

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

Council Members Present: Kennetha Patterson, Pastor Stephen Handy, Liz Mallard, Jamie Villegas, Dr. Xyzeidria Ensley, India Pungarcher, D’Yuanna Allen-Robb, Michelle Southard, Meredith MacLeod Jaulin, David Langgle-Martin, CM Jordan Huffman, CM Courtney Johnston, CM John Rutherford, Rico X, Adam Hansen, David Langgle-Martin, Drew Freeman, Laura Ward, Angie Lawless, Jaha Martin Staff Present: April Calvin, Raquel de la Huerga, Allison Cantway, Bill ClenDening, Derrick Smith, Hannah Cornejo-Nell	Date: January 8, 2025 Time: 8:30AM Place: Sonny West Conference Center Recorded by: Raquel de la Huerga
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION
I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, MOMENT OF SILENCE, MINUTES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT	► Welcome by Chairperson, Kennetha Patterson Chair Patterson shared words of encouragement for 2025, emphasizing the need to uplift lived and professional expertise in our community to ensure that every individual has safe, decent, and affordable housing. Chair Patterson emphasized the need for creative housing interventions to advance housing first within our community. ► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Members took a moment of silence for lives lost while experiencing homelessness in the month of January. ► Review of December Minutes Jamie Villegas requested for the minutes to be corrected to note that she voted Against and not In Favor of the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy. Pastor Stephen Handy requested to be added to the attendance list for the December meeting. ► Public Comments Dede Byrd asked if there is a way for community members to follow the movement of the pods to find out what the holdups are so the community can best support the initiative. Dede expressed that the pods could be an option that could be well suited for individuals who are not yet interested in housing. Director April Calvin responded that there is a task force working on the pods and she will share additional information in the future.
II. UPDATES	► Office of Homeless Services Director’s Report, April Calvin: The Office of Homeless Services has been operating the Cold Weather Shelter and recently sent out a one pager press release that provided an overview of their efforts. Thus far, OHS has provided 15 days of Cold Weather Sheltering with an average of 200 individuals per night. The upcoming week OHS is expecting for the shelter to be open for 7 consecutive nights. OHS has extended hours for the upcoming week to remain open until 10am. OHS will continue to assess the weather and day shelter capacity. This is the first time that the Cold Weather Shelter data is being entered directly into HMIS. Those frequenting the shelter are 48 years old on average and 93% have at least one disabling condition. 44% of the shelter guides are not connected to any services. In the time that the shelter has been open this season, 11 guests have moved into permanent housing. OHS is partnering with the Health Department to receive additional behavioral health staff to help at the shelter. Nashville closed out 2024 with a Homelessness Memorial sponsored by Open Table and other service providers. In November of 2021, 203 individuals passed away from experiencing homelessness. This year, that number is 113 – a 45% decrease. Open Table noted that the number of deaths from last year will likely increase, since the data comes from the city’s indigent burial program, which has a lag in reporting.

