

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

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| <p>Council Members Present: Stephen Handy, Jaha Martin, Rico X, Liz Mallard, Alex Smith, Dr. Xyzedria Ensley, Kennetha Patterson, India Pungarcher, Jordan Huffman, John Rutherford, Adam Hansen, Jamie Villegas</p> <p>Staff Present: April Calvin, Hannah Cornejo-Nell, Kelly Muldoon, Kelsea Combs, Allison Cantway, Bill ClenDening, Derrick Smith, Megan Vickers, Dymin Cannon, Treva Gilligan</p> | <p>Date: February 14, 2024 Time: 8:30AM Place: Council Chambers, Suite 204 1 Public Sq, Nashville, TN 37201 Recorded by: Raquel de la Huerga</p> |
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| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION | RECCOMENDATION/ACTION |
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| <p>I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, MOMENT OF SILENCE, MINUTES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> | <p>► Welcome by Chairperson, Jaha Martin Thanked all the board members who were able to attend the retreat on Friday. HPC members can reach out to Raquel to submit feedback or request a folder of the materials.</p> <p>Chair Martin reflected on the extremely cold weather that took place in mid-January and thanked the Nashville Rescue Mission, Room in the Inn, and Metro Social Services for manning cold weather shelters across the city. So far there have been 32 nights of cold weather in Nashville. The cold weather overflow shelter operated every night from January 12th and 22nd, with some days requiring 24 hours of operation. 33 Metro Social Services staff worked the overflow shelter, many of them taking time away from their own families and sleeping at the shelter. Metro Social Services served over 10,000 meals, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and overnight. With sheltering services comes case management, housing support, substance use support, domestic violence relief assistance, mental health support, etc. On some nights there were over 350 people staying at the overflow shelter and there was not a time where fewer than 233 people were sheltered. Chair also recognized those contributing to cold patrol efforts and standing outside at the WeGo bus station to make sure people were getting where they needed to go. Chair Martin acknowledged that there could still be improvements at the shelter, but also reflected on the progress that has been made in the past few years to structure and staff the overflow shelter. As a reminder, there will be a RFP out for nonprofit agencies to run the cold weather shelter and Chair Martin encouraged agencies to apply.</p> <p>Chair Martin acknowledged that many HPC members have been in receipt of an email discussing gatekeeping related to a letter that was shared with Executive Committee from the Shelter Committee. Chair emphasized the importance of having decency and order within the HPC and the process that has been extended to each committee chairman is that if they have an agenda item that they would like to go before the HPC, it must be presented to Executive Committee beforehand. There has not been one committee chairman that has shown up at executive committee meeting that has not had their matters carried forth to the HPC. This process is simply for the Executive Committee to be able to ask questions and help if needed to support whatever the endeavor is so that hopefully when an item is presented to the HPC it is well thought out and prepared. Serving as an HPC member is a volunteer position and chair</p> | |

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| | <p>recognizes the need to not waste anyone’s time. In accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and Metro Legal guidance, the chair has the right to set agendas and it is their role to move the HPC forward in a business like manner. The Executive Committee is not trying to hide anything, and like every other meeting of the HPC and CoC is open and publicly noticed. Committee meetings are not recorded because it is a massive effort for Metro to have staff present to capture and store the videos. The chair opened for members to ask questions or discuss this issue. No questions were asked.</p> <p>► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Chair read the names of individuals who passed while experiencing homelessness in January. Majority of which are younger than 44.</p> <p>► Administrative Business Attendance was recorded. Stephen Handy expressed a conflict of interest.</p> <p>No action items.</p> <p>Councilmembers reviewed January 2024 minutes. No corrections were raised.</p> | |
| <p>III. ADMINISTRATIVE</p> | <p>► Report from OHS Director, April Calvin</p> <p>During the 7 consecutive days of all-day sheltering, OHS counted that 1,433 people were sheltered across the Nashville Rescue Mission, Room in the Inn, Metro Social Services Overflow Shelter, and the overflow to the Overflow Shelter operated by the Salvation Army. April is working with Hannah at OHS to look into the data collected from cold weather sheltering and compare with the Point-In-Time Count and By Name List. April thanked Metro Social Services and The Salvation Army for pivoting when they started seeing over 370 individuals at the cold weather shelter. With one call to Captain Canning at The Salvation Army the additional overflow shelter was able to operate for five consecutive nights to relieve the city’s cold weather shelter.</p> <p>OHS is working closely with HUD TA to help with the Collaborative Applicant transition. OHS has received some questions on why they have not yet made a grand announcement and why they haven’t moved forward with submitting information as the Collaborative Applicant. At this time, MDHA is still the Collaborative Applicant lead. Locally, the community did vote to transition the Collaborative Applicant, but OHS and MDHA are still working with HUD to officially move over the role and the grant. OHS is working closely with MDHA in this process on decision-making, messaging, sharing information, etc., but right now MDHA remains the lead until HUD approves the transfer request.</p> <p>OHS is hosting a Housing First Community Conference on March 7th, which will feature Sam Tsemberis and two other special guest speakers. HPC members should have received a Save the Date for the event. OHS’ Planning and Research Division is working diligently on some CoC resiliency classes and conferences that will hopefully take place in April, May, and June. OHS will be presenting in March with National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) along with CAB Chair Kennetha Patterson and Albert Townsend NAEH’s director of lived experience. OHS will also be attending the Housing First Conference</p> | |

