

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

<p>Council Members Present: Jaha Martin, Liz Mallard, Wendell Seagroves, Rico X, India Pungarcher, Tom Turner, John Rutherford, Adam Hansen, Freddy Valcarcel, Courtney Johnston, Alex Smith, Ashley Horton, Laura Fergusson Mimms, and D’Yuanna Allen-Robb</p> <p>Staff Present: April Calvin, Raquel de la Huerga, Hannah Cornejo-Nell, Bill ClenDening, Kelly Muldoon, Allison, Cantway, Allison Malone, Tytiauna Ruffin, Vaidehi Sreenivasan, Kelsea Combs, Monte Talley, Holly Baughman, Jennie Dawson, Joseph White, Charis Stegall, Suzie Tolmie, Giovanni Achoe, and Derrick Smith</p>	<p>Date: January 10, 2024 Time: 8:30AM Place: Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Room, 700 2nd Ave South, Nashville, TN</p> <p>Recorded by: Raquel de la Huerga</p>
--	---

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECCOMENDATION/ACTION
<p>I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, MOMENT OF SILENCE, MINUTES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p>	<p>► Welcome by Chairperson, Jaha Martin Community should be mindful that COVID and upper respiratory illnesses are circulating.</p> <p>Nashville is expecting extreme cold weather conditions next week. Chair encouraged HPC members to help get the word out about emergency shelter resources. This is an important time to engage community members about preparing for power outages. Many of our recently housed residents may need to be equipped with emergency numbers, flashlights, non-perishable foods, etc.</p> <p>► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Chair read the names of individuals who passed while experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>► Administrative Business Attendance was recorded. No conflicts of interest were recognized.</p> <p>No attendees signed up to provide public comments on action items.</p> <p>Councilmembers reviewed December 2023 minutes. No corrections were raised.</p>	
<p>III. ADMINISTRATIVE</p>	<p>► Report from OHS Director, April Calvin: HPC members were provided a packet of the \$50 Million monthly report that was presented to the Metro Council Health & Safety Committee.</p> <p>This month, OHS will be meeting with funded agencies to complete a year-end review. OHS has some concerns about people staying with these agencies for a lot longer than expected. There are also concerns about people not completing the program, considering that the funding was intended to be used for low barrier programming. OHS has been checking in with these agencies weekly to discuss their progress.</p>	

<p>III. ADMINISTRATIVE (CONTINUED)</p>	<p>\$4 million for competitive grants to expand overall capacity of agencies and the community. 6 RFPs have been received for these grants.</p> <p>HUD Technical Assistance (TA) has been excited to see the progress Nashville has made since they recommended four areas for our CoC to focus on, which include 1) creating an encampment strategy; 2) moving the Collaborative Applicant; 3) downsizing the number of CoC committees and HPC members; and 4) creating CoC bylaws to go along with the charter. Now that Nashville has made progress on each of these areas, HUD TA is excited to re-engage.</p> <p>The unsheltered population average length of stay has been about 5 years, and last month's numbers showed that we are closer to 3 years. However, OHS expects this number to rise as we add more people into HMIS.</p> <p>OHS is aware of Shelter Committee's concerns about the Housing Surge Encampment Strategy. Wants to recognize that over 30 people drafted the strategy over the course of 6 weeks, including more than 50% of people with lived experience. understands that tweaks will be needed and looks forward to working through the concerns raised. Ms. Calvin also uplifted the progress report on the Housing Surge only represents a small part of the larger effort to get people housed. There has been an 11% recidivism rate, which is high, but better than the national average. OHS is looking forward to securing more funding and exploring how we can leverage the philanthropic and faith-based communities to support this work. There are a lot of developers that OHS is working closely with to bring on units, including today's Story of Progress presenter.</p> <p>► Report from MDHA Collaborative Applicant, Suzie Tolmie: PIT Count will take place on the night of January 25th. Hoping to report numbers shortly after the count. National numbers indicate a 12% increase over the last year.</p> <p>HUD has announced the registration for this fiscal year's CoC funding opportunity competition has opened. The deadline is Thursday, March 7th.</p> <p>Working closely with OHS to transfer the Collaborative Applicant responsibilities, including coordinating with HUD Knoxville to reassign the planning grant.</p>	
<p>IV. UPDATES</p>	<p>► HMIS Monthly Data Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell: Over the entire 12-month period of 2023, 8,272 unique people experienced homelessness in Nashville. In December, 3,258 people experienced homelessness in Nashville, an increase of over 200 people. There were 2,358 households, including 281 families. 8% were veterans and 8% were youth (age 18-24), and 37% experienced chronic homelessness. 567 people were entered into HMIS in December, with 301 people entering the system for the first time. 51% were Black and 38% were White. 58% were men and 41% women.</p>	
<p>IV. UPDATES (CONTINUED)</p>	<p>185 people were housed in December 2023, including 93 households, 35 families, 30 veterans, 19 youth, and 34 people experiencing chronic homelessness. Over the last 12 months 1956 people have been housed in Nashville. The last 3rd of 2023 was a good housing period for Nashville. The average length of time from when someone entered HMIS and exited into permanent housing was 212 days. 26 households moved in housing with no ongoing subsidy, 20 moved into rapid rehoused, and 13 utilized Housing Choice Vouchers. Demographics for those who were housed in December are 64% Black, 24% White, 46% men, and 52% women.</p>	