	The Low Barrier Housing Collective has launched a tool called Padmission that allows service providers to search for available units. The platform allows for easy filtering to narrow down units that match an individual’s housing needs. In 2021, Nashville had 147 locations that would provide housing to people exiting homelessness and now there are over 327 locations. The \$25 million Affordable Gap Loan has been fully expensed to multiple organizations to bring on 930 units of affordable housing, including 182 dedicated to people exiting homelessness. The initial goal was 120, which was significantly exceeded. For the last three years, Nashville has hovered around 2,000 people being housed throughout the year. This year it was 1912 unduplicated individuals, with 47% leaving places not meant from human habitation, 32% coming from emergency shelters, and 21% coming from vulnerable situations (e.g. domestic violence). Regarding the housing inventory, a member asked if those units are currently available or just those that are marked as low income. The 327 represents 327 locations that accept people exiting homelessness. At this moment, across those sites, there are 728 available units, which changes on a daily basis. Members requested for available units to be reported to the HPC. In total the Low Barrier Housing Collective has nearly 10,000 units in their portfolio, but they are not always available or dedicated to people exiting homelessness. Another member asked how church spaces are being leveraged for emergency shelter and strategies for creating partnerships? Many churches have underutilized space and volunteers. The Office of Homeless Services is working with the state’s Office of Faith Based Initiatives to expand on this strategy. A member asked if there is an update regarding the Interim Housing site at Rodeway Inn. OHS just wrapped up a round of negotiations with four organizations, which has since been narrowed to three. OHS is working with Metro Legal to get all three RFPs approved. ping to get 3 RFPs approved. The RFPs are for Launch Pad, CCF, and Hospitality Hub out of Memphis TN. OHS is pushing for these three pieces contracts to moved through Metro Council on the 21st. Regarding the COVID pods, a member asked if there is there anything that can be done as a community to work on selecting potential sites? OHS responded that it could be helpful to engage faith organizations and non-profit sites to explore who might be willing to serve as host sites for the pods. The producer of the pods has outlined some best practices and the task force is working on potential parameters and expectations. There will eventually be an RFP deployed that will detail what Metro is looking for. ► Collaborative Applicant Report, Allison Cantway: In October, OHS submitted the CoC Consolidated Application. In November, OHS submitted the CoC Builds application on behalf of the community. OHS is waiting to hear back from HUD regarding both of those applications. HUD has shifted to a two-year cycle for the CoC Notice of Funding Opportunities. This shift will allow OHS with more capacity to monitor funded agencies and offer technical assistance. The CoC Planning Grant, which is the grant associated with the Collaborative Applicant position. Allison reported that the Planning Grant transfer has been signed by HUD and was subsequently signed by MDHA. OHS is now working to have the transfer approved by Metro Council, which is a required step for anytime Metro Government receives any grant. OHS is working with Metro Grants and Metro Legal to move that legislation through. The Point-in-Time Count is taking place on later in the month and the methodology is in front of the HPC today.
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	► HMIS Monthly Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell: 3,098 people experienced homelessness in Nashville in December 2024. These 3,098 people were in 2,640 households; 245 families and 2,395 adult only households. Over the past 12 months, 10,874 unique people have experienced homelessness in Nashville. OHS has added a new section to the report to include data from the Nashville Rescue Mission and Cold Weather Shelter. This data is being reported separately as the OHS HMIS team works to integrate the data. In December, 669 people were served by the Metro Cold Weather Shelter and 1,666 were served by the Nashville Rescue Mission. 9% of those experiencing homelessness in December were veterans, 7% were youth age 18-24, 44% were experiencing chronic homelessness. 790 individuals were entered into HMIS in December. 52% of those experiencing homelessness were Black, 40% were White, 62% were men, and 37% were women. 1,912 people were housed in Nashville in 2024. In December, 132 people were housed across 108 households, including 11 families and 97 adult only households. The average length of time from when someone entered HMIS to when they exited was 143 days. 35 households exited with no subsidy, 22 households went to live with friends/family, 19 moved into Permanent Supportive Housing. The organizations that housed the most people were the Oasis Center, Room in the Inn, and Operation Stand Down. Of those housed in December, 50% were Black, 43% were White, 68% were men, and 30% were women. A member asked if OHS can show trends for the average length of time to permanent housing. OHS will share this data with that member. Another member asked if the Nashville Rescue Mission data included the women’s campus. OHS responded that the data includes both of the Mission’s emergency shelters and their transitional housing programs. OHS reported that there are 344 children experiencing homelessness and a member asked if that could be added to future reports. ► Continuum of Care Updates, Raquel de la Huerga: The Nominating and Membership Committee has been reviewing the Metro Council legislation that changed attendance and voting requirements for the Homelessness Planning Council. The Governance Charter Committee will be re-launching in the next month now that their new chair is in place. Housing Opportunities Committee met in December and are working on a housing needs assessment for those exiting homelessness and tracking housing models. The Data & HMIS Oversight Committee are waiting for responses from Metro Legal on the proposed changes to the HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual that Chair Deignan presented to the HPC in December. The SWOP Committee is working to map the landscape of street outreach in Nashville. Standards of Care Committee is working to establish standards trainings for service providers, set standards for referrals/transition of services, and expand the scope of their committee beyond programs that are CoC funded. The Equity & Diversity Committee is working on planning an Equity Training for April 4th or 11th and drafting an Anti-Discrimination Policy. Drew Freeman asked what committee would be most relevant to join in addressing family homelessness. Raquel shared that the CoC does not currently have population specific committees and recommended potentially tapping into the SWOP and Standards of Care committees.
III. ACTION ITEM: POINT-IN-TIME COUNT METHODOLOGY	Nathan Scarlett is the Point-in-Time Count Subcommittee Chair and works as an Outreach Specialist for People Loving Nashville. Nathan shared that HUD mandates that every CoC in the country conduct a PIT Count in the last 10 days of January. The subcommittee identified Thursday, January 23rd as the night they will conduct the PIT Count this year. Communities are required to count and survey people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. The PIT Count subcommittee is responsible for designing the methodology and coordinating the PIT Count. This year, Nashville will use a new app called Hyperion, which will be subject to the same privacy and security policies outlined in the HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual. This year, the committee used a HUD PIT Count Planning Worksheet to outline their methodology. The count will include over 20 teams of volunteers assigned to cover designated areas in the county to ensure full coverage. This year’s survey also includes additional questions asking if folks would be willing to leave their pet to access services and if they are working with any service providers. All volunteers will receive training and each team will have at least one person trained to administer Naloxone. The committee will also be bringing back the PIT Count Kickoff Event.