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| | <p>in April and the HMIS team was offered to co-present with HUD technical advisors on Nashville’s data measures.</p> <p>During the Board Retreat, there was a great work session on the Strategic Plan. OHS is working diligently to compile the recommendations and present them to the Executive Committee later this month so we can start moving forward with carrying out the Strategic Plan and delegating work to committees. OHS has also been meeting with Shelter committee to review and revise the Encampment Strategy.</p> <p>OHS is also working with the Planning Department and the Corporation for Supportive Housing on the Strobel Center that is coming online soon and will offer permanent supportive housing.</p> <p>OHS is going into budget season for Metro Government. Any recommendations from the Board can be emailed to Raquel.</p> <p>► Report from MDHA Collaborative Applicant, Treva Gilligan:</p> <p>CoC Awards were announced. Nashville got everything we asked for and a little bit more. Suzie has hypothesized that the larger award could be attributed to increased rents. Treva shared some numbers for the award, but later corrected herself sharing that she was looking at last year’s award.</p> <p>MDHA continues to work with the Office of Homeless Services and HUD TA to get the Collaborative Applicant transferred.</p> | |
| <p>IV. UPDATES</p> | <p>► HMIS Monthly Data Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell:</p> <p>In January, 3,662 people experienced homelessness in Nashville. These individuals were in 2,937 households; 249 families and 2,688 adult only households. Over the past 12 months, 8,411 unique people have experienced homelessness in Nashville. January has more people than in past months, however, the HMIS team has seen a pattern that number seem to go up in January year after year, potentially due to cold weather. In January, 8% of people experiencing homelessness were veterans, 7% are youth aged 18-24, and 42% were experiencing chronic homelessness. 588 people were entered into HMIS in January, 242 of those people were brand new and 346 were returning. In January, 50% of people experiencing homelessness in Nashville were Black, 40% were White, 59% were men, and 40% were women.</p> <p>125 people moved into permanent housing in January. Nashville had a 5 month streak of much higher numbers, but January was down from the past several months. There were 62 households moved housing, which were 21 families and 41 adult only households. Over the past 12 months, 1,875 people total have moved into housing from homelessness. 14% of people who moved into housing were veterans, 9% were youth aged 18-24, and 22% were experiencing chronic homelessness. The average length of time from when some was entered into HMIS to when they exited into permanent housing was 203 days. 16 households moved into housing with no subsidy, 14 moved in with Rapid Rehousing, and 16 moved in with friends and family. 46% of people who moved into housing were Black, 38% were White, 49% were men, and 50% were women. The organizations that housed the most households were The Salvation Army (16), Operation Stand Down (10), and Oasis Center (8).</p> | |

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| | <p>► Point In Time Count, Hannah Cornejo-Nell: The Point In Time Count was on January 25th. Hannah expressed her thanks for those who went out and volunteered for the unsheltered count. Nashville had over twenty teams go out and survey people who were unsheltered that night. The HMIS team has been working to collect data from all the emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and safe haven programs in the city for the sheltered count. The HMIS team will not be releasing the numbers until they are official with HUD, which has typically happened in April. When the PIT Count data is ready to be released, MDHA will do an official press release.</p> <p>An HPC member that participated in the count for the first time commended the outreach workers at OHS. It was a very eye-opening experience to do the count in their own community and having such a knowledgeable outreach worker on their team was very helpful. Mr. James Clay with OHS was very knowledgeable about who is out there and offered support and follow ups to many individuals. The HPC member wanted to thank those who are out on the streets doing outreach day in and day out.</p> <p>► HUD TA Cloudburst Engagement & Updates, Allison Cantway: OHS is working with many forms of technical assistance, including Cloudburst on the CoC Structure and Planning, Built for Zero on family and veterans work, the National Alliance to End Homelessness on the Consumer Advisory Board, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing on the Strobel Center and permanent supportive housing more broadly in Nashville.</p> <p>OHS is engaging Cloudburst on updating the VISPDAT (vulnerability index), data compliance with HMIS vs HIPAA, and seamlessly transitioning the Collaborative Applicant. OHS has also put in two additional requestions on domestic violence centered service delivery and permanent supportive housing cost analysis and best practices.</p> <p>OHS applied for a HUD community workshop that will focus on Coordinated Entry, vulnerability assessment and the VISPDAT. OHS is hoping to hear that we have been accepted to attend this workshop series.</p> <p>OHS met with HUD representatives twice last week to discuss the CA transition. There is no single lever to pull – it is a process that must be approved by multiple levels of HUD. OHS and MDHA met with the local field office last week, they are aware of the transition and are beginning to process the paperwork. Met with the local field office. Grateful to MDHA for working alongside everyone.</p> | |
| <p>V. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS</p> | <p>► Is the Point-In-Time Count incorporated in the data report? The Point-In-Time Count data is not included in this report. People counted in the PIT might also be in HMIS, but those are separate data sources.</p> <p>► Is there any context that could explain the dip between December and January for those that were housed? 100 Family Challenge went on through the fall and December, which housed more families than normal. January also tends to be a lower month for housing year after year, but the HMIS team isn't quite sure why that is.</p> | |

