

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

Council Members Present: Kennetha Patterson, Jaha Martin, Jamie Villegas, Michelle Southard, Steven Handy, Adam Hansen, Courtney Johnston, David Langgle-Martin, Drew Freeman, Lizzie Goddard, India Pungarcher, Liz Mallard Staff Present: April Calvin, Derrick Smith, Raquel de la Huerga, Allison Cantway,	Date: September 11, 2024 Time: 8:30AM Place: Sonny West Conference Center 700 2nd Ave S, Nashville, TN 37210 Recorded by: Raquel de la Huerga
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECCOMENDATION/ACTION
I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, MOMENT OF SILENCE, MINUTES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT	► Welcome by Chairperson, Kennetha Patterson Chair Patterson took a moment to recognize and memorialize 9/11. Kennetha Patterson introduced herself as the new chair of the Homelessness Planning Council, a historical event as the first chair with lived experience of homelessness. ► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Chair Patterson read the names of individuals who lost their lives while experiencing homelessness. The Homelessness Planning Council took a moment of silence. ► Administrative Business Attendance and conflicts of interest were recorded. David Langgle-Martin and Pastor Stephen Handy noted conflicts of interest. Chair Patterson welcomed Rico X, CM Courtney Johnston, Liz Mallard, and Pastor Stephen Handy to the Executive Committee. Councilmembers reviewed August 2024 minutes. No corrections were raised. Accepted as printed.	
II. UNIFIED HOUSING STRATEGY	Kaycee Ensign a policy analyst with the Metro Nashville Housing Division provided an overview of the Unified Housing Strategy. The Housing Division was created as a part of the Planning Department in 2022. Their vision is for every Nashvillian to have housing security. The Housing Division administers the Barnes Fund, other locally funded housing programs and tools (mixed income PILOT, catalyst fund, ARPA home sharing program), provide a coordinated housing strategy for the city, manage affordable housing data, and work with Metro and other partners to advance housing affordability. The Housing Division is focused on housing for households earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The Unified Housing Strategy will build upon other studies including the Affordable Housing Task Force Report to provide detailed program and policy recommendations to increase housing security for all Nashvillians. The Housing Division kicked off this initiative in April and began working on initial analysis of the market, ecosystem, programs, regulations, and policies. Since May, the Housing Division has been working on their Engagement Phase, which has included community listening sessions, public	

	surveys, and engagement with housing experts. The Housing Division hopes to draft recommendations in the Fall, which will include opportunities for public review. The Housing Division hopes to gather feedback from the Homelessness Planning Council to inform their process. Discussion How would you describe the current state of homelessness in Nashville? • We have come a long way. It is important to realize that homelessness can look different. Evictions are a significant cause of homelessness. • Homelessness is still very present in our community, yet we have made a lot of progress. Permanent Supportive Housing, Interim Gap Housing, and the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy have helped to improve connections to housing. • HPC members emphasized that those experiencing homelessness could be living in encampments, couch surfing, working jobs, etc. and expressed a desire from addressing each circumstance to prevent people from falling through the cracks. • Homelessness in Nashville is very politicized. The narrative is not controlled by those who are working on ending homelessness, which makes it difficult to provide support. • There are huge inequities in homelessness, including an overrepresentation of people of color. There are systems, policies, and programs that contribute to those inequities. There needs to be better education and community awareness of the barriers people with lived experience face in their process of getting housed. • There are initiatives to support people with lived experience during extreme conditions. However, in the past efforts to increase funding or expand services have been limited by non-profits not having the capacity to take on the task. • Homelessness in Nashville feels very dire. We are doing a lot of good work, but more and more people are entering are system rather than exiting. • The city’s current situation is frustrating. Our numbers continue to go up. In 2022, \$50 million was poured into homelessness and it hasn’t led to a decrease. Where is the action coming from? We talk about meeting people where they are – there are so many different types of homelessness. Each person is different, and they have different needs. We are not meeting those needs. Folks have significant needs for wrap around services. At the end of the day, it comes down to money. • What are we doing wrong? We need to turn the faucet off. We are not doing prevention in a meaningful way. Hoping for more action in this next year and to move away from just taking in circles about these issues. • We have great organizations working in this space and people who are dedicated. It is not just housing. Folks are waiting on us. We don’t have places to put them or services to address their needs. • Many people are fearful to engage with the system. Do we actually have new people experiencing homelessness or are we getting better at counting them? We are one month shy of having the Mission’s data entered. From the perspective of the Housing Task Force – data was poor and not usable. Getting better data is a huge task. Better data creates an opportunity to make a better case for affordable housing.	
