

Continuum of Care Makes Historic Move to Confirm New Homelessness Planning Council Chair with Lived Experience



Issue No. 4 | September 2024

Written by: **Director April Calvin** and **Demetris Chaney**

Content Editor: **Megan Vickers**

Design Editor: **Candace Martinez**

From the Desk of April Calvin

This Fall, The Office of Homeless Services is embarking on a significant endeavor. We are excited to announce that we will be submitting 3 Federal grants on behalf of our Continuum of Care, a historic effort in partnership with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA). This move, which is of great importance, positions us well to secure these funding streams, as we continue to align local priorities with those set by the Federal Government Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the 'All In' Strategy designed by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

It's important to note that federal funds are just one piece of the puzzle. Addressing our nation's housing crisis requires a multi-faceted approach, drawing on a variety of funding streams: federal, state, and local government, nonprofit, business, philanthropic, and faith-based. But perhaps most crucially, it will take the voices of our unhoused Nashville neighbors to guide the change in our housing crisis.

Change is difficult for some, but as community leader, OHS continues to create and implement several monumental 'firsts' for our community. These include the establishment of innovative housing programs, the introduction of new outreach strategies, and the adoption of progressive policies. As the former chair, Jaha Martin, transitions from her role; we celebrate a historic moment: Kennetha Patterson, Nashville Davidson County's Homelessness Planning Council's

first chair with lived experience. The Office of Homeless Services' mission is to lead Nashville's efforts to end homelessness through innovation, community collaboration, and compassion.

Here in the Volunteer State, I have witnessed varying degrees of altruism regarding strategic methods and ideas for reducing and ending homelessness. The Office of Homeless Services will continue to leverage and celebrate areas where we align to create efficiency and eliminate distractions from addressing the needs of those for whom we are centered.

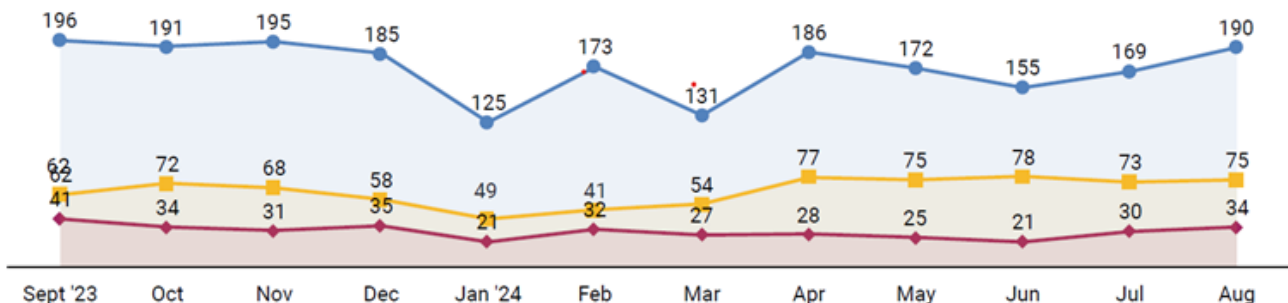
As advised by Dr. Sam Tsemberis, one of the Times 100 most influential people, OHS has helped create a more efficient system by utilizing centralized housing navigation and community outreach to assist agencies in making the most effective use of available resources.

In the spirit of continued celebration, we are proud to announce that the top agencies that housed the most households in August 2024 were The Salvation Army (19), Operation Stand Down (13), Safe Haven Family Shelter (10), Community Care Fellowship (9), and Catholic Charities (9). Their dedication and hard work is truly inspiring.

Meanwhile, we are also celebrating our community housing 190 individuals in August.

-April Calvin

190 people experiencing homelessness were housed in Nashville in **August 2024**. These 190 people were in **109 households**; **34 families** and **75 adult only households**. Over the past 12 months, **2,068 people** have been housed in Nashville.



Metro Welcomes New Homelessness Planning Council Chair Nashville's First HPC Chair with Lived Experience

Kennetha Patterson, a trailblazer in Nashville's efforts to combat homelessness, has been elected as the first chair of the Homelessness Planning Council (HPC) with lived experience of homelessness. This marks a historic moment for Nashville's Continuum of Care, reflecting a stronger focus on elevating voices with valuable experience.

Patterson has served on the HPC for the past two years, playing a vital role in leading initiatives to engage others with lived experience across the care system. She also chairs the Consumer Advisory Board, a committee dedicated to advising the Continuum of Care on strategies to better support the city's unhoused population.

In addition to her leadership roles, Kennetha runs Innovative JOBS Solutions LLC, a freelance consulting firm. She was recognized by the Nashville Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40 list of future leaders. Kennetha is also a dynamic speaker, advocate, wife, and mother of five.



Kennetha Patterson,
HPC Chair

More Funding Opportunities for Community Agencies Serving Unhoused Nashvillians



The Planning and Research Team at the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) is currently pursuing three critical grant opportunities, all aimed at tackling homelessness in Nashville. Just last week, they submitted the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant, which focuses on creating solutions for youth homelessness. They're also engaged in the competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) process, a two-part challenge that includes a local competition and a community-wide application to secure vital funding.

