

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

Council Members Present: Kennetha Patterson, Deirdre Nicole Childress, Alex Smith, Jamie Villegas, Liz Mallard, Drew Freeman, D’Yuanna Allen Robb, Michelle Southard, Meredith Macleod Jaulin, David Langgle-Martin, CM John Rutherford, CM Courtney Johnston, CM Jordan Huffman, Lizzie Goddard, Rico X, Angie Lawless, Jaha Martin Staff Present: April Calvin, Raquel de la Huerga, Allison Cantway, Bill ClenDening, Derrick Smith, Hannah Cornejo-Nell	Date: December 11, 2024 Time: 8:30AM Place: Metro Historic Courthouse 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 provided an overview of accomplishments from the year, including bringing on a cohort of people with lived expertise, launching new committees, updating the anti-discrimination policy, increasing connections across the entire Continuum of Care, listening sessions for the Unified Housing Strategy, submission of the Continuum of Care Consolidated Application etc. ► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Chair Patterson acknowledged the upcoming annual Homeless Memorial, taking place on December 14th from 9 to 10am at the Riverfront Park near the Tara Cole Memorial Bench. Chair Patters read the names of individuals who lost their lives while experiencing homelessness in November and those who had not yet been named throughout the year. The Homelessness Planning Council took a moment of silence. ► Review of November Minutes No corrections were noted. ► Public Comments None.
II. UPDATES	► Office of Homeless Services Director’s Report, April Calvin: Director Calvin provided updates on the operations of Metro’s Cold Weather Overflow Shelter. The shelter was previously operated by Metro Social Services under the director of Renee Pratt. This is the first year that the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) is operating the shelter. The first day of shelter was not until November 29. OHS opens the shelter when temperatures get below 32 degrees for at least 3 consecutive hours. The shelter was open for 7 days between Nov 29 and Dec 6. The first night welcomed 85 guest and, so far, the highest number of guests on a given night was 245. There have been a total of 516 unduplicated individuals that stayed at the shelter. There have been no major incidences thus far. The shelter is located at 3230 Brick Church Pike. On the nights that the shelter is open the 23B bus from WeGo Central is made free starting at 7pm and shuttles pick up from a range of other areas that WeGo does not frequent often. The shuttle schedule can be found on the Homelessness Extreme Weather Resources page on Nashville.gov. Director Calvin shared that one way to get involved is to volunteer to help guide folks at WeGo Center onto the buses. OHS is also accepting hygiene product donations on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 11. Anyone interested in getting text alerts for when the shelter is open can text “OHSALERT” to 888777. The Strobel House is 90% filled – a huge accomplishment to achieve within three months. Strobel House has housed some of Nashville’s most vulnerable community members and referrals were made utilizing the Coordinated Entry System.

Director Calvin highlighted the monthly report on the \$50 million American Rescue Plan Act funding, noting that those providing supportive services have contracts lasting until mid 2026. However, the Interim Gap funding was intended to be utilized by October of this year with both organizations on target. The capacity building grants were just deployed three months ago and those organizations are just now scaling up. Today, a Metro review panel will be reviewing applications for capacity building funds that were initially deployed to the Salvation Army. OHS received four applications and will be share more information in future meetings about their selection. A member of the HPC asked if any of the four applicants were local. Director Calvin clarified that three of the four applicants were local.

A member asked if OHS had an update on the encampment closure that took place in Berry Hill and what coordination looks like with police precincts in our sister municipalities. Director Calvin did not have an update, but shared that OHS outreach works with all precincts of MNPd. Director Calvin clarified that the Outdoor Homeless Strategy is typically not followed by private property owners who call the police due to people trespassing on their land or state property that MNPd does not have jurisdiction over.

Another members asked for an update regarding the task force that is looking into the COVID pods. Director Calvin shared that there is a task force that meets every week, which includes representatives from OHS, the health department, Codes, NDOT, Metro Legal, and the Mayor's Office. The group is looking at all facets of the pods from what should be included in a potential RFP to the safety of the structures and how to best deploy them in the community. OHS had the president of the company present to the task force and they are looking into other communities that have utilized the pods to learn from their experiences.

► **Collaborative Applicant Report, Allison Cantway:**

OHS has submitted the last Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) of the year, which a joint project between Park Center and Urban Housing Solutions for the CoCBuils funding. At this stage, OHS and the community have successfully submitted three NOFOs in 2024. The Planning and Research team is meeting in the coming weeks to reflect on the NOFO processes from this year and discuss areas for improvement. HUD has moved to a two year NOFO cycle, which will allow Nashville time in the interim year to focus more on monitoring, educating community partners about the application process, and for the PEC to follow up on discussions of reallocation. OHS and MDHA are now in the final stages of moving the Planning Grant over to the Office of Homeless Services.