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	How does the HPC set priorities for addressing homelessness? • Having more people with lived experience at the table has helped to refocus priorities. • The HPC has created a community Strategic Plan for the Continuum of Care. Committees can and have also added to the conversation to establish data-driven priorities. There is now a Housing Opportunities Committee. • There needs to be more of a focus on prevention efforts. We also have a system in Nashville that requires a case worker, rather than opportunities where people can advocate and navigate resources themselves. • Needing more connection with other programs. • More opportunities to create their own income. • There needs to be city-wide collaboration. How does Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) fit into your view of HPC's priorities? How would you describe its approach? • Peer support is desperately needed. There needs to be a stronger fabric of supportive services that can be connected with housing. • Funding will be a huge component of ensuring that more Permanent Supportive Housing is created and available in our community. How do we support non-profit agencies that are on the ground doing the work. There is an ecosystem of actors that play a role in addressing and preventing homelessness in Nashville. How well are those actors working together to make progress? What is working well and what could be improved? • We have brought more PSH units online. Not every household exiting homelessness needs that level of support. There is more affordable housing coming online. Folks exiting homelessness have a difficult time accessing LITC properties. • Create better connections between developers and homeless services. Can we have a preference or bonus points that allow for dedicated pipelines for affordable housing? Save resources from the Landlord Engagement team for folks who have significant barriers. There is affordable housing that is not PSH or privately owned that can be tapped into. • There needs to be more of a focus of what it is like to support families experiencing homelessness. Education, health, childcare, etc. are different than housing individuals. One of the biggest predictors of homelessness is if someone experienced it as a child. There needs to be a focus on preventing generational homelessness and preserving families. • What does human flourishing look like? Education, economic development, healthcare, and housing. We can no longer talk about only one of these issues at a time. Who are the partners around these four pillars? Here in Nashville, we have a tendency to focus on one issue at a time. It is about families, communities, neighborhoods. Put a comma after housing instead of a period. What's your sense of how people experiencing or at risk of homelessness find and access programs available from the city? What's the user experience like?	
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	• In looking at Strobel House, medical respite is desperately needed. Experiencing homelessness is wearing on people's bodies and health. There are not enough people being connected to health coverage and health resources. People are living outside for 10 to 15 years. • It is difficult if the person doesn't have a case manager. Many people are getting housed only because they have someone advocating for them. Need to provide people more autonomy in the process. There are so many types of vouchers and people often don't understand what comes along with their vouchers. • Need to start discussing and advocating for Medicaid expansion. With the end of ARPA funds, how are you thinking about resource optimization and funding for homelessness activities more generally? • It would be great to see some of that funding going to people who carry the caseloads. Funding should be going towards navigation. Being in HMIS does not equate to having a case manager. Having people on their case load until they are housed. We could actively move the needle if we enough case managers. • These people aren't numbers they are people. We don't need to make a plan to make a plan. There are people dying on the streets. There is also a lack of communication and shared understanding across those working in this space. It is unclear of where to start. There is a significant lack of communication with clients and they are often left out of the equation. People are in survival mode. People are slowly dying from the effects of being homeless. It is so hard to ask for help. How can UHS help your efforts? • It would be helpful to look at the different ways people are becoming homeless. There needs to be a clear plan in place that aligns with the person's circumstances. For example, what does discharge planning look like from prison or hospitals. • How do we reduce duplication. We need more coordination. Let's get organized. Where are people coming from, where are they now, where do they need to go, how do we get the funding needed to get it done. • Create an action plan. How do we move the needle every month. We have to fix this problem in a meaningful. • As we are working to better map homeless system. From a housing perspective, can we have an accurate map of housing programs. Are there programs that are about to expire that might need to be addressed early on. What programs are coming online. Is there clear data of what our affordable housing system looks like. • There needs to be a directed effort to look at why people are not able to sustain their housing. There is a lack of supportive services once people are housed. A lot of people have a significant struggle. • It will be helpful for the UHS to make a commitment to focus on housing for 30% AMI or below. Folks with such low income are struggling the most.	
