

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

<p><b>Council Members Present:</b> Jaha Martin, Jordan Huffman, India Pungarcher, Jamie Villegas, John Rutherford, Liz Mallard, D’Yuanna Allen-Robb, Rico X, Tom Turner, Adam Hansen, Kennetha Patterson, Wendell Seagroves, Alex Smith</p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b> Dr. Marvin Trotter, Vai Sreenivasan, Raquel de la Huerga, Allison Malone, Derrick Smith, Suzie Tolmie, Allison Cantway, Dymin Cannon, Jennie Dawson</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  <b>Time:</b> 8:30AM  <b>Place:</b> Sonny West Conference Center  700 2nd Ave S, Nashville, Tn 37210</p> <p><b>Recorded by:</b> Raquel de la Huerga</p>
--	---

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECCOMENDATION/ACTION
<p><b>I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, MOMENT OF SILENCE, MINUTES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</b></p>	<p>► <b>Welcome by Chairperson, Jaha Martin</b>  Called meeting to order.</p> <p>► <b>Remembrance &amp; Moment of Silence</b>  Chair read the names of individuals who passed while experiencing homelessness in March. Member reminded to consider those not on the list too.</p> <p>► <b>Administrative Business</b>  Attendance and conflicts of interest were recorded. No action items were included on the agenda.</p> <p>Councilmembers reviewed March 2024 minutes. No corrections were raised.</p>	
<p><b>III. ADMINISTRATIVE</b></p>	<p>► <b>Report from OHS Assistant Director, Dr. Marvin Trotter:</b>  April is in Atlanta to present at the Housing First Conference. It is currently budget season in Metro Government and OHS is seeking to expand funding for vital needs and gaps in service delivery that align with OHS’ comprehensive focus. Ohs needs additional funding to best serve Nashville’s unhoused population and support service providers. OHS currently has four comprehensive focus areas, including: 1) bringing on permanent housing solutions by connecting with developers and MDHA, 2) assisting with family homelessness (e.g. collaborating with The Family Center to deploy TANF funds, funding hotel options for Safe Haven, and having dedicated staff to assist families), 3) addressing veteran homelessness by partnering with Built for Zero and the Veterans Workgroup, and 4) continuing the encampment engagement strategy. Having a community plan for encampments is vital and allows Nashville to receive more points on the Continuum of Care application, seek additional funding resources, and reduces the likelihood for homelessness to be criminalized. Unsheltered populations welcome this solution. Councilmember Kupin’s legislation supports our efforts and calls for the increase in the safety, security, housing resources for the unhoused, and cleanliness of the properties surrounding the Cumberland River within the downtown Interstate Loop and the Gay Street Connector. A Task Force is currently doing a walk through of this area to start initial work.</p>	

	<p>HPC members asked what is being done to increase supportive services to meet the needs of housing inventory coming online and if this is a priority for OHS. Dr. Trotter emphasized that OHS is in the early stages for the four focus areas. An HPC member requested for OHS to share a link for the dashboard that has been referenced to track affordable housing options that are coming online and a representative from the Housing Division shared this link:  <a href="https://www.nashville.gov/departments/planning/housing-division/state-housing">https://www.nashville.gov/departments/planning/housing-division/state-housing</a></p> <p>Another HPC member highlighted that the funding end date for interim housing is rapidly approaching and wanting to understand what is being done to prevent current residents of interim gap housing sites returning to homelessness when funding runs out. Dr. Trotter shared that properties are coming online, but inspections and other barriers are slowing down the process of helping people to move into permanent housing. The HPC member followed up to ask if OHS is considering closing additional encampments and Dr. Trotter responded that OHS will not close encampments if interim housing options are not readily available. Another HPC member asked when there is going to be a plan that is public information about what is going to happen for those in transitional housing after October 31<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Trotter shared that many residents at Rodeway are waiting on properties that should be coming online in the next couple months. Dr. Trotter shared that The Salvation Army is the service provider for Rodeway and might be able to answer additional questions for how they are planning for future sustainability. Chair Martin emphasized that April has shared that there will be an extension of funds and that service providers will have the opportunity to continue their contract with Metro and/or other service providers will have the opportunity to apply to be an interim gap housing provider. Chair Martin encouraged service providers in Nashville to apply for upcoming RFPs and advocate for what supportive services should look like to meet the need as individuals move from encampments to interim gap housing to permanent housing.</p> <p><b>► Report from MDHA Collaborative Applicant, Suzie Tolmie:</b>  Suzie has been working closely with Allison and Bill to collaboratively monitor agencies that receive CoC program funded. Monitoring is a good opportunity to learn more about the services provided through the CoC and check in to ensure agencies are on track. MDHA is working with OHS to transfer the Collaborative Applicant. MDHA has submitted a letter to HUD that they are willing to release the CoC funds to OHS and OHS sent a similar letter to HUD indicating their willingness to receive the grant. MDHA and OHS have been in conversation with HUD Knoxville staff and learned that this kind of grant transfer has go go through HUD staff in Washington DC. MDHA and OHS have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate on spending all of the CoC project funds by the end of June. MDHA will reimburse OHS for related Planning Grant costs.</p>	
<p><b>IV. UPDATES</b></p>	<p><b>► HUD System Performance Measures, Vai Sreenivasan:</b>  Vai introduced herself as the HMIS Data Quality and Monitoring Coordinator. The System Performance Measures (SPMs) is a federal report that is required by the McKinney Vento Act and mandated by Congress. HUD wants to see if our community’s performance has improved every year on these measures and if we do our CoC application is scored higher and we receive more funding to serve more people. HPC members were provided a report on the System Performance Measures for 2023.</p>	

