

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

Council Members Present: Kennetha Patterson, Pastor Stephen Handy, Deirdre Childress, Liz Mallard, Alex Smith, Dr. Xyzeidria Ensley, India Pungarcher, Michelle Southard, Andrea Hancock, David Langgle-Martin, CM Courtney Johnston, CM John Rutherford, Adam Hansen, Lizzie Goddard, Laura Ward Staff Present: April Calvin, Raquel de la Huerga, Allison Cantway, Bill ClenDening, Matthew Garth	Date: October 9, 2024 Time: 8:30AM Place: Historic Metro Courthouse, Council Chambers 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 shared a desire to move the Continuum of Care forward and incorporate the voices of people with lived experience. The Homelessness Planning Council Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of peer support and lived expertise. The Consumer Advisory Board recently conducted a sustainability assessment. Chair Patterson hopes that more people with lived experience will become connected with CoC committees and to speak into CoC processes, including future rankings for CoC funding. ► Public Comment No community members signed up to provide public comments. ► Administrative Business Metro Legal representative Matthew Garth read the definition of conflicts of interest from the Continuum of Care Charter and encouraged members who have a relevant conflict of interest to abstain from participating in discussion and voting on relevant action items. Organizations who work for or are affiliated for organizations applying for funding were encouraged to recuse. India Pungarcher, Stephen Handy, and David Langgle-Martin noted conflicts of interest. The September HPC meeting minutes were accepted as printed. ► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Chair Patterson read the names of individuals who lost their lives while experiencing homelessness in September. The Homelessness Planning Council took a moment of silence.	
II. UPDATES	► Office of Homeless Services Director’s Report, April Calvin: Director Calvin shared that the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) is actively preparing for Cold Weather Shelter. This is the first winter that OHS will be hosting and operating the shelter, which opens when the temperature is below 32 degrees for three consecutive hours. On cold weather nights the shelter will open at 7pm and close at 7am the following morning. The shelter is located at 3230 Brick Church Pike. Last year, the Cold Weather Shelter was operational for 4 nights of shelter. OHS is	

	recruiting potential volunteers from 6 to 10pm on cold weather nights to help direct people onto buses to ensure unhoused neighbors can reach the shelter. If any HPC or community members are interested in volunteering, email Raquel.delahuerga@nashville.gov USICH has released a new Prevention Plan that outlines best practices for homelessness prevention and diversion. OHS is working closely with United Way and Built for Zero to explore opportunities for capacity building. OHS participates in the Financial Assistance Network to coordinate with organizations that offer financial relief to prevent homelessness. ► Collaborative Applicant Report, Allison Cantway: The deadline for CoCBuils applications was Friday, October 4th. OHS did receive a few applications, which will be brought to the Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC) for review. HUD only allows each CoC to submit one CoCBuils application so the PEC will work to recommend on project to move forward with. Their recommendation will be brought to the HPC in November. The community's CoC Builds application is due on November 30th. For the FY24/25 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity, PEC spent the last two month scoring and ranking applications for funding. PEC chair Kerry Dietz will present their recommended project ranking. ► HMIS Monthly Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell: HPC members received the HMIS Monthly Report, which is also posted to the HMIS website. 3,147 people experienced homelessness in September 2024. There were 2088 adult only households and 294 families. 8% were veterans, 7% were youth 18 to 24, and 45% were experiencing chronic homelessness. Demographics include 52% Black, 38% White, 57% male, and 42% female identifying. 544 individuals were entered into HMIS in September. 156 people moved into permanent housing in September. Of those housed, 21% were veterans and 43% were experiencing chronic homelessness. The average length of time from when someone entered HMIS to when they moved into permanent housing was 124 days. The agencies that housed the most households in September were Operation Stand Down, Oasis Center, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, and Room in the Inn. ► Continuum of Care Updates, Raquel de la Huerga: The General Membership will be meeting on Thursday, October 17th. The Housing Opportunities and Standards of Care committees had their first meetings in September, which were well attended. The Data & HMIS Oversight Committee will be reviewing public comments submitted for updates to the HMIS Policies and Procedures Manuals. The three oversight committees (Data & HMIS, Coordinated Entry, and Performance Evaluation committees) were tasked in the new version of the Charter to develop evaluations for their respective lead agency. The Point-in-Time Count subcommittee coordinates the annual census of people experiencing homelessness. The count will take place on January 23rd and the committee will be sending out a form for community members interested in volunteering for the count. Raquel also encouraged HPC members to notify OHS if they are aware of lesser known hotspots and/or shelter operations (including organizations paying for hotel rooms). The Shelter, Weather, Outreach, and Prevention Committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss potential updates to the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy. The Equity and Diversity Committee reviewed	
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	anonymized data from Continuum of Care programs to identify racial disparities in program outcomes. A few CoC programs had concerning data that the Equity and Diversity Committee has asked the Office of Homeless Services to look into and engage funded organizations on.	