In addition, OHS is applying for the CoC Builds grant—a rare, one-time HUD funding opportunity designed to create new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units. These funds are key to bolstering the efforts of our community partners in the fight to end homelessness. As we work tirelessly to secure more state and local funding, we remain committed to meeting the growing needs of our unhoused neighbors and supporting the community agencies that serve them. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and service!

Community Partners Now Have Access to 203 locations

Landlord Engagement Adds Hillside Crossing Nashville to the Low-Barrier Housing Collective.

Increasing the Low-Barrier Housing Collective is a primary focus of our Landlord Engagement team. Hillside Crossing dedicates 80 additional units to our unhoused neighbors. As the collective grows, community partners have more access to low barrier housing for our unhoused Nashvillians that reduce traditional screening criteria such as credit history, criminal background, and rental history. More housing is needed to tackle the growing demands of homelessness and the need for more affordable housing options in our city.

Our Landlord Engagement team has increased marketing and recruitment efforts by connecting with more community-based agencies and exploring unconventional housing options such as shared living. Collaborating with Metro Housing Division and MDHA to expand affordable housing options through the new developer pipeline continues to be an asset to our mission.

The real answer to ending homelessness in our city is to strengthen collaborative partnerships that improve access to more affordable housing options.

To join our efforts, please click [here](#)



Hillside Crossing Lobby



Hillside Crossing Living Space



Karen, the landlord at Hillside Crossing Nashville, has joined our collective with a passionate commitment to housing individuals exiting homelessness!

Conveniently located in the heart of Nashville and near the bus line, Hillside Crossing offers incredible amenities like a workout room and pool, providing both comfort and community.

Residents rave about feeling respected and treated like family!

Want to learn more about this amazing housing opportunity?

Email us at ohslandlordsupport@nashville.gov

Community Partner Highlight



Chad Pinkston, Housing Director

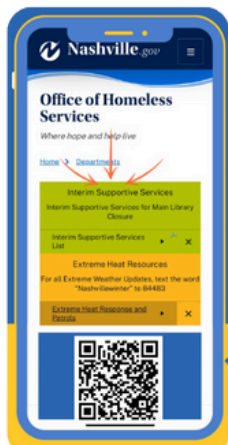
Chad Pinkston, Housing Director at Community Care Fellowship, went above and beyond to help his client secure her new home. Faced with an out-of-state balance that could only be paid by mail, Chad drove to Kentucky the same day to ensure there were no delays. Thanks to his dedication, the client moved into her new home without waiting. The Landlord Engagement Team applauds Chad for his compassion and commitment to ending homelessness. Thank you, Chad, for your remarkable efforts!



Community Outreach and Coordinated Entry (CE) Strengthen Access Points for Unhoused Nashvillians

Over 200 Bus Passes Distributed since Library Closure.

The outreach team is stationed outside the downtown library daily, offering support to unhoused individuals who often rely on the library as a safe daytime space. The OHS Outreach Team provide bus passes and connect people with essential community services, ensuring easy access to the help they need. During the library's closure, the team will continue to serve at this central location from 8 AM to 10 AM every day. For a full list of supportive services offered, visit our website [here](#) or scan the QR-code below. The image below will appear.



190 People Exit Homelessness in August 2024 Through CE

Knowing where to start seeking help is often the first challenge faced by many unhoused Nashvillians. CE serves as the bridge that connects the unhoused to the service providers and supports needed.

As the lead agency for CE, the Office of Homeless Services oversees the strategic planning and daily operations of the system. By continuously refining this process and strengthening partnerships, the time it takes for individuals to exit homelessness is steadily decreasing.

To get enrolled or for more on the CE system: click [here](#).

MNPD and OHS Discuss Community Strategies



Event Announcements and Media Mentions



FREE Resource Fair

EVENT DETAILS

When

- Thursday, September 19, 2024
- 10am - 12pm

Where

701 Gallatin Pike S
Madison, TN 37115

Resources Available

- Housing Navigation
- HIV & HepC Testing
- Mental Health Support
- Rehabilitation Support
- Syringe Exchange
- Showers
- SNAP/EBT
- Gov't Cell Phones
- Employment
- Food

• MUCH MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
HANNAH MEINEKE | 615-924-2535 | HANNAH.MEINEKE@NASHVILLE.GOV

OHS OUTREACH TEAM
invites you to our
END OF SUMMER GATHERING

THIS IS A
Service Provider NETWORK Event



Get ready for a day of fun, games, and excitement at our OHS Outreach Team's networking event! We invite you to join us as we close out the summer season with a time to gather with some good food and an opportunity to network with one another.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

11AM - 3PM

SHELBY PARK RIVERVIEW PAVILLION, DAVIDSON ST.

REGISTER HERE

ACTIVITIES

- Cornhole
- Kickball
- Dominoes
- Uno



REGISTER NOW FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL OHS
5K RUN & WALK!

Are you ready to pound the pavement and conquer new fitness goals all for a great cause? Join us for an exhilarating 5K Run & Walk event that promises excitement, community, and a whole lot of fun!

Friday
October 4, 2024

Start From
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Ravenwood Park
Stones River Greenway
Donelson-Hermitage

Special Price
\$ 25/runner

REGISTER HERE

Thank you for the 5K coverage!



Kendrick Wright Reporting

Click [here](#) to see the story.