

Feedback on Downsizing the Homelessness Planning Council

Responses from the July 2024 CoC General Membership Meeting

What size feels appropriate?

- Downsize to 13 – 15 people (submitted by 4 people)
- Downsize to 12 – 18
- 10-12 board members
- 20 (submitted by 4 people)
- 17-19 members so that there is an odd number for voting purposes.
- 25 is fine if people show up – emphasize the attendance requirement

How should the HPC be broken down by CoC elected, mayor/vice mayor appointed?

- Decrease # of appointees
- Remove political appointees – CoC elected only
- CoC elects 13 and vice mayor/mayor appoint 7 = 20
- VM (1), mayor (4), CoC (8-10)
- If downsizing to 20, 15 elected by the CoC, 3 from the mayor, 2 vice mayor. Mandate attendance.
- Reduce the number of members appointed by the mayor and vice mayor. No more than 20.

Which year should we start the attrition process?

- Start 2024-2025
- No sooner than 2025
- In starting attrition, who wants to drop off proactively?
- Define before started actual decision making process

What demographics are essential?

- Minimum of 15% with lived experience of homelessness with no less than 2 members. “Those closest to the problem are often closest to the solution.”
- Representation from actual encampments that are currently homeless or have been housed in the last 5 years. Divide into regions like the PIT Count.
- Lived experience, landlords, mayor’s office, street outreach, OHS, housing navigators, faith-based, CoC.
- Frontline staff representation. Those in the daily trenches often have a unique perspective and can help ground the vision.
- Latino community, law enforcement, legal sector
- The mayor and vice mayor appointees should have vetted experience in the homeless arena. Large corporations that reside in Davidson County should be excluded.

- Individuals with lived experience, individuals of color, philanthropic leaders.
- Lived experience, youth, LGBTQ+, latino, veterans, law enforcement, legal aid
- People with lived experience, community service providers, emphasis on people doing the work
- What does broad representation look like on HPC?
- Race/ethnicity, country of birth (origin), age, gender identity, homeless as a result of domestic violence, struggling with mental health challenges
- There has to be representation from individuals with lived experience, there should be an equal amount of women to men, black, white, Hispanic, muslim representation.
- Lived experience, racial demographics reflecting the diversity of Nashville
- Focus on representation of the community (LGBTQ, business sector, gov, lived experience, housing, non profits)
- All demographics that fall under the poverty line
- All demographics are important
- Lived experience, service providers, property management, affordable housing developers

Additional feedback

- People that don't show up for reasons other than emergencies should be cut.
- Can we look at numbers for attendance vs whether appointed by mayor, vice mayor, or CoC?
- Other CoCs in the country have large CoC Governance Boards, but they found ways to outline how business decisions are shared with the Executive Committee. What are some of those models?
- Look at HPCs across the country that are doing well and find out what size they tend to be.
- Folks are asking what HUD "requires" on HPC – that kind of info may need to be highlighted to inform voters.
- Before downsizing I think you hold members accountable to attendance. We need to ensure people who are on it are committed.
- Nominating committee needs to keep diversity of the candidates front and center
- Designate an ad hoc committee with representation of people of PC, Gen CoC, and political to make sure diversity of rep in decision.
- The process needs full transparency – especially flowing with Standards of Care and all committees communicating.
- This group delays every decision. We need to have a protocol and vote accordingly. Accountability.
- How do we ensure that OHS understands that they are not making final decisions on the CoC business & CoC members understand they are not Metro?
- How do we ensure that we emphasize the division of Metro and the CoC?

- Can there be some sort of requirement that members of this board also be required to attend or participate in CoC meetings or committee meetings?
- How do we tie HPC more closely with committee work and tasks?
- I personally feel this could have been an open discussion. This feels closed and its assuming that folks at each table were open to brainstorming together.
- Accountability to attendance. What are the requirements? Emphasize that if folks don't show up they cannot be a member.