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IV. UPDATES	► Office of Homeless Services Director’s Report, April Calvin: Director Calvin offered clarification on the situation at the Old Tent City encampment. Some residents of the encampment have built elaborate structures, including one person climbing up an electric pole to connect to NES power. NES has gone out twice to disconnect the power, however, the individual continues to reconnect. Between multiple departments, MNPD, Codes, NES, TDOT, NDOT, and OHS it was decided that those six structures would need to be removed. Some of these structures are two to three stories and sway when the wind blows causing serious safety concerns. The state is also concerned about the integrity of the bridge that goes over part of Old Tent City and has been working to coordinate how to safely go in to work on the bridge. OHS wants to make sure everyone knows that Old Tent City is not been identified for camp closure, however, these six structures will need to be removed. OHS outreach team is out at Old Tent City every day. Other outreach organizations have received notification of when OHS will be at the encampment for coordination purposes. 190 people were housed last month. Having more housing opportunities has been incredibly impactful, however, progress will require prevention and diversion initiatives. OHS has been working with the FAN committee, which includes multiple agencies working on prevention and diversion. United Way is working on building more capacity for prevention efforts. There are a lot of funding opportunities that the OHS Planning and Research team are actively working on. These grants include the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant, which was recently submitted, along with the CoC Funding Competition and CoCBuilds. Next month the HPC will be asked to vote on the rating and ranking of applications for CoC program funding. An HPC member noted that Berry Hill Police Dept closed an encampment off of Thompson Lane and was curious what steps are being taken to partner with neighboring municipalities. Director Calvin and CM Courtney Johnston will look into this situation. ► Collaborative Applicant Report, Allison Cantway: It is Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) season. This is OHS’ first year serving as the Collaborative Applicant. Allison noted that OHS continues to act in the capacity as Collaborative Applicant even though there are still waiting for HUD to process the transfer of the CoC Planning Grant. OHS and MDHA did receive an email from the HUD field office recently that made it seem that the Planning Grant might be moving soon. There have been three NOFOs this season. OHS just released the CoCBuilds application and a local competition will be held because HUD only allows one submission from each CoC. The PEC has already scored renewal applications and will be scoring new and DV bonus applications next week. ► HMIS Monthly Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell: HPC members received the HMIS Monthly Report, which is also posted to the HMIS website. 3,223 people experienced homelessness in August 2024, which is a slight increase from the past few months and compared to last year. There were 2090 adult only households and 321 families. 46% of those in HMIS (1,489 people) are experiencing chronic homelessness. 190 people moved into permanent housing, which is the highest it has been since November 2023. 78% of those housed were	
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	experiencing chronic homelessness. 22 people moved into Permanent Supportive Housing, likely due to the opening of the Strobel House. ► Continuum of Care Updates, Raquel de la Huerga: HPC members received an overview of committee updates. OHS has been updating the CoC website, including separate HPC, CoC, and CoC committee sites. As committees work on publishing reports and recommendations, Raquel hopes to published those resources on the committees website. Housing Opportunities Committee and Standards of Care committees will be launching in the near future. The Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee has launched and is in the process of determining a timeline for their strategic initiatives. Data and HMIS Oversight Committee has proposed revisions to the HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual, which is currently open for public comment. The Point-In-Time Count subcommittee has relaunched to prepare for the count in January 2025. Anyone interested in participating in the count can reach out to Raquel. Equity and Diversity Committee has worked on an Equity and Diversity Resources Page to share resources and tools. In the last 6 months, 130 people with lived experience have engaged with the Consumer Advisory Board, Youth Action Board, and across the Continuum of Care.	
VI. STORY OF PROGRESS	► Consumer Advisory Board Chair Kennetha Patterson shared slides that provide an overview of the Consumer Advisory Board and initiatives that have been worked on in the last few months. Chair Patterson recognized Mr. Albert Townsend from the National Alliance to End Homelessness who has helped to mentor the CAB. CAB Policy and Advocacy Chair April Burns-Norris spoke to highlight the progress that has been made by the Consumer Advisory Board. April shared that it has been a rocky road getting to this point, but she is grateful that they are finally working on equitably including the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness. April recognized former HPC Chair Jaha Martin for uplifting their voices and helping to support the Consumer Advisory Board. The CAB is making a lot of progress, creating more space for people with lived experience to speak into the work, and helping folks get connected to resources. Resources like the Strobel House are so needed and it is amazing to see the progress that has been made. April recognized Director Calvin for having support from the Office of Homeless Services and bringing in advisors like Albert Townsend. CAB leaders knew that they wanted a space for people with lived experience, but having so many resources and tools at their fingertips has helped to build out a stronger structure. April also hopes that new residents of the Strobel House will have opportunities to engage with the CAB. Chair Patterson then invited up Robert Knight, who has been an active participant in the CAB and is working on joining other committees. Robert shared that he has been incarcerated most of his life and once his sentence ended he was out on the streets. Robert shared that there are so many Nashvillians who are trying to get rid of people experiencing homelessness. There are so many people experiencing homelessness and not enough case workers who can truly get to the root of folks problems. Those experiencing homelessness are actively trying to survive and need supports. Robert shared hopes for identifying more creative opportunities for affordable housing, including exploring vacant properties and creating new partnerships. Organizations need to be coming together to address systemic problems that are causing and perpetuating homelessness. We have to address both individual and system	

	problems. Folks are going from agency to agency and getting their doors slammed in their face. Vouchers also may not be long term solutions and many “affordable” properties in Nashville cost more than \$1400 a month. Robert shared that he lives off of social security, which is only \$934 a month and he knows many people also have fixed incomes that will prevent them from ever being able to afford housing.	
VII. ADJOURNMENT	► Adjourned: 10:18	NEXT MEETING: October 9, 2024 Council Chambers