	<p>Measure 1 is the average length of time that people remain homeless. On average, people were homeless for 61 days for emergency shelters and safe havens and 88 days if you add transitional housing, a decrease from last year. Vai indicated that the graph on the right includes permanent housing and the numbers are higher at 1.185 and 1,128. Measure 2 looks at returns to homelessness by looking at people who exiting HMIS to permanent housing two years ago. In 2023, 14.25% of people housed from October 2020 through September 2021 returned to homelessness, an increase of 2.25% since 2022. Measure 3 looks at the number of people experiencing homelessness, which includes data from the Point in Time Count and the Sheltered HMIS Count, both of which increased in the last year. Measure 4 covered increases in income for those in CoC funding programs. Only 35% of those active in the program increase their income within the year and only 24% of those who exited programs increased their income. Poor performance on this measure should indicate that our community needs to focus more on increasing income for people served in our programs. Measure 5 is the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time. In 2023, 2,416 people experienced homelessness for the first time. Measure 6 is for communities that have successfully ended homelessness, which has not yet been achieved by any Continuum of Care in the country. Measure 7 looks at successful placement into permanent housing from street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid re-housing.</p> <p>An HPC member asked if it is meaningful to compare Nashville’s System Performance Measures to other HUD funded programs across the country. Vai suggested that the HMIS team at OHS could work on comparing percentage-based metrics to peer cities.</p> <p>► <b>Committee Chairs Convening, Allison Cantway:</b> The committee chairs all met in March, which was the first meeting of committee chairs in a long time. The meeting was very successful and committee chairs shared that they appreciated having the opportunity to collaborate. Chairs went over the Strategic Plan objective by objective and discussed which committees might be able to tackle specific parts of the Strategic Plan. Committee chairs generally agreed with the changes proposed to the Committees section in the charter. Committee chairs suggested creating ad hoc committees to tackle objectives that did not naturally fit into existing committees. Chairs also suggested creating a housing-focused committee. Raquel flagged that HPC members have been provided an outline of the proposed responsibilities for the Strategic Plan, which includes comments on which objectives might require an ad hoc committee to be created.</p> <p>► <b>Charter Public Comment Period, Allison Cantway:</b> The Continuum of Care Governance Charter has been released for public comment. The public comment period will last 30 days and end on Friday, April 26. The proposed changes to the Charter will be presented on and discussed at next week’s Continuum of Care General Membership meeting.</p>	
<p><b>V. NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	<p>► <b>Homelessness Planning Council Nominations, Allison Cantway:</b> The Nominating Committee is meeting this Friday to discuss the process for HPC nominations. Nominating Committee plans to discuss strategies to continue to promote diversity in backgrounds and expertise across the HPC, including recruiting people with lived experience. If HPC members have</p>	

suggestions for community members that would be a good fit for the HPC, nominations can be sent to Raquel, Allison, or Ingrid McIntyre (Nominating Committee Chair).