III. ACTION ITEM – RANKING OF CoC FUNDED PROGRAMS	► Performance Evaluation Committee Recommendations, Kerry Dietz Chair Dietz provided context about the Performance Evaluation Committee and local competition. The PEC is made up of Chair Dietz and five other volunteers. To avoid conflicts of interest none of the PEC members work directly in providing homeless services, however, all members have professions and experience that are tangentially related. The PEC’s primary responsibility is to manage and execute our local community’s annual HUD CoC funding competition. The PEC’s overarching goal is to bring as much money as possible to Nashville for local homelessness efforts. Compared to other funding sources that are available the CoC competition dollars are the least flexible and the most monitored. CoC funded is restricted specifically for interventions that have a proven track record of effectiveness and a focus on our most vulnerable community members. Over the 30 years that HUD has been conducting CoC competitions, the process has become even more complicated in an effort to award grants competitively across the country. In the 7 years that Chair Dietz has been on the PEC, Nashville has made significant progress in the CoC’s application, including Nashville receiving a 25% increase in funding last year. This year, for the first time, the Office of Homeless Services facilitated the administrative components of the competition, and applications were processed utilizing the online Zoom Grants platform. The PEC received 31 funding applications, than they ever have received in past years. 20 of the projects were Renewal applications, which means they were for projects that currently receive CoC funding. 9 of the application were New projects. There were 2 applications submitted for the Domestic Violence Bonus, which is a separate pot of funding that HUD sets aside for projects that serve domestic violence survivors. The rating and ranking is made up of two separate stages. The rating process is used to review and score applications using a standardized scoring rubric developed by the committee. The PEC assigns scores to projects based primarily on performance data pulled from HMIS (for Renewal projects) and committee member analysis of responses to questions in the application. This year, the PEC employed new scoring rubrics for Equity and Housing First. The Equity questions were drafted in collaboration with the CoC Equity & Diversity Committee. Applications for New projects have posed challenges for the PEC, since there is no performance data collected for the committee to review and compare. In the past, the PEC has assigned each New project an average of the performance score for Renewal applications. Once all projects were scored, the PEC listed out each project in the order of the score they received. The next phase is to rank the projects, which might involve adjusting the order of projects based on community priorities and strategies. HUD applies a two-tiered system to help communities prioritize funding and manage risk. The Office of Homeless Services provided HPC members a synopsis of the NOFO, which provided an explanation of the tiers. Tier 1 is “safe funding” to allow the community to maintain current CoC projects. Projects that are ranked within Tier 1 will be funded as long as they pass HUD eligibility and threshold requirements. Tier 2 are projects that may or may not get funded depending on how much money HUD has to distribute and the strength of Nashville’s community	CM motioned to approve the Performance Evaluation Committee’s recommended project ranking. Seconded. Chair Patterson opened discussion and then the vote. In Favor: Liz Mallard, Dierdre Childress, Lizzie Goddard, CM John Rutherford, CM Courtney Johnston, Adam Hansen, Michelle Southard, Laura Ward, Dr. Xyzeidria Ensley, Alex Smith Abstentions: David Langgle-Martin, Stephen Handy, Andrea Hancock, India Pungarcher Opposed: None MOTION CARRIED

