuum of Care will provide effective communication to the public. The General Membership public meeting's agendas and minutes are posted on the LCCoC Website at Lakecoc.org. All governing documents and notices of application for funding (NOFA) can be translated upon request. The LCCoC will provide translation support services by arrangement, establishing good communications practices will help us assist the community.

We are committed to providing inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, and vendors.

Resignation and Termination – Section 9

Any member may resign by sending a resignation letter to the Executive Chair. A member can have their membership terminated by a two-thirds vote of the General Membership.

Compensation – Section 10

LCCoC General Members and the Executive Committee will not be compensated for their services.

Indemnification of Chairs, Collaborative Applicant or Other Agents – Section 11

The LCCoC shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any time as a member, executive committee chair, or collaborative applicant representatives of the LCCoC against all expenses and liabilities: including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgements, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such persons in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding in which they may become involved by reason of his or her services in such capacity.

Provisions to Amend Governing By-Laws – Section 12

These Governing By-Laws may be amended upon a two-thirds majority vote of all General Members present during a scheduled meeting if notice for the meeting includes the proposals for amendments. The LCCoC Governing By-Laws will be adopted and approved annually by the General Membership and signed by the Executive Committee.

We, the undersigned, are the initial Executive Committee of the Lake County Continuum of Care and we consent to, and hereby do, adopt the foregoing Governing By-Laws, consisting of the preceding pages, as the Governing By-Laws of this LCCoC organization.

Adopted and Approved by the Executive Committee on this _____ day of _____ in the year of _____

Chair: _____

Vice Chair: _____

Homeless Representative: _____

HMIS & Coordinated Entry Chair: _____

Point in Time Chair: _____

Strategic Planning Chair: _____

Performance Review Chair: _____

Grant Selection Chair: _____

Interfaith Chair: _____

Housing Navigator Chair: _____

Equity Advisory Committee: _____

Attest: _____

Secretary, Lake County Continuum of Care

DRAFT