	Jamie Villegas moved to approve the 2025 Point-in-Time Count Methodology. Seconded by Jaha Martin. Chair Patterson opened up discussion. A member asked if there are comparative cities that Nashville partners with to learn how to improve the PIT Count Methodology. OHS has not directly contacted other communities regarding the methodology, however, the HMIS team did connect with multiple CoCs in Tennessee to explore potential software for collecting survey responses. Nashville has followed best practices by using the complete census methodology, which is recommended by HUD. Chair Patterson put the motion to a vote. IN FAVOR: Jaha Martin, Liz Mallard, Angie Lawless, Stephen Handy, Rico X, Kennetha Patterson, D’Yuanna Allen-Robb, Adam Hansen, Michelle Southard, Laura Ward, David Langgle-Martin, Drew Freeman, Dr. Xyzeidria Ensley, Meredith MacLeod Jaulin, Jamie Villegas, India Pungarcher None opposed. The three Vice Mayoral appointees did not vote due to recent legislation that changed their status to non-voting. MOTION CARRIED.
IV. NEW BUSINESS	HPC Board Retreat Chair Patterson and the Office of Homeless Services are looking at scheduling the HPC Board Retreat for either February 6th or 7th. Members expressed a preference for Friday, February 7th. Downsizing the Homelessness Planning Council Members were provided feedback from the General Membership meeting where attendees suggested potential strategies for downsizing. Additionally, member packets included attendance from 2023 and 2024, the establishing ordinance for the HPC, and the recent Metro Council legislation. A member asked Metro Legal if there are any updates to the Metro Council legislation. Metro Legal responded that the Council Members are no longer voting members. Metro Legal responded that Metro Council members would also not be able to vote on committees, but could make nominations. Metro Legal will be following up to see if an administrative change can be made to the legislation to correct the contradictory language in the legislation regarding the number of voting members. A member suggested for this topic to be added to the agenda for the HPC retreat and to potentially collect new data from the Continuum of Care regarding downsizing. A member asked for Metro Legal’s interpretation of 2.144.040, which states that the HPC is not a board or commission of Metro Government. Metro Legal clarified that language refers to the previous Metro Homelessness Commission that no longer exists. This body is established earlier in the ordinance and is bound by Metro Code provisions for administrative bodies. A member asked what was the rationale for downsizing the HPC? The suggestion started with HUD Technical Assistance from Cloudburst and ICF. Those TA providers had not seen a CoC board of this size and noted logistical challenges for the scale of the board. This recommendation also came along with suggestions to downsize the number of committees. The HPC was originally designed to merge two bodies, but the size has not been revisited since. TA recommended to revisit the structure to ensure the scale was appropriate for our community. At the time, there were many attendance and quorum issues that prompted this discussion.

	A member noted that a lot of the feedback from the CoC has to do with representation. The member noted potential benefits of having a larger board that could adequately represent the diverse makeup of our community and perspectives needed to address the range of issues related to homelessness. A member noted that Nashville has a very large number of Board and Commissions and that the Mayor's Office has struggled to fill appointments with strong stakeholders and find space for these bodies to meet. The member also posed potentially exploring alternative strategies for addressing attendance issues and asked if downsizing is the only potential solution. The Nominating and Membership Committee will be meeting soon to explore potential structures to maximize representation while ensuring that the HPC can function nimbly. Members also encouraged for there to be an exploration of best practices and research to justify whatever action is taken. OHS shared that this move will require action from Metro Council and there is a shared desire to gather input from the community to ensure energy reflect the wishes of the CoC. An effort will need to be made to determine any potential strategies for how the downsizing should occur and whether it should be action taken before the upcoming election this summer.
V. STORY OF PROGRESS	► Nathan Scarlett, People Loving Nashville Nathan presented the Story of Progress of Tonya, Lee, and their dog Rastis. Nathan provided an overview of how he began to work with Tonya and Lee and the long journey to getting them housed.
VI. ADJOURNMENT	► Adjourned: 10:12am NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2025 at the Historic Metro Courthouse Council Chambers