

Homelessness Planning Council Board Retreat

Notes from Strategic Breakout Sessions

The following notes were generated during brainstorming breakout activities at the Homelessness Planning Council Board Retreat on February 7, 2025. Anytime an asterisk (*) is noted represents that an attendee at the retreat agreed with the suggestion.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Objective 1.1

- Braiding in potential partners that are already doing the work.
- The ability to show our work and assisted calls to action.
- **Part a** – Is there a committee tasked with systemic barriers – elevating the barriers and creating mechanisms to dissolve the barriers? ***
- **Part b** - Positive increased involvement and engagement with people with lived experience into all CoC committees and initiatives
- **Part d**
 - Create a public, collaborative system/resource map with input from all committees *
 - How are we engaging the larger community and stakeholders outside of the CoC? **
 - **iii** – Love to hear about progress on mapping

Objective 1.2

- Need plan to publicize and transparently communicate inventory results
- Look at Unified Housing Strategy plan coming out to examine 30% AMI units
- How do we sort people into a complex system**
- Create a training for service providers that shows the various pathways and processes towards housing provision*
- Increase collaboration with the Planning Dept*
- We need to operate from love and compassion
- Lived experience cohort has a ton to add here and we can help navigate as peer supporters

- Inventory of resources should include both within and outside of HMIS. How do folks access those resources? Is the process equitable? Is the process coordinated or siloed?
- **Part b** – Is there language or process to prepare people with lived experience to make sure they feel included?
- **Part c** – Can we get specific? How? Incentivize LIHTC developers, private equity co-op models, shared housing.

Objective 1.3

- We need a contingency plan on deck for potential federal changes in order to protect our consumers quickly and efficiently.***
- The HMIS system itself needs improvement in functionality and modernization to be able to use the data results quicker and more efficiently. Great progress in getting more HMIS participation and use but now need system improvement.
- How is this different from 2.3?
- How are we laying HMIS data on top of other systems (public health, reentry, immigration) to identify solutions?
- We need to be open to change
- Please note VI-SPDAT does work it's the aftermath I heard the Standards of Care committee mention the follow up for shelters.
- Should we add specific language around research and reporting to make it clear to the community?

Objective 1.4

- We need more input from people that's experiencing homelessness
- Identify and publicize the challenges and barriers associated with finding housing (based on data from PIT and Inventory Counts)*
- Collaborative/interactive community meetings to mobilize people at the neighborhood level
- We need more units for 0-30% AMI
- How do we measure and celebrate the wins and mitigate the challenges
- **Part a** – Build out this section. How do we ensure this? How is it being monitored? Who is responsible for updating approved language?
- **Part c** – Add language specific to elevating and dissolving barriers based on metrics
- **Part d** – Promote this resource

Objective 2.1

- What are the action steps and impact?
- Hold MDHA accountable to PSH and increase low barrier HCV set aside
- Engage ECBOs and refugee organizations*
- Cultural competency and LEP
- Increase reentry collaboration**
- Marketing plan to engage private funding for collaborative work in this space*
- Need to diversify funding streams
- LIHTC – bonus points for developers with CE preference
- Identify flex funding unrestricted funds
- Need to assign each activity to a committee or workgroup
- **Part b** – Include a measure that tells us whether we are making progress on diversifying funds *

Objective 2.2

- Need activities front and center in our meetings – what’s being done, by whom, with what impact?
- How many SOAR programs are there in the city? (there are 2)
- Organize two additional PIT Counts in the year to identify more people
- We need to find more ways to contact the people instead of taking their names off the list because they no longer have a phone
- How many HCV set asides do we have?
- Have the CARE of Shelter Plus Care subsidies
- Shared housing strategy*
- Work on a universal approach to gain trust from the homeless community (help correct so we aren’t considered to be outsiders)
- Emphasize ending veteran homelessness. Model methods used by other cities that have achieved functional zero among veterans. Chattanooga is one example with their “Freedom Homestead” campus for veterans experiencing homelessness.
- **Part a** – What measures do we use to measure and communicate progress?*
- **Part b** – How do we measure and communicate progress here?

Objective 2.3

- How is qualitative data gathered and used?
- We need to use data to address the greater need
- How many orgs are we missing in HMIS? ***

- Are we surveying people and agencies and why they are not participating to address concerns?*
- What strategies will be used for onboarding?
- What are the min qualifies to be classified as a homeless service provider?
- If our goal is 100% how can we set activities and measures to achieve that?*

Objective 2.4

- Who is leading this comms charge?*
- We need all of these objectives with specifics in one place – a fleshed out measurable strategic plan****
- We need to be willing and open to get proper training to become better as a collaborative unit
- Need alignment on an approach/framework and deeper training on how to make it work, how to succeed
- This is a fantastic concept! What are our measurable goals?

Debrief

- Where will this go?
 - Incorporate into the plan
 - Disseminate out
 - Identify what has/needs to be done
- Where are the measures for success housed?
 - Need to see progress
 - Share with funders
 - Drive research
 - Add progress tracker*
- Objectives aren't measurable*
 - Meet to clarify
 - Ask committees to set goals
 - Engage General Membership
- Create a dashboard
 - Real time updates*
 - Ask NAEH for help
 - Publicly accessible and transparent
- Quarterly All Chairs Meeting (potentially more often)
 - Check in on Strategic Plan
 - Committees create goals and timelines
 - 1 Year Plan – align all plans*
 - Capacity building (have strong committees/chairs train others)
- Only a few committees are assigned

- Who is really responsible?
- Unclear expectations
- Get more people actively involved

DOWNSIZING THE HOMELESSNESS PLANNING COUNCIL

- Size – median is 17 (13 elected and 4 appointed)
- Themes from survey – increase diversity, attendance, accountability, lived experience representation, increase transparency
- What are effective s--- in other communities?
- Agree to show you do the work _ are on r if not?
- Fewer committees with output measures
- We need to not cut out big companies because they bring \$\$
- Remove non-active members greater than 5 absences or non-contributing
- Will we lose important perspectives with a smaller group?
- Has elected officials not having voting rights change the CoC recommendations?
- We need the appointed members to help navigate Metro Nashville Government.

MAXIMIZE FUNDING

- Public education
 - Vouchers
 - Resources
 - Grants
- Look at other cities
- Look at what is successful
 - How do we learn from it?
 - Use that to make a case for more funding
- Innovative collaborations
 - How do we position our community to raise funds?
 - Capacity building
- Our community relies heavily on government funding
 - Diversify funding streams*
 - Invite new funders to the table
 - Calls to action
 - Healthcare partnerships (e.g. Medicare) – have Standards of Care committee lead this
 - Connection conversations/siloes
 - Break down red tape

- We are developing strategies solely for the funding we already have
- Need to identify gaps to take to funders

WHO/WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

- Shelter for single fathers and people on the registry
- Youth and family strategies
- Plug HPC members into committees
- Connect the dots (cross sector)
- Expand scope of Standards of Care committee
 - Need to be used/enforced/have buy in
 - Reinforce community level work
- Timeline
- Map gaps
- Recruit more stakeholders (START NOW)
- Get agency boards involved
- CoC Anti-discrimination Policy