

**NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE  
HOMELESSNESS PLANNING COUNCIL—MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Council Members Present:</b> Alex Smith, Beth S hinn, Dawn Deaner, Jaha Martin, Karri Gornick, Mary Katherin Rand, Sheila Decker, Travis Claybrooks, Freddie O’Connell, Erin Evans, Sandra Sepulveda, Will Connelly, Paul Foster, Laura Bermudez, Vicky Batcher, Jeff Gibson, Tom Turner, Renee Pratt, Treva Gilligan	<b>Date:</b> December 8, 2021 <b>Time:</b> 8:30a <b>Place:</b> Vine Hill Towers
<b>Staff:</b> April Calvin (MHID), Rachel Cook (MHID), Janet Gilmore (MHID), Jay Servais (MHID), Suzi Tolmie (MDHA), Metro Legal	Recorded by: Janet Gilmore

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
<b>I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE*</b>	<p>► Karri Gornick, Sheila Decker, Travis Claybrooks, Sandra Sepulveda, Will Connelly, Paula Foster, Jeff Gibson, and Tom Turner stated conflicts of interest.</p>	
<b>II. MOMENT OF SILENCE</b>	<p>► Names of people experiencing homelessness in our community who have died in the past two months were read.</p> <p>Paula Foster reminded the group about the memorial this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Riverfront Park honoring the lives of people experiencing homelessness in our community who have died during 2021. [NOTE: This memorial was subsequently postponed by one week due to inclement weather.]</p>	
<b>III. STORY OF PROGRESS</b>	<p>► Jay Servais of MHID shared that the cold weather shelter has been open for four nights thus far and the total number of people (361) and pets (4) who have stayed at the shelter. MHID staff are offering the option of participants having their information entered into HMIS while they are staying at the shelter.</p>	
<b>IV. MINUTES</b>	<p>► Minutes from the 11/10/21 meeting and the 12/3/21 special called meeting were reviewed.</p> <p>A revision to the 11/10/21 minutes was offered by Karri Gornick to mention the thank you to Judy Tackett for her years of service to ths overall community.</p> <p>Revisions offerd by Karri Gornick to the 12/3/21 minutes that the Affordable Housing Task Force report was published in 2021 and to fix a typo regarding Will Connelly.</p>	<p>Motion made by Travis Claybrooks, second from Paula Foster to approve the minutes of the 11/10/21 meeting with the noted revision. Voice vote taken with no opposed, no abstentions. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p>Motion made by Paula Foster, second by Tom Turner to approve the minutes of the 12/3/21 meeting with the noted revisions. Voice vote taken with no opposed, no abstentions. All approved. Motion carried.</p>

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	<p>After the minutes were approved, Freddie O’Connell offered an update. The council has not passed Bill 2021-971 to date. He continues to support the idea of a consolidated office of housing and homelessness for the city. His intention is to try to pass the bill before the next fiscal year (July 1, 2022), with implementation of the new office to be at that time.</p>	<p>Motion made by Paula Foster, second by Karri Gornick that the Homelessness Planning Council support Bill 2021-971 and its intention to create an independent and combined office of homelessness and housing for the city. Hand vote taken with no opposed, one abstention by Tom Turner. Motion carried.</p> <p>The chair of the committee will issue a letter to the Mayor and the City Council stating the support of this council for Bill 2021-971. The letter may also be issued to the press.</p>
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<p><b>V. METRO HOMELESS IMPACT DIVISION REPORT AND DATA REPORT</b></p>	<p>► Rachel Cook of MHID presented the Data Report from MHID, showing that 1,748 people experiencing homelessness have been housed in Nashville since January 1, 2021, and information about which agencies enter data into HMIS. Freddie O’Connell suggested that the report be presented to an upcoming Affordable Housing Committee meeting of the Metro Council.</p> <p>Jay Servais of MHID reported that, in working with the HUD TA resources, there has been an encampment plan developed to address housing needs of people living in encampments. He will bring this report to the HPC for consideration next month.</p> <p>Dr. Beth Shinn stated that statistics show a risk related to racial disparity in focusing on encampments (more people in shelters are Black, and more people in encampments are white), and challenged the HPC to stay committed to its anti-racism pledge.</p>	<p>MHID will post this report to their website and send this report electronically to the Homelessness Planning Council and the Metro Council.</p>
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<p><b>VI. MDHA REPORT AND PIT METHODOLOGY DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p>► The Point In Time count will occur in Nashville on January 27, 2022. Approximately 28 teams are being formed to carry out this count. HUD TAs are being consulted to develop the methodology, with involvement from Dr. Beth Shinn. A mobile app will be used to facilitate the count. Thanks were offered to Dr. Shinn, Rachel Cook, Jaha Martin, and Jason Scarlett from Mental Health Co-Op who have all participate in the development of the plan.</p>	<p>Motion made by Paula Foster, second by Alex Smith to approve the methodology. Voice vote was taken with no opposed, no abstentions. All approved. Motion carried.</p>
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**VII. DEBRIEFING OF THE CHARRETTE MEETINGS HELD IN NASHVILLE 11/30/21 AND 12/1/21**

