

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

<p>Council Members Present: Jaha Martin, Rico X, Liz Mallard, Dr. Xyzedria Ensley, Kennetha Patterson, Jordan Huffman, John Rutherford, Alex Smith, Tom Turner, Stephen Handy, Wendell Seagroves, Catherine Knowles, D’Yuanna Allen-Robb</p> <p>Staff Present: Hannah Cornejo-Nell, Kelly Muldoon, Kelsea Combs, Allison Cantway, Bill ClenDening, Derrick Smith, Megan Vickers, Dymin Cannon, Suzie Tolmie, Marvin Trotter, Monte Talley, Allison Malone, Jennie Dawson, Giovanni Achoe</p>	<p>Date: March 13th, 2024 Time: 8:30AM Place: Sonny West Conference Center 700 2nd Ave S, Nashville, Tn 37210</p> <p>Recorded by: Raquel de la Huerga</p>
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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 Called meeting to order.</p> <p>► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Chair read the names of individuals who passed while experiencing homelessness in February.</p> <p>► Administrative Business Attendance and conflicts of interest were recorded.</p> <p>No action items were included on the agenda.</p> <p>Councilmembers reviewed February 2024 minutes. No corrections were raised.</p>	
<p>III. ADMINISTRATIVE</p>	<p>► Report from OHS Director, Dr. Marvin Trotter OHS is hiring and in the interview process for Outreach, PIC, and Landlord Engagement. OHS will host a resource fair on March 21st and a camp clean up at Old Tent City on March 29th. OHS is working alongside MNPd on concerns related to railroad track activities. OHS is preparing for spring seasonal concerns for our unsheltered neighbors. OHS is partnering with the United Way and Built for Zero on prevention and diversion work. OHS hosting a Housing First Conference on March 7th that went well and had a lot of engagement.</p> <p>Bill ClenDening shared updates on the \$50 million American Rescue Plan funding. The funded supportive services providers have been retooling their referral process. OHS has started the monitoring process for funded agencies, which includes a virtual meeting to set expectations followed by an in-person site visit. During monitoring, OHS is looking at policies/procedures and offering assistance. \$25 million gap financing for PSH is still being finalized.</p> <p>An HPC member requested for updates on the units scheduled to come online in February to be reported on at the April HPC meeting.</p> <p>► Report from MDHA Collaborative Applicant, Suzie Tolmie:</p>	

	<p>Collaborative Applicant role is slowly transferring to OHS. OHS and MDHA are hoping for an April 1st transfer, however, they are awaiting for HUD approval. MDHA is meeting with OHS every Friday to go over the Consolidated Application that was submitted in 2023. Suzie and OHS are going to look over the score HUD gave Nashville on that application and DV Bonus to see where we can improve. Nashville received 163 out of 200 points from HUD so there are opportunities to improve Nashville's score. Suzie registered Nashville for the FY24 Funding Opportunity. Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC) is revving its engines preparing for this year's competition and is inviting grantees to their meetings over the next four months. The PEC is also reviewing the renewal application and the new project application. OHS staff will be joining Suzie for monitoring visits in April.</p>	
<p>IV. UPDATES</p>	<p>► HMIS Monthly Data Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell: In February, 3,821 people experienced homelessness in Nashville. These individuals were in 2,911 households; 303 families and 2,608 adult only households. Over the past 12 months, 7,901 unique people have experienced homelessness in Nashville. In January, 7% of people experiencing homelessness were veterans, 7% are youth aged 18-24, and 42% were experiencing chronic homelessness. 671 people were entered into HMIS in February, 239 of those people were brand new and 432 were returning. In February, 5% of people experiencing homelessness in Nashville were Black, 38% were White, 58% were men, and 41% were women.</p> <p>173 people moved into permanent housing in February. Nashville had a 5-month streak of much higher numbers, but January was down from the past several months. There were 81 households that moved housing, which were 32 families and 49 adult only households. Over the past 12 months, 1,919 people total have moved into housing from homelessness. 12% of people who moved into housing were veterans, 11% were youth aged 18-24, and 24% were experiencing chronic homelessness. The average length of time from when some was entered into HMIS to when they exited into permanent housing was 168 days. 23 households moved into housing with no subsidy, 25 moved in with Rapid Rehousing, and 10 were housed with VASH vouchers. 60% of people who moved into housing were Black, 18% were White, and 9% were Hispanic/Latino. 49% were men and 50% were women. The organizations that housed the most households were The Salvation Army (20), Operation Stand Down (17), Safe Haven Family Shelter (13) and Catholic Charities (11).</p> <p>A member asked if this data includes the Nashville Rescue Mission. Hannah clarified that OHS is working with both the Mission and Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry to incorporate their data. Hopefully both data sources will be available next month. Another member asked if there is a way to estimate the number of people who lived in Nashville before becoming homeless vs those that migrated here while homeless. Hannah shared that this question is not currently captured in HMIS, but was asked about in this year's Point in Time Count. Studies in other cities show that generally people experience homelessness in the community they lived in prior. Lastly, a member asked whether HMIS has data on people who stay with family or friends temporarily but later become literally homeless. Hannah shared that people are only entered into HMIS when they meet HUD's definition of literal homelessness. More data needs to be collected to identify individuals who might be at risk of homelessness and in need of preventive and diversionary supports.</p> <p>► NAEH Conference, Bill ClenDening and Kennetha Patterson:</p>	

Four OHS staff attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference last week along with Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) members, Kennetha Patterson and April Burns-Norris, who received scholarships from the NAEH to attend. NAEH is a non-profit non-partisan organization that works to prevent and end homelessness. April Calvin, Bill Clendenning, and Kennetha Patterson were on a panel about “Leveraging the Invaluable Perspectives of Those with Lived Expertise”, which had about 90 attendees. Kennetha shared exciting developments from the recent CAB meeting that took place at the contributor and how exciting it was to attend the conference and meet other advocates with lived experience of homelessness. Kennetha shared that she hopes to sit down with the OHS team to talk through the many resources and strategies that were shared at the conference.