	<p>The agencies that house the most households were Operation Stand Down (20), Safe Haven Family Shelter (17), and Salvation Army (15).</p> <p>► HUD TA Cloudburst Engagement & Updates, Allison Cantway: HUD pays a variety of experts across the country to provide technical assistance (TA) to localities. OHS has been meeting with HUD TA regularly for a few months now.</p> <p>We have moved forward on all four recommendations from HUD TA. The CoC General Membership voted to move the Collaborative Applicant, OHS is in conversation with committee chairs to explore merging committees, and the Governance Charter committee is actively working to add to the existing Charter and hopes to have something to send out for public comment soon.</p> <p>For this year, OHS is working with HUD TA on the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Retooling the Coordinated Entry Process</i> - specifically improving the VISPDAT or creating Nashville’s own vulnerability assessment. ➤ <i>Data Compliance</i> – Health providers asked for support in understanding the difference between HMIS and HIPAA data compliance. ➤ <i>Seamless Transition of the Collaborative Applicant</i> – OHS, MDHA, and MSS had a full day meeting at the end of December to go over every facet of the Collaborative Applicant. Ms. Tolmie has worked closely with OHS staff on this undertaking and HUD TA facilitated a meeting last week with some folks from the Knoxville field office. <p>Future needs include making sure that our DV centered service delivery is performing properly (e.g. VAWA compliance and emergency transfer plans for DV survivors) and permanent supportive housing cost analysis and best practices. OHS is also working with the National Alliance to End Homelessness Director of Lived Experience to strengthen the Consumer Advisory Board (CAB).</p>	
<p>V. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS</p>	<p>► For the 261 people returning in HMIS, are we asking where they have been? Is there any documentation of where they were (e.g. stayed with family vs moved)? HMIS does have a place to enter a prior living situation before they entered. The HMSI team is hoping to be able to offer more data on people returning at next month’s meeting. When the HMIS team has pulled data for specific populations in the past most people remained homeless and were just not in contact with the service provider using HMIS and were ‘exited’ due to inactivity. There are a small number of people that were housed and then return.</p> <p>HPC member is excited that more people are entering into HMIS, but wanted to emphasize that we will continue to struggle to find people if they do not want to be found. Service providers need to help each other out and focus on rallying together.</p> <p>► HMIS numbers are great, however, it feels like we are spinning our wheels. Are we thinking about doing more upstream work? It feels like regardless of the effort we put into housing people there are hundreds more becoming homeless. Ms. Calvin agreed that we need to think about prevention. For example, for every family we house, two families entering into homelessness. Ms. Calvin has discussed with the United Way on funding needs for</p>	