► Vice Mayor Jim Shulman shared a summary of the two-night public meetings that occurred on 11/30/21 and 12/1/21 on the topic of outdoor homelessness. The Vice Mayor called these meetings because he could not find a published plan about how to address outdoor homelessness in Nashville; when he asked the Mayor’s office for a plan, they did not have a plan. The meetings resulted in the following action or study items (responsible party for each designated in parentheses):

- Raise the temperature for opening the city’s cold weather shelter from 28 to 32 (Cathy Jennings, The Contributor)
- Retrofit unused hotel space and/or Metro procurement of unused hotel space for housing (Jay Servais, MHID)
- MDHA designate 50% of their units to use by Coordinated Entry (Jim Shulman)
- Pallet homes established on Metro surplus property for the purpose of temporary housing (Becky Lowe, Reclaim Brookemeade)
- Find out status of the 90-unit housing facility the city was to have built, originally scheduled to be finished by now, currently scheduled to break ground by April 2022 (Jim Shulman)
- HMIS improvements (April Calvin, MHID)
- Issue an invitation to Mayor Cooper to attend the next public meeting on outdoor homelessness (Jim Shulman)
- Schedule another meeting with prior report-back (Jim Shulman)

The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2021, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., at the downtown public library.

Jay Servais pointed out to Jim Shulman that the Homelessness Planning Council has a plan that has been published for three years. Jay Servais requested that the Vice Mayor highlight the plan to the next public meeting on December 20th. Freddie O’Connell pointed out that this plan has been publicly posted since its inception and that the Mayor’s office has not been supportive.

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Dawn Deaner acknowledged that it is good for the problem of outdoor homelessness to have the attention of the Vice Mayor, but that this attention is the result of one community's voice about a specific encampment; this concern was also voiced by Karri Gornick. However, the HPC has broad-based expertise and has been working for years on the problem of outdoor homelessness and all other issues related to housing and homelessness and should be acknowledged for their expertise and consulted.

Laura Bermuzez pointed out that the action items from the public meeting are not new and are already in progress. She asked that pre-work be done before the next meeting to map the action items to the published strategic plan of the HPC. She asked that the Vice Mayor come to this council for to ask about or look for a plan.

Paula Foster pointed out that the reason the Vice Mayor doesn't know there is a plan is because the HPC has encountered difficulty getting the attention of the administration. She asserted that having an independent office of housing and homelessness with ultimate accountability would elevate the attention needed.

The Vice Mayor encouraged the HPC to increase openness and channels for public comment and public involvement. He also encouraged the HPC to value the public momentum and the mayor's attention, which are both an advantage to all of the issues and problems the HPC works so hard to improve.

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VIII. CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE	<p>▶ Sheila Decker provided an update on the public comment process for the HPC. The three channels for receiving public comments are listed at the bottom of the meeting agenda and these minutes. Sheila Decker will begin bringing a report of these public comments to the HPC meeting each month, beginning with the scheduled January meeting.</p>	
IX. DISCUSS TWO OPEN SEATS ON THE HOMELESSNESS PLANNING COUNCIL AND TWO OPEN HPC EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITIONS	<p>▶ Ingrid McIntyre, chair of the HPC nominations committee, announced that CoC General Membership needs to elect two new members for the HPC. Nominations should be emailed to Ingrid McIntyre or Suzie Tolmie.</p> <p>The HPC needs to elect a new vice president and secretary due to April Calvin’s move to MHID and Alaina Boyer’s resignation. Nominations should be emailed to Ingrid McIntyre or April Calvin.</p>	
X. OTHER BUSINESS	<p>▶ No other business.</p>	
XI. ADJOURNMENT	<p>▶ Adjourned at 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2022</b></p>

**\*We define racism as racial prejudice plus the misuse of power by systems and institutions (misuse can be intentional or unintentional). We are mindful of the racial inequities across housing, economic mobility, health care, criminal justice, and other systems. These all contribute to racial inequities in homelessness. I pledge to stay mindful of the power and privilege that I bring into every space that I enter and conversation that I have. I pledge to actively and intentionally practice antiracism when participating in the Homelessness Planning Council and all Committees in the CoC, representing this committee and the CoC in the community, and in talking about homelessness and housing issues in Nashville.**

**\*\*There are three channels available for submitting comments to the HPC:**

- **Email address** [NashvilleHomelessCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:NashvilleHomelessCouncil@gmail.com)
- **Hub.nashville.gov** website ([https://hub.nashville.gov/s/?language=en\\_US](https://hub.nashville.gov/s/?language=en_US)), there is a choice under Social Services & Housing called “Public Comment for the CoC Homelessness Planning Council.”
- **Suggestion box** located at the downtown branch of the Nashville Public Library, on the third floor in the Reference Library section.