► **Voucher Utilization and Housing Units Coming Online, Dr. Marvin Trotter:**

Voucher utilization rates are 99% for Emergency Housing Vouchers, 82% for Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing, 59% for Family Unification Program, 98% for Shelter Plus Care, and 78% for Mainstream. Several low barrier units are coming online including, 131 and 117 for two AGB Real Estate properties, 20 for The Ave, 17 at Parliament Place, 2 for Be A Helping Hand, 2 at the Cherry Oak Apartments, and 90 at Metro’s Permanent Supportive Housing Strobel Center. Totaling to 389 new low barrier units. Councilmembers received an overview of the Low Barrier Housing Collective incentives and Chair Martin encouraged HPC members to share this information widely to help recruit more low barrier landlords.

A HPC member wanted to recognize the great work of the Landlord Engagement team and shared the barriers to housing that they have witnessed in their own apartment complex with potential residents losing their vouchers due to inspection delays. Members shared that MDHA can extend vouchers under those types of circumstances and that housing navigation is important to ensure that people don’t fall through the cracks in navigating the voucher system.

► **Housing First Community Conference, Allison Cantway:**

The Housing First conference took place last Thursday, which featured Dr. Sam Tsemberis who wrote the book on Housing First, Trudy Hernandez from Dallas’ Continuum of Care, and Angie Hubbard from the Planning Department’s Housing Division. The conference had over 200 attendees, with nearly a third non-traditional stakeholders. Many questions and comments were submitted at the event and the OHS Planning and Research team is going through the submissions.

► **HUD TA Cloudburst Engagement & Updates, Allison Cantway:**

OHS continues to engage 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.

OHS is engaging Cloudburst on retooling the Coordinated Entry Assessment Tool, data compliance with HMIS vs HIPAA, and seamlessly transitioning the Collaborative Applicant. Trying to get past conversations up and running again to address known limitations and equity concerns for the VISPDAT.

	<p>Four OHS staff will be participating in a HUD community workshop that will focus on Coordinated Entry, vulnerability assessment and the VISPDAT.</p>	
<p>VI. NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>► Shelter Committee Letter, Jon Rizzo: Jon thanked HPC Chair, HPC members, OHS, Council and applaud everyone for their work. Jon is presenting a letter to the HPC on behalf of the CoC Shelter Committee. Jon read the letter aloud and encouraged the HPC to consider proactive steps to address affordable housing shortfalls, which could include forming an Affordable Housing Committee comprised of realtors, developers, etc.</p> <p>Before engaging in discussion, a councilmember requested clarification from Metro Legal on whether the HPC can engage in fundraising activities. Attorney Derrick Smith shared that he has researched the federal guidelines regarding the Continuum of Care Program, which does not speak to planning council or Continuums of Cares as fundraising organizations, thus he did not see anything providing the authority to fundraising. Additionally, the HPC is a Metro entity and there are inherit conflict of interest for a taxing authority to engage in fundraising. Fundraising efforts would also need to be done in open meetings and the HPC could be competing with charitable organizations working to address homelessness in Nashville. Therefore, Attorney Smith shared that he would advise to not pursue becoming a fundraising entity collecting charitable contributions.</p> <p>Jon Rizzo shared that the letter encourages the HPC to organize a campaign to raise funding for affordable housing across the city, but would not necessarily have to be the entity collecting charitable contributions. A councilmember encouraged members to not let the conversation get derailed by technicalities and instead focus on the broader message of the letter that more urgency is needed to adequately increase affordable housing stock. The member encouraged everyone to consider more creative strategies and shared that there are over 600 churches in Davidson County alone and if every church brought on four units that could end homelessness in Nashville.</p> <p>Another member asked if the HPC could get updates on the status of the Affordable Housing Task Force and figure out ways to collaborate with organizations like the Planning Department’s Housing Division. Hopefully, this type of request could be done in collaboration or passed off to others working on the same issue. Members also shared that they agreed with the need for a funding campaign and wondered if conversations could be had with organizations like the United Way to see if they would be open to launching a campaign.</p> <p>Chair Martin shared that HUD TA had recommended creating a Permanent Housing Committee that would incorporate some of the responsibilities of Standards of Care Committee. OHS is working with committee chairs to explore forming a new committee and generating a potential description for a housing focused committee. Chair Martin would like to have a detailed committee description before trying to recruit philanthropists and developers to join the effort.</p>	

	<p>Stephen Handy shared that “movements never start within bureaucracy” and encouraged the HPC and the Shelter Committee to explore alternative strategies that would not have to live within Metro. Councilmember John Rutherford also shared that Angie Hubbard from the Housing Division made a very comprehensive presentation to Metro Council on the various affordable housing needs and initiatives across the city. Potential next steps could be to add affordable housing to meeting agendas and try to think through potential resources that the HPC is not effectively tapping into.</p> <p>► Continuum of Care Charter Revisions, Allison Cantway: The Governance Charter Committee has been reviewing and revising the Continuum of Care Charter for some time. Allison shared that the committee believes the charter is ready to be released for public comment and reviewed by the HPC and CoC General Membership. Allison encouraged HPC members to review the proposed Charter revisions and submit public comments with feedback and suggestions.</p>	
<p>IX. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>► Adjourned: 10:02</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING: April 10th, 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.**