

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

<p>Council Members Present: Vicky Batcher, Laura Bermudez, Will Connelly, Dawn Deaner, Sheila Decker, Donna Destefano, Erin Evans, Paula Foster, Treva Gilligan, Karri Gornick, Ginger Hausser, Catherine Knowles, Jaha Martin, Freddie O’Connell, Tracy Pekovich, Renee Pratt, Mary Katherine Rand, Wendell Segroves, Sandra Sepulveda, Beth Shinn, Alex Smith, Jason Starling, Tom Turner</p> <p>Staff: April Calvin (MHID), Rachel Cook (MHID), Janet Gilmore (MHID), Adrian Walter (MHID), Derrick Smith (Metro Legal)</p>	<p>Date: March 9, 2022 Time: 8:00 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. Attendance was taken; Will Connelly , Paula Foster, Mary Katherine Rand, 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 have passed away during the past month were read, followed by a moment of silence.</p> <p>Laura Bermudez invited council members to reflect silently on the important role of the council.</p>	
III. MINUTES	<p>► Minutes from the February 9, 2022 meeting were reviewed. No suggestions or revisions to the minutes were offered.</p>	
IV. MDHA AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION COMMITTEE (PEC)	<p>► Treva Gilligan directed council members’ attention to the HOME ARP action plan public comment handout she provided. Public hearings will be held on March 24, 2022 with attendance also invited virtually. The plan will be submitted to Metro Council in May and then to HUD for approval. Amounts planned for supportive services, development of affordable rental housing, nonprofit capacity building, and administration / planning are indicated in the document. A council member asked if there is a target for number of affordable rental units to be developed for the \$6.7 million shown on the document. Treva answered that there will be a range of 15 to 65 targeted, depending on the type of projects.</p> <p>Kerry Dietz, chair of the PEC, provided an overview of that committee’s purpose and calendar of activities for the year. She requested that the HPC provide guidance to the PEC regarding priorities for the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC).</p>	

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<p>V. MAYOR'S OFFICE</p>	<p>► Ginger Hausser, Mayor's Office, provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The House American program goal is being discussed, with the intent to raise the goal for housing established by end of year. An update should be provided in the next HPC meeting. A formal announcement of these goals will be announced after goals are finalized. - Groundbreaking on 90 units of affordable housing is still scheduled for May. - Angie Hubbard, Metro Nashville Director of Housing, is looking for interested organizations to partner with for a recovery-related housing opportunity. The deadline for application is April 29. She requests that someone from the HPC participate on the selection panel. <p>The following questions were asked by council members, with responses from Ginger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there opportunities with unused Metro school properties to be repurposed for housing or other Metro property? Yes, Angie Hubbard will be inventorying Metro property that could be used for housing. - Will the recovery project be housing first? The answer is unknown at this time, but there is a commitment that referrals will occur through coordinated entry. - What is the status of the housing study initiated by the Mayor's office? The study has started and initial meetings have begun. 	
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<p>VI. DATA COMMITTEE AND RESPONSE TO HOUSE AMERICAN FEDERAL INITIATIVE</p>	<p>► Beth Shinn, chair of the Data Committee, provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council members were asked to direct their attention to the letter from the Data Committee provided as a handout. There is a typo in the letter: the letter should state .5% of the city's population rather than 5%. - The letter emphasizes that the goals must be set in full awareness of housing resources made available in and actually allocated by the city. <p>The following discussion points and questions were posed by council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the down side of establishing an ambitious goal and that is not met? Ginger Hausser offered that it is a political downside and that it could hurt the city's chances for funding in the future. - Setting a stretch goal could be politically advantageous as a show of effort by providers to the community at large and inspirational to service providers that the Mayor is willing to set an aggressive goal. - Service providers want to set aggressive goals but are looking for additional 	
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	<p>funding from the city or other sources to enable them to reach those goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the city is going to be asking for more funding from various federal programs such as ARP ? April Calvin states that initial conversations are under way, but no ask has been made to date. - What is the summary of the gap of the needs determined by the Data Committee and the goal proposed by the Mayor’s office? Beth responded that the Data Committee found the need to be 3,500 units per year over five years. - Building more housing is the only way to make real improvement in meeting housing needs in Nashville. - We need to be sure housing is a top priority for the Mayor’s administration. <p>Ginger is asked to share the data committee’s letter with the Mayor.</p>	
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<p>VII. METRO HOMELESS IMPACT DIVISION AND DATA REPORT</p>	<p>► April Calvin, Metro Homeless Impact Division (MHID), and Renee Pratt, Metro Social Services (MSS), provided the MHID update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be a national search for the permanent selection of director of MHID. The job description and job announcement are being vetted by the HPC executive committee, Housing and Urban Development Technical Assistance (HUD TA), and the Mayor’s office. There will be HPC representation on the candidate review process and on the interview panel. The timeline depends on Metro Nashville’s Human Resources process for national searches. Wendell Segroves volunteered to participate as a representative of the HPC and representing people with lived experience. Ginger has been named to participate from the Mayor’s office. Erin Evans asked to participate in the process as chair of the health and safety committee of the Metro Council. - MHID has a staff shortage in the HMIS team and is pursuing contract staff from an expert firm; this selection must follow the Metro Nashville bid and selection process. Council members were reminded that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a system replacement has been delayed until next year due to staff turnover. - MSS has started the RFP process for additional staff to operate the cold weather shelter. Council members were asked to direct their attention to the handout showing number of people served through this shelter to date this season. A council member asked that the shelter be expanded to provide shelter in extreme weather, not only cold weather. Renee Pratt responded that this is being looked at. The shelter was opened one time in the previous week for flooding threat. A 	
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	<p>council member asked for commitment that the cold weather shelter remains open if the temperature falls this weekend; Renee Pratt committed that yes it will be open.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MHID is working with MDHA and the company Shangri-la on establishing new housing. (Shangri-la focuses on buying and renovating vacant hotels to create apartments.) MDHA vouchers have been requested for individuals to move into these apartments, and the city is being asked to fund wrap-around services. - With the \$500,000 that was committed as landlord incentives, there were 50 new units added to the low barrier housing collective in February. <p>The following questions were asked and responded to by April or Renee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the status of the pods that are going unused as reported in the media? The city Office of Emergency Management is the authority on these; the question will be forwarded to them. - Can someone from the court system be invited to become a member of the HPC to address the eviction issue? This suggestion will be forwarded to the chair of the Membership committee. - How many people from Jefferson Street are still in a hotel, as of last week, it was four or five people. <p>Rachel Cook, MHID, discussed the February 2022 data report provided to council members.</p>	
VIII. HUD TA	<p>► Laura Bermudez directed council members’ attention to the handout announcing the upcoming HUD TA workshops on encampment strategy March 14 and 15, 2022. The following questions were asked and responded to by Laura or April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will outcomes of these workshop be communicated? This is still to be determined. - How many participants will be included? Will it be limited to 25 as noted in the letter? Participants are still being finalized. - Is MHID’s plan to close encampments is on hold pending this workshop? These workshops are a re-do of that plan. <p>Laura also directed members’ attention to the governance review conducted by HUD TA on the committee and governance structure of the CoC. Parts of this recommendation will be submitted to the charter committee, as applicable. A suggestion has been made for a</p>	<p>Laura Bermudez will call a special meeting in April to cover governance and committee recommendations offered by HUD TA.</p>