	<p>prevention and diversion efforts. OHS also has a monthly Permanent Supportive Housing meeting with the Planning Department to increase housing options and bring on developers.</p> <p>When we think about spending the \$50 million it is important realize that spend a lot of resources to empty the bathtub without turning off the faucet. If we don't address why people become homeless then we won't ever have enough money to tackle this. An in- depth conversation on prevention is needed (potentially at the HPC retreat).</p> <p>► Are there teams canvassing parking lots? Teams should be canvassing parking lots. We have previously counted people in their cars. If we volunteers can see them we count them.</p> <p>► Are there suggestions from folks with lived experience on how we can get a more reflective count and where the teams might want to look? Chair recommended to have the discussion offline to respect the privacy of people living outside. The PIT Subcommittee has a number of outreach workers that scan the county on a weekly or daily basis. HPC members also recommended to reach out to councilmembers, police pricings, and Metro Parks.</p> <p>► What is the basis for that CAB compensation rate? Previously the CAB was compensated \$10 or provided gift cards. However, guidance from HUD and NHSDC recommends paying CAB in a meaningful way that does not disrupt their benefits. OHS worked closely with the CAB to draft the compensation section of the bylaws in a way that values their time and expertise. CAB members will be able to choose between direct deposit and gift cards. There is a clause in the bylaws allowing for rate changes since OHS wants to be dynamic with cost of living.</p> <p>► Has OHS had conversations with LBHC landlords about why they have a high number of vacant units? Do we know the median rent amount for these units? The 365 LBHC vacancies are market rate units so they are likely only affordable with a subsidy or disability income. Landlords participating in the LBHC have different barriers that they are willing to lower. April thinks it is key that we work to increase community awareness of the LBHC vacancies and the housing options that do exist. We are looking to house the hardest to serve. We also need to build relationships with landlords and help them understand how to lower more barriers.</p>	
<p>VI. NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>► Point in Time Methodology, Suzie Tolmie & Hannah Cornejo-Nell: Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is the night of January 25th and is a full census of every person we can find. For the unsheltered count, the PIT Subcommittee has broken up the county into different areas that teams of 3-6 volunteers will canvass ahead of time and then count the night of. There are dedicated teams for specific encampments (e.g. Old Tent city) and to search along and under the Interstates.</p> <p>The PIT Subcommittee has created a survey that will be conducted with anyone who is willing to participate. The survey will be done in a mobile app and includes all required HUD data elements (e.g. demographics, disabling conditions, homeless history). The survey has optional questions asking for names and date of birth to avoid duplication. All volunteers are trained on how to ask survey questions, use the mobile app, cold weather safety, Narcan, and how to approach people during the count.</p>	<p>Approved: All in favor</p>

The PIT Subcommittee has worked with the Oasis Center and LaunchPad to add a strategy for counting youth, since there is now a dedicated question on this in the HUD NOFO. This year, there will be four locations around town hosted by youth providers who will have incentives and food on site to attract youth since many stay in abandoned buildings and cars that are harder to find.

For the sheltered portion of the PIT Count, we will collect all of the required HUD data elements, primarily through HMIS for emergency shelters and transitional housing that already use the system. The HMIS team will pull reports and cross check with each agency to make sure it is correct. There are customized spreadsheets for shelters that do not participate in HMIS. Shelters must have beds that are dedicated to people experiencing homelessness to participate in the PIT Count. The year, OHS is working to capture more people in hotels paid for by agencies, since they also meet the HUD definition of homelessness. Individuals staying in hotels are harder to find. If you know agencies that pay for hotels please reach out to OHS.