	application. All Tier 2 projects are put into a nation-wide pool for funding and compete against each other. Those funding decision are out of the community's hands and are determined by HUD. In their review of project scores, the PEC made a few changes to align with HUD guidance and the community's priorities. The PEC always puts HMIS and CE at the top of the ranking list because they provide essential infrastructure for the entire CoC program and local community. The PEC then bumped up projects that provide permanent supportive housing based on recommendations from the Data & HMIS Oversight Committee's Community Needs Report. The PEC noted that MDHA had underwhelming performance data, however, the committee decided to keep the project in Tier 1 to avoid risking one of the largest sources of Permanent Supportive Housing , which serves over 400 individuals. The PEC was concerned about potential evictions and displacement for a project that has not yet received any type of corrective action plan. ► Questions & Answers Q – How does the CoC establish community needs? A – The Coordinated Entry process is used to identify vulnerable community members. The Data & HMIS Oversight committee utilized HMIS data to determine additional community needs. Q – How are the ranking system and scoring system linked? A – HUD encourages communities to score applications to assess applications and then encourages communities to make adjustments as needed in the ranked project list that is submitted based on community needs. Q – There were a lot of projects that read like “Supportive Service Only” applications that are dependent on vouchers. These projects seem to be pulling from existing pots of housing resources and trying to turn them into Permanent Supportive Housing rather than creating new housing resources. Why were some of these projects ranked higher than others that offer rental assistance? A – The PEC hope to incentivize Permanent Supportive Housing, but understands that Nashville's landscape require community collaboration as housing and services are often not available from one singular organization. Q – The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program featured very low barriers. Are Housing Choice Vouchers and Shelter Plus Care Vouchers offering the same level of low barriers? Will programs relying on vouchers be able to offer true Housing First fidelity? A – Set aside vouchers do have the standard screening process. Shelter Plus Care and Mainstream Vouchers have lower barriers. EHV's are no longer being distributed in the community, since they were released in COVID response. A committee member recommended approaching MDHA to utilize the EHV reduced criteria for set aside vouchers. Chair Dietz offered to revisit conversations with MDHA to lower barriers and create a homeless preference. Q – How does diversity fit into the equation for the selection of applications?	
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	A – The PEC worked with the Equity & Diversity Committee to look at a range of equity considerations. The PEC has also explored promoting organizations that have never received CoC funding before. Q – What does reallocation look like for underperforming projects? How is this process initiated? A – The PEC established a reallocation policy in 2023 to create a process to explore reallocating funds for organizations that have had consistent performance concerns. The policy is posted to the PEC’s section of the CoC Committee website on Nashville.gov. Q – Why are there so many duplicate programs? A – Many of the organizations that receive multiple forms of CoC funding have projects that were either funded in different years (that could potentially be consolidated) or similar projects that offer distinct services or serve specific populations (e.g. DV). Q – Why has UHS’ performance and low application scores triggered their project for reallocation? A – Yes, their scores have caused the PEC to revisit reallocation. UHS will receive a corrective action plan, which will put them on notice to improve performance within a specific time frame otherwise the process for involuntary reallocation will be initiated.	
IV. STORY OF PROGRESS	Adam Hansen shared that Lowe’s is investing \$100 million to restore and revitalize community spaces across the country through their Lowe’s Hometowns projects. Each year, Lowe’s funds 100 large scale community projects chosen from consumer nominations. McKendree United Methodist Church has received a 2024 award for the Lowe’s Hometowns grant.	
V. ADJOURNMENT	► Adjourned: 10:10am	NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2024 Sonny West Conference Center