► **HMIS Monthly Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell:**

This report includes data from the Nashville Rescue Mission, because for the first time HMIS has a full month of data imported to report on from the Mission. This initiative has been worked on for years now. For now, the HMIS team will be separating out the Mission's data as they continue to work on data quality with the Mission and to help the community understand how this added data set is impacting the overall HMIS. At the bottom of the first page, Hannah included two graphs to separate out data from the Cold Weather Shelter and the Nashville Rescue Mission.

For the month of October 2024, 3082 people experienced homelessness in Nashville, which included 236 families and 2,438 adult only households. HMIS also saw 161 unique people entered for the first time at the Cold Weather Shelter and 1294 people served by the Nashville Rescue Mission. 270 of people experiencing homelessness were veterans, 231 were youth, and 1,496 were experiencing chronic homelessness. 807 people were entered into HMIS. 51 percent of those experiencing homelessness in October were Black, 40 percent were White, 60 percent were men, and 38 percent were women.

139 people experiencing homelessness were housed in the month of October, including 16 families and 79 adult-only households. A member requested for data on families to also indicate the number of children experiencing homelessness. Of those housed, 26 were veterans, 50 people experiencing chronic homelessness, and 8 youth age 18-24. The average number of days between when people entered HMIS to when they existed to permanent housing was 114. 29 households were housed with no subsidy, 20 were housed with permanent supportive housing, and 16

	were housed were Housing Choice Vouchers. Of those housed, 44 percent were Black, 49 percent were White, 58 percent were men, and 41 percent were women. A member highlighted that 10,500 people experienced homelessness in Nashville over the last 12 month, emphasizing this a key data point to understand the magnitude of homelessness in Nashville, likely more accurate and impactful than the Point-in-Time Count. A member asked why the number is so much higher over the course of a year than in a given month. The HMIS team responded that most people experience homelessness experience it for a short period of time and self-resolve their situation. Others might go inactive due to a lack of contact with service providers. ► Continuum of Care Updates, Raquel de la Huerga: Raquel shared that the General Membership met in November, where Kennetha was able to provide updates on behalf of the Homelessness Planning Council. One request from the General Membership that was built into the Charter was for there to be a HPC representative at each General Membership meeting to improve continuity. The Nominating and Membership committee met last Friday and discussed recent legislation passed by Metro Council regarding changes to the structure of the Homelessness Planning Council and revisiting past conversations regarding downsizing the Homelessness Planning Council. The Housing Opportunities committee is working on a needs assessment for housing opportunities for those exiting homelessness and has created a spreadsheet to track various housing models that could be worth implementing or expanding in Nashville. The Data and HMIS Oversight committee reviewed feedback from the HPC regarding the proposed changes to the HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual, which has manifested into additional changes to user agreements and following up with Metro Legal for additional input. The Point-in-Time Count subcommittee is still actively working to recruit and assign volunteers to teams for the annual count taking place on the night of January 23, 2025.
III. ACTION ITEM: OUTDOOR HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY REVISIONS	► New Metro Legislation Regarding Metro Board Structures, Derrick Smith: Metro Council recently passed ordinance BL2024-582. The bill was on third reading on November 19th and was signed by the Mayor on November 20th. Metro Legal representative Derrick Smith noted that the bill itself might need to be revised due to contradictory language regarding the Homelessness Planning Council since the bill references having 25 voting members on the HPC, while simultaneously changing the status of the Metro Council representatives as non-voting. The legislation applies to all Metro Boards and Commissions, some of which have Metro Council members that sit on the bodies, such as the Homelessness Planning Council. Based on the current legislation, the Metro Council members would no longer be able to vote at HPC meetings and would not count towards quorum. The legislation was created to address concerns that elected legislators are serving in two capacities at once. A question was posed as to whether the legislation is also intended to impact Metro Council members serving as voting members of CoC Committees – Metro Legal will investigate this. The bill also enacts attendance measures for members that have voting power to build in clear processes if members are missing more than a third of the meetings within a year. ► Overview of Proposed Changes, Ryan Lampa: Ryan is the chair of the Shelter, Weather, Outreach, and Prevention Committee. A little over a year ago the committee was tasked to bring revisions to the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy. Ryan clarified that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy was originally drafted in 2020 and adopted by the HPC in 2022. Ryan served on the original committee that drafted the initial plan. Leading up to the revisions, the committee did two rounds of research talking to community members served by the plan and partner agencies. The focus of the revisions was to improve communication, clarity, and collaboration. The updated strategy has many added processes and procedures to ensure all partners have a shared understanding of the strategy. After months of deliberating over the proposed changes, the committee determined in November that they felt that the document was ready to be brought in front of the HPC for final approval. ► Discussion:

Member Jamie Villegas moved for the passage of the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy. Seconded. Chair Kennetha Patterson opened up the floor for discussion. One member emphasized the need to include people with lived experience in the process, suggesting that there be teeth added to the plan for at least 1 or 2 people with lived experience to be added to the prioritization team.

