

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

<p>Council Members Present: Melanie Lane, Alex Smith, Beth Shinn, Catherine Knowles, Dawn Deaner, Jaha Martin, Karri Gornick, Mary Katherine Rand, Sheila Decker, Freddie O’Connell, Erin Evans Sandra Sepulveda, Will Connelly, Paula Foster, Laura Bermudez, Vicky Batcher, Wendell Seagroves, Tom Turner, Renee Pratt, Treva Gilligan, Ginger Hausser</p> <p>Staff: April Calvin (MHID), Rachel Cook (MHID), Janet Gilmore (MHID), Jay Servais (MHID), Suzie Tolmie (MDHA), Angela Hubbard (Mayor’s Office), Derrick Smith (Metro Legal)</p>	<p>Date: February 9, 2022 Time: 8:30 a.m. Place: Vine Hill Towers</p> <p>Recorded by: Janet Gilmore</p>
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE*	<p>▶ Laura Bermudez welcomed all attendees and suggested ground rules for discussion during today’s meeting. She invited attendees to reflect on what success will look like at the end of today’s meeting.</p> <p>Attendance was taken; Karri Gornick, Mary Katherine Rand, Sheila Decker, Will Connelly, Paula Foster, and Tom Turner stated conflicts of interest.</p> <p>The anti-racism pledge was read.</p>	
II. MOMENT OF SILENCE	<p>▶ The names of people experiencing homelessness who died since the last meeting were read, followed by a moment of silence.</p>	
III. STORY OF PROGRESS	<p>▶ Suzie Tolmie, MDHA, shared a success story related to MDHA’s Shelter Plus Care program.</p>	
IV. MINUTES	<p>▶ Minutes from the 1/12/22 meeting were reviewed.</p> <p>The agenda incorrectly reflected that minutes from additional meetings were reviewed. Only the minutes from the 1/12/22 meeting were reviewed.</p>	
V. MDHA Update	<p>▶ Suzie Tolmie, MDHA, provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an update on the PIT count process that was conducted on January 27, 2022. - no word from HUD yet on the grant the CoC applied for in late 2021. - the CoC General Membership, while not meeting in person this month, will 	

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	<p>conduct a physical ballot election for new members of the Homelessness Planning Council (HPC). A council member requested that the timeline for mayoral appointments to the HPC be looked into, related to the general membership election that will occur in July and the timing needed to obtain or re-confirm mayoral appointments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the charter review committee will be convened for the annual charter revision exercise, which is required annually by HUD. 	
<p>VI. MAYOR'S OFFICE UPDATE</p>	<p>► Ginger Hausser of the mayor's office provided an update on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an update on the Partners in Care program, which partners law enforcement with social workers in response to some incidents. - the mayor's office is applying for technical assistance grant for an additional mental health program that would involve mental health response without law enforcement for some incidents. A council member asked why the city is not proceeding with setting an internal policy regarding mental health / law enforcement co-response model. Hausser explained that the grant will be used to develop and implement a model. Hausser recommended that the city's point person on this issue be invited to a future meeting. - an item will be coming to the Metro Council to consider a contract for a third party to help study and evaluate how the city is doing overall with the issues of homelessness and affordable housing. <p>Hausser asked the council to review the proposed letter for the city to participate in the House America Federal Initiative, which includes proposed goals. The Data Committee of the HPC will provide a perspective on the goals before they are finalized. A formal announcement of participation is targeted for March 1, and the final letter does not require approval of the HPC, since it comes from the mayor. Discussion included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One council member asked whether the provider community will be engaged in setting the goals; yes, via representation in the Data Committee and the provider community virtual meetings with HUD TA. - One council member who is also a member of the Data Committee questioned whether the Data Committee is the appropriate entity to validate and set the goal. Rather, the Data Committee will articulate the needs, and the goals will be vetted through weekly calls with HUD TA and the provider community. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A council member asked specifically what the goals reflect, people moving from temporary to permanent housing? April Calvin provided clarification that this goal reflects new moves into housing. - A council member asked that the term “ambitious goals” used in the letter encourage the community to set a larger goal. - A council member expressed dissatisfaction with the goal of 233 in the draft letter. 	
<p>VII. METRO HOMELESS IMPACT DIVISION UPDATE AND DATA REPORT</p>	<p>► Rachel Cook, MHID, provided the January 2022 data report and the December 2021 report, which includes total 2021 data. A council member asked that future reports include information about number of instances of housing placement that places people outside of Davidson County. A council member asked for an update at a future meeting on the expansion of use / adoption by providers of the HMIS system.</p> <p>Rachel announced new MHID HMIS team members Alexis Kaufman and Chantelle Owens and the resignation of Shanley Deignan and Rachel Cook, both of whom have accepted new positions in the community. Jay Servais thanked Rachel and Shanley for their contributions.</p> <p>Servais provided an update on a recent media interview and the misinformation published by Fox17. He introduced Harriett Wallace, who has joined Metro Social Services as the Public Information Officer. Wallace has ensured a correction on the Fox17 website. Some council members expressed concern about the nature and implications of the entire report and why it was promoted by MSS / MHID on social media.</p> <p>Servais reported that the Metro cold weather shelter has been open 30 nights this season. MHID is working on producing a report comparing the number of people served by the Metro shelter, Room In The Inn, and The Mission on the nights the Metro shelter is open.</p> <p>A council member asked for information about what arrangements will be made for people who are housed by Rapid ReHousing (RRH) funds after these RRH funds run out. April shared that individual service providers are working with individuals to connect them to other sources of housing funds. Treva Gilligan, MDHA, reported that the March 31 HUD deadline has been waived.</p>	