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| | <p>► In Middle TN, African Americans are about 26% of the population, yet the number of Black people experiencing homelessness is almost double the population. Is there an understanding of why those numbers continue to be disproportionate. Structural racism has entrenched poverty for people in Nashville and many Black people to continue to experience poverty today. The Data and HMIS Oversight committees are looking into this disparity and strategies to address it.</p> <p>► What do we know about the singular applicant for the permanent supportive housing site on 2nd Ave. 1 entity that responded to the RFP? MDHA executive director appointed a review committee. Committee did decide that they did not think that the applicant agency had the capacity to fulfill the contract. OHS and MDHA are working together to explore a sole source contract with agencies that do have the capacity.</p> | |
| <p>VI. NEW BUSINESS</p> | <p>► FY2023 Continuum of Care Award, Allison Cantway: HUD has funded Nashville almost \$9.7 million. A breakdown of the funding can be found on the last page in the packets provided to HPC members. At the bottom of the sheet, there is also a table that shows how the award amount has increased over the last three years. This year’s award is \$1.86 million more than what Nashville received last year. Three new programs out of The Contributor and The Salvation Army were funded this year. Nashville got more money than we even requested and OHS is excited to gear up for this year’s competition.</p> <p>► Board Retreat Reflection, Jaha Martin: An HPC member expressed being grateful for the opportunity to participate in the retreat and found it to be an very useful learning opportunity. The HPC member commended everyone who worked to plan the retreat. Another HPC member echoed these sentiments and emphasized their appreciation of the interactive Strategic Planning activity. Adam Hansen shared that it was an amazing day of learning for those new to the HPC and appreciated opportunities to connect with other members. Adam then reminded HPC members that the Lowe’s grant is open until Monday and a link for the nominations form can be found in the email sent out by Raquel. Another HPC member shared that they appreciated that the space was an embodiment, equitable, and empowering.</p> <p>April Calvin thanked the community’s leadership for showing up to the retreat, including the HPC, CoC committee chairs, and Mayor Freddie O’Connell.</p> | |
| <p>VII. BOARD MATTERS & COMMITTEE UPDATES</p> | <p>► Story of Progress: Nashville Rescue Mission, Joy Flores: Joy Flores is the Vice President of Ministries at Nashville Rescue Mission. Joy has been with NRM for only 7 months and came to Nashville from California where she worked on Skid Row in LA County. Joy believes there is a lot of hope and opportunity to end homelessness in Nashville.</p> <p>The Nashville Rescue Mission (NRM) is thrilled to announce that right after the new year they opened up their Women’s Campus. NRM completely tore down the old building on Rosa Parks and spent the last</p> | |

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| | <p>two and a half years working to construct their new building. While the building was under construction, all of the women, children, and families were being sheltered at the men’s campus, which presented many logistical challenges. Now that the new space is reopened, NRM has enough capacity for 359 women and children in their shelter. NRM also has a women’s recovery program, which offers both addiction and life recovery. Joy offered for HPC members to come get a tour of the new facility to see the space and explore some of the trauma-informed architecture. NRM is still working out the kinks of the new building. January was also a challenging month to open up the shelter with the cold weather that stretched shelter capacity across the city.</p> | |
| VIII. OTHER BUSINESS | <p>An HPC member noted that the \$50 million report was not reviewed during the meeting. They also noticed that the report has entries broken down by encampment and asked for the same breakdown to be done for exits. Hannah responded that the exits data can easily be added as it is presented to Shelter Committee every month.</p> <p>HPC members can find upcoming committee meeting dates at the bottom of their agendas.</p> | |
| IX. ADJOURNMENT | <p>► Adjourned: 9:49AM</p> | <p>NEXT MEETING: March 13th, 2024 Sonny West Conference Center 700 2nd Ave S, Nashville, Tn 37210</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.**