Another member asked how the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy guides the process for how someone living on the streets gets housing. Ryan highlighted that the updated plan has a definitions section that outlines specific definitions for what is considered an “encampment”. Nashville’s homeless services system has multiple opportunities for people to get connected to HMIS and Coordinated Entry, which could involve engaging with an outreach worker, service provider, or calling a CE phone line. The Outdoor Homelessness Strategy specifically gives processes and procedures regarding encampment response, not necessarily general outreach and case management for those in need of housing. Another member asked how the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy fits into the wider community response. The plan states that the “strategy will be implemented until there are no encampments identified, once the strategy gets to this stage the resources allocated will continue to be requested to strengthen the allocation for the By Name List. The member asked the encampment By Name List is integrated into the community By Name List and is there transparency around how we are prioritizing resources for those exiting an identified encampment? How does that layer in with other vulnerable folk and to what extent as a community are we okay with prioritizing those in identified encampments over others? Ryan responded that the plan has been given an excessive amount of attention by the community without proper recognition that it is a piece of a broader CoC Strategic Plan. The Outdoor Homelessness Strategy focuses specifically on response to encampments, which is just one component of addressing and ending homelessness in our community. There is a smaller By Name List for each encampment to ensure that once an encampment was prioritize there were sufficient resources for the entire encampment to move into an Interim Housing option to ensure that the camp can be sustainably closed. Those in the encampment are not necessarily prioritized over others for permanent housing options and instead remain on the larger By Name List to await referrals for supportive housing, vouchers, etc. Ryan also emphasized that the prioritization of encampments is based on vulnerability factors assessed for the encampment itself. For example, if an encampment faces many public health and safety threats, the strategy recognizes those as compounding vulnerability factors that justify that encampment to be the next to be closed. The strategy recognizes that residing in a particular encampment can make people more vulnerable than what would show up on their VI-SPDAT.

The member encouraged the city and OHS to clarify how the encampment By Name List fits into the wider By Name List and to have increased reporting on the outcomes of those involved in the encampment strategy. Director Calvin emphasized that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy has utilized American Rescue Plan Act funding to support the creation of Interim Housing opportunities, to avoid diverting funds from the Continuum of Care. Director Calvin also noted that only 10% of the work being done in our community to house people exiting homelessness is for those exiting an identified encampment. Thus far, the plan has only had a 12% recidivism rate, compared to the 14% recidivism rate for the broader community.

A member serving on the Prioritization Team clarified that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy only applies to encampments on public property or private property if the property owner agrees to participate. The Prioritization Team also uses an assessment tool to assess the vulnerability of each encampment. Ryan clarified that the updated plan added extra clarification for the assessment process and the frequency for how often the Prioritization Team is going out to evaluate encampments. A member suggested for the assessment tool to be published in the strategy. Ryan noted that the plan currently includes the various areas of concern that area assessed, however, the committee wanted to leave some flexibility to change the tool to address emerging needs without needing to amend the entire strategy.

A member asked how the strategy maintains effectiveness for avoiding having encampments spill out to surrounding areas. OHS and Ryan clarified that efforts are made to fully secure the site and that the current plans emphasis to help all encampment residents move into Interim Housing prevents those individuals from becoming displaced elsewhere in the neighborhood. There has been minimal spillover into communities in the encampment closures that have already taken place. Ryan also noted that the strategy itself is not able to resolve all tension within

	communities regarding an encampment, but has been proven to be effective at securing encampment sites and helping its residents move indoors. Jamie Villegas moved to amend page 5 to read that the “Prioritization Team is made up of at least 10 individuals and may include representatives from OHS, SWOP committee, street outreach organizations, health care providers, and at least two members with lived experience”. Members noted the potential logistical concerns about having so many people involved and a prescriptive formula for the Prioritization Team. Jamie Villegas amended her motion for the team to have at least 6 individuals with “at least one person with lived experience”. A member raised concerns regarding having an even number of people on the Prioritization Team and that the existing language already notes that someone with lived experience should be on the team. The motion did not receive a second and failed. The members revisited the original motion to pass the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy as presented. Jaha Martin called for the question. Chair Kennetha Patterson opened up the vote. IN FAVOR: Kennetha Patterson, Rico X, Michelle Southard, Angie Lawless, Lizzie Goddard, Liz Mallard, Meredith MacLeod Jaulin, Jaha Martin, D’Yuanna Allen Robb, Drew Freeman, David Langgle-Martin, Stephen Handy IN FAVOR: Jamie Villegas ABSTAIN: Alex Smith MOTION CARRIED.
IV. NEW BUSINESS	Raquel de la Huerga shared that members can expect for the HPC to vote on the Point-in-Time Count Methodology, HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual, and Anti-Discrimination Policy in the coming months. OHS and Chair Patterson are working to plan a retreat for February 2025.
V. STORY OF PROGRESS	► Alex Smith Alex Smith shared that he intends to step down from the Homelessness Planning Council effective immediately. He shared his appreciation for being able to serve for such a long tenure on the Homelessness Planning Council and his work to help people with lived experience gain a voice in the Continuum of Care.
VI. ADJOURNMENT	► Adjourned: 10:012am NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2025 - Sonny West Conference Center