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	<p>special council meeting in the April timeframe facilitated by HUD TA to cover these suggestions and other topics.</p>	
<p>IX. STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH TIMELINE</p>	<p>► Laura Bermudez directed council members’ attention to the handout about the strategic plan refresh work group that has been named. The first meeting of this work group is scheduled for March 26, 2022. Jeff Gibson (council member) and Dayle Savage (external consultant) will lead this process. Council members are asked to respond to a survey that will be issued as this work is initiated. The target is to have a revised strategic plan in June. Several council members asked that the date of March 26 be reconsidered, since it is a Saturday.</p>	
<p>X. CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)</p>	<p>► Sheila Decker, CAB member, directed council members’ attention to the public comment report provided. One comment was a request to speak at a future HPC meeting regarding a shelter proposal from a member of the public. This request has been forwarded to the HPC executive committee.</p>	
<p>XI. OTHER BUSINESS</p>	<p>► Laura Bermudez directed council members’ attention to upcoming dates announced in a recent email from April Calvin.</p> <p>Jaha Martin asked for any available emergency housing for a specific individual.</p> <p>Mary Katherine Rand asked that in the future, the performance of CoC-funded providers versus those who are not be compared.</p>	
<p>XII. STORY OF PROGRESS</p>	<p>► Rachel Cook directed council members’ attention to the HMIS System Performance Measures handout. This information is reported to HUD annually, which covers the whole system in Nashville, including programs not funded by HUD. Across the community, significant progress has been made with data collected and able to be reported, which helps the CoC receive funding and show progress overall. Broader use of HMIS across the providers in the community is a continued goal.</p> <p>The council thanked Rachel for her service to the community.</p> <p>A council member suggested that a statement be issued to organizations seeking funding about the importance of utilization of HMIS.</p>	

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	Laura Bermudez congratulated the community overall for the significant and meaningful progress in utilization of HMIS.	
XII. ADJOURNMENT	▶ Adjourned at 9:55 a.m.	NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2022

***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
- **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.