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<p>VIII. EXTREME / COLD WEATHER SHELTER</p>	<p>► Cathy Jennings, head of the Shelter Committee, has submitted a written rationale from that committee for raising the threshold for opening the Metro cold weather shelter to 32 degrees rather than 28 degrees. Jennings shared that several other cities use a 32-degree or even higher threshold. Jennings asked the HPC to make a formal recommendation that a threshold of 32 degrees be adopted.</p> <p>Two council members shared that in the past there have been additional beds available at provider shelters that go unused during cold weather, indicating that provider shelter barriers also contribute to the complexities of knowing how much space needs to be provided by Metro shelter for cold weather and to the complex decision about using funding for a Metro shelter rather than long-term housing. A council member shared a concern that securing additional staffing for additional Metro shelter nights may not be possible.</p> <p>The Shelter Committee moved and Paula Foster seconded that the HPC recommend to Metro that the threshold be changed to 32 degrees.</p>	<p>Voice vote was taken with several voting yes. No opposition and no abstentions were voiced; motion passed.</p>
<p>IX. CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) PUBLIC COMMENTS AND OUTDOOR COMMUNITY HOUSING PLAN</p>	<p>► Sheila Decker and Alex Smith (CAB members) provided an update of the public comment process administered on behalf of the HPC by the CAB and directed council members' attention to the printed report of comments received. Each month, comments received by the last Tuesday of the previous month will be included in the report provided to the HPC.</p> <p>Laura Bermudez provided an update that the Outdoor Community Housing Plan will be workshopped through the CAB and then brought forward to the HPC for thorough discussion. A council member asked if that plan is already being implemented. Servais responded that a pilot of the plan is under way with the Jefferson Street encampment and that he will bring results of that pilot to the HPC.</p> <p>Two council members shared concerns that the Outdoor Community Housing Plan is being implemented without a full presentation and discussion in an HPC meeting, charging that this plan is being implemented in a way that circumvents this council and circumvents the agreed-upon coordinated entry process and prioritization. Jay disagreed that the CE process was being circumvented.</p>	

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<p>X. ELECTION OF TWO OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS AND UPDATE ON TWO OPEN COUNCIL SEATS</p>	<p>► Laura Bermudez directed council members' attention to the paper ballots that were distributed and that showed two names nominated for HPC Executive Committee vice-chair and two names nominated for for HPC Executive Committee secretary. The Metro Legal representative clarified that the vote must be taken by voice or show of hands, not by paper ballot.</p> <p>Will Connelly withdrew his nomination to the role of vice-chair due to his concerns about being the head of a funded agency. Will is willing to serve on the executive committee as an at-large member. Karri Gornick withdrew her nomination for vice-chair.</p> <p>Jaha Martin nominated herself for vice chair.</p>	<p>Laura Bermudez called for voice vote for Jaha Martin as vice chair of the HPC Executive Committee; there were no opposition and no abstentions voiced. Martin was elected.</p> <p>Laura Bermudez called for voice vote for Will Connelly as at-large member of the HPC Executive Committee; there were no opposition and no abstentions voiced. Connelly was elected.</p> <p>A show of hands vote was taken to elect secretary of the HPC Executive Committee, with 7 votes for Tom Turner and 5 votes for Paula Foster; Turner was elected.</p>
<p>XI. OTHER BUSINESS</p>	<p>► Paula Foster moved, seconded by Sheila Decker to extend meeting to two hours.</p>	<p>A show of hands vote was conducted. 8 voted in favor; 6 opposed, no abstentions. Motion passed.</p>
<p>XII. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>► Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING: March 9, 2022</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:**

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- **Email address** NashvilleHomelessCouncil@gmail.com
- **Hub.nashville.gov** website (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.