► **Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) Bylaws, Kennetha Patterson:**

Ms. Patterson sent her regrets for not being present. CAB is hard to create functional bylaws and increase alignment with other committees and the greater CoC. The CAB wanted to make sure that the HPC is aware of the draft bylaws, which will go forth for public comment in the near future.

► **Outdoor Housing Strategy Updates, April Calvin:**

OHS started a year ago with the outdoor encampment strategy based on recommendations from HUD and HUD TA. Document provided is a progress report of the work that has been done. Four out of the five camps identified by the prioritization team have already moved forward with the Housing Surge. We have a lot of stories of success that speak to feeling heard, being seen and moving forward with their lives. We have seen family reunifications and people moving into permanent housing. The focuses of the encampment strategy include affordable permanent housing options, interim gap housing, and supportive services.

OHS meets with MDHA every month to identify underutilized voucher subsidies and craft a plan to get back on track with utilization. Each month the OHS Landlord Engagement team identified vacancies for properties participating in the Low Barrier Housing Collective (LBHC). Last month, 365 vacancies were identified. The Affordable Gap Loan has roughly online 73 units that are solely dedicated to Coordinated Entry and an additional 681 units that people with vouchers could qualify for because they are considered affordable.

For encampment housing surges, OHS wants to ensure that we have more than enough units for the residents of an encampment available before we initiate a housing surge. The next location identified has 33-35 residents, many of which are in couples that will only need one unit. For each housing surge, an average of 111 units have been made available. Currently, Rodeway Inn has approximately 50 units available. Community Care Fellowship has two locations coming offline and a conversation is needed to understand their scalability and sustainability. There are also low-cost shared housing and single room occupancy options available.

► **Board Retreat Update, Jaha Martin:**

Chair hopes all HPC members can attend on February 9th from 9am - 2pm. There will be opportunities to network and the chair asks for people to be as present as possible. Chair recognizes the desire for a conversation on prevention and diversion, which could be built into the discussion of the \$50 million. HPC

	member suggested to discuss who is at risk of experiencing homelessness and strategies to keep people housed. Chair suggested that these topics could be added to the section on housing services.	
VII. BOARD MATTERS & COMMITTEE UPDATES	<p>► Story of Progress: AGB Real Estate Low Barrier Housing Studios, Adam Rosenberg: Adam Rosenberg is the founder of AGB Real Estate and is working closely with OHS to bring as many permanent supportive housing units to market. AGB takes dilapidated assets and repurposing them. The motel properties AGB has worked on are refurbished in approximately 10 months, which includes adding kitchens with new appliances. In a few months, AGB will bring 381 studio homes online. AGB will accept housing choice vouchers and is working with MDHA to determine rent. AGB wants to focus on reducing recidivism and providing supportive, community-oriented services. Properties will have dedicated units for computer labs that provide free WiFi. Mr. Rosenberg is hoping to provide a van service at each property that can take residents to get drivers licenses or go to doctor’s appointments. The properties are also always located on public transportation lines. Mr. Rosenberg expressed the importance of choice and that he is mindful that his properties should be a place that people <i>want</i> to live at.</p> <p>Mr. Rosenberg expressed that he welcomed suggestions and the following ideas were proposed by HPC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reach out to Dell to provide computer literacy training since they receive a subsidy through the city’s operating budget. ➤ There are a number of health care entities that have purchased mobile units that could provide medical services on site at the AGB properties. ➤ Consider having a dedicated space for peer support, especially at night when residents might need someone to lean on. To reduce recidivism, it will be important to create opportunities for building community. <p>Chair Martin thanked Mr. Rosenberg for his presentation and encouraged service providers to rally around developers like AGB to ensure that those exiting homelessness receive the support services they need to stay housed.</p>	
VIII. OTHER BUSINESS	None	
IX. ADJOURNMENT	► Adjourned: 10:12AM	NEXT MEETING: February 14 th , 2024 @ 8:30AM 1 Public Square, Suite 205, Nashville TN, 37201

***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.**