► **Data & HMIS Oversight Committee CoC Priorities Report, Shanley Deignan:**

Shanley introduced herself as the chair of the HMIS Oversight Committee, which has been meeting jointly with Data Committee. Shanley presented on this report to the HPC last summer when they had to move quickly to make data report for the Performance Evaluation Committee to ensure they could make data-driven decisions in their process of ranking CoC projects for the annual competitions. The Performance Evaluation Committee has been seeking guidance for years to inform their process. Data/HMIS Committee is available to the HPC and the CoC to produce reports. The committee pulled data from HUDs last calendar year and now that we have a template it would be easy to redo it for this year's competition.

A lot of people experiencing homelessness are single adults, many of them meet HUDs definition of chronic homelessness, which is anyone who experienced homelessness for more than 365 consecutive days or someone who experienced 4 episodes of homelessness in 3 years and someone in the household has to have a disabling condition. This is the population we see most among those experiencing homelessness locally in Nashville. Previously, the CoC and HPC have asked for more data on racial demographics to be included in these reports. The report now includes a breakdown of racial demographics in HMIS vs census data, which shows that 53% experiencing homelessness are Black, despite Black people comprising only 27% of the Nashville population. The second page, includes a chart that depicts exits for adults compared to families. The committee found that only 22% of all adults who exit HMIS are exiting to a permanent housing destination compared to 74% of families exiting to permanent housing destination. This comparison was created to highlight how we are doing as a community to serve different types of households. The committee also looked at how racial disparities in individuals and families accessing housing. The committee did not find a meaningful difference between Black and White individuals, but Black families were more likely to move into housing, but it took them significantly longer. The committee also looked at chronic homelessness and found that far more adult only households are meeting the chronic homelessness definition and the stock of different housing programs in Nashville. Nation-wide permanent supportive housing has been proven to be the most effective resource for meeting the needs of people experiencing chronic homelessness. However, only a very small percentage of people using permanent supportive housing meet the chronic homelessness definition. The overwhelming majority of people experiencing homelessness are single adults, however, that population is the lead likely to get housed in our community. The report recommends for the Pec to continue to prioritize permanent supportive housing projects and for the Coordinated Entry Process to better match those experiencing chronic homelessness to PSH.

HPC members asked who the recommendations are for and what actions can be taken to advance the report. Data committee is taking on recommendations for how to improve the report and will be coordinating with the Performance Evaluation Committee, but Shanley encouraged HPC members to

	<p>consider these recommendations as decision-making opportunities arise. For example, one of the proposed Charter revisions would be to create a committee that would provide oversight to the Coordinated Entry Process, which might create an avenue for addressing racial disparities and better matching those experiencing chronic homelessness to supportive housing. D’Yuanna shared that she serves on the Performance Evaluation Committee and found the report to be very helpful last year when they were reviewing applications for CoC funding. D’Yuanna also suggested that data reports could be used for ongoing monitoring to assess how programs are performing and ensure that the entire CoC is making data-driven and data-conscious decisions. D’Yuanna also reminded HPC members that they are welcome to join CoC committees. Chair Martin highlighted that the HPC has seen a range of inequities and has asked OHS staff to work with committees to make movement in investigating and addressing these inequities to ensure that we provide equitable services.</p>	
<p><b>VI. STORY OF PROGRESS</b></p>	<p>► <b>Local Artist Spotlight, Omari Booker:</b>  Omari introduced himself as a Nashville Native with bipolar disorder who has been incarcerated multiple times and just got off parole last year. Omari shared that his experience with incarceration has encouraged him to think about the concept of recidivism through the lens of chronic homelessness. Omari shared that he leans on art to share stories and build community. Community is important for those returning from either incarceration or homelessness and art can be an accessible option for them to process and express themselves. Not everyone can afford a counselor or a therapist but they can afford art as a method of expression. People experiencing homelessness have a lot of stories to tell and may not have an outlet to do that through. Omari has spent time with those experiencing homelessness, which inspired him for his recent art series “Still Life”. Omari shared the immense value that people experiencing homelessness bring to their community and how important it is to bring dignifying programming to community members that are often overlooked. Omari shared that he has been working with the Office of Homeless Services on a mural at the Strobel Center, Nashville’s permanent supportive housing site that will be coming online soon.</p>	
<p><b>VII. ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>► Adjourned: 10:02</p>	<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b>  May 8th, 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.**