

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

Planning Council Members Present: Kennetha Patterson (Chair), Rico X (Vice Chair), Stephen Handy, Liz Mallard, India Pungarcher, D'Yuanna Allen-Robb, Michelle Southard, Andrea Hancock, Meredith MacLeod Jaulin, David Laggle-Martin, Courtney Johnston (<i>non-voting</i>), John Rutherford (<i>non-voting</i>), Jordan Huffman (<i>non-voting</i>), Lizzie Goddard, Laura Ward, Angie Lawless, Jaha Martin Staff Present: April Calvin, Raquel de la Huerga, Allison Cantway, Derrick Smith, Hannah Cornejo-Nell	Date: March 12, 2025 Time: 8:30AM Place: Sonny West Conference Center 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 shared her quarterly report as the HPC chair. Chair Patterson recognized the productive HPC retreat held in February that focused on healing and strategic planning. Chair Patterson noted the progress made under her six months serving as the HPC's first chair with lived experience, despite obstacles that she has been working to overcome. Chair Patterson emphasized the need for transparency and no harm, including recommendations that have come out of recent Unity & Opportunity meetings to align with federal executive orders. Chair Patterson also highlighted concerns regarding the restrictions on paying people with lived experience, noting the cohort's efforts to identify alternative funding streams. Chair Patterson noted the need to strengthen best practices and strategic plan as the community navigates adherence to new federal executive orders. ► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Members took a moment of silence for lives lost while experiencing homelessness in the month of February. ► Review of February Minutes A request was made to add names of the three resettlement agencies mentioned by Lizzie Goddard during the Cold Weather Shelter discussion. ► Public Comments None.
II. UPDATES	► Office of Homeless Services Director's Report, April Calvin: The Cold Weather Shelter has been operated for 45 night, thus far this year, the highest of any year. OHS is responsible for completing an After Action Report for the Cold Weather Shelter, which will be presented to the HPC in April. OHS will work with Room in the Inn, the Nashville Rescue Mission, and the SWOP committee to draft future plans for the shelter. Director Calvin emphasized that it is not ideal for OHS, as a small department, to operate the shelter. However, in the past two years OHS has released an RFP for an organization to operate the shelter and did not receive applications. OHS will disseminate the RFP again in hopes that an organization might step up for the next winter season. Metro is also undergoing a planning study regarding the current location of the shelter, which is assessing opportunities for mixed use for that site. OHS has established a small working group to identify strategies to deploy the Pallet shelters. The working group is actively working to identify strategies to address the concerns of the Codes and Fire Department along with other logistical concerns. The working group is hoping to release an RFP for organizations to operate Pallet shelters in the coming months.

	OHS is monitoring other severe weather concerns, noting the risk of tornadoes during the spring season. OHS is working to better connect community members living outside to emergency shelters and other indoor spaces that can provide a safe place during concerning storms. In the past, these types of storms have not warranted opening the Overflow Shelter. OHS works actively with the Office of Emergency Management in assessing the weather and making appropriate determination to meet emerging needs. OHS hosted a training on Critical Time Intervention, which was attended by 123 service providers from across the community. OHS hopes to continue to bring national trainers to Nashville to strengthen the community's response. OHS is looking to revise the format of the \$50 million American Rescue Plan Act report to better represent data and outcomes from funded agencies, including outlining new and transitioning contractors. Representatives from Austin will be visiting Nashville to share their strategies for bringing on 1,200 units of Permanent Supportive Housing, including their efforts to braid funding. OHS will have the Austin representatives present to the Low Barrier Housing Collective, the Metro Council Public Health and Safety Committee, and the team in the Metro Finance Department helping with OHS' budget proposals. OHS is actively looking into creative solutions for connecting people to permanent supportive housing, recognizing that the community has currently maxed out most housing vouchers and the stability of Continuum of Care funding remains uncertain. Director Calvin noted that Nashville HUD Technical Assistance (TA) provider had lost all of their contracts due to non-compliance with recent federal executive orders. In their parting meeting, the TA providers emphasized that communities must adhere to the executive orders to avoid risking their funding. Director Calvin emphasized concerns that the CoC could have their award of \$11.8 million in funding to assist those exiting homelessness pulled due to non-compliance. A member of the HPC asked for clarification on what language is restricted to avoid putting the community at risk. OHS shared that there is a list of words published by the New York Times that showed a list of words under review for federal agencies. ► Collaborative Applicant Report, Allison Cantway: Back in January, the HUD awards for the Continuum of Care were announced and Nashville is set to receive \$11.8 million, the largest amount ever awarded to the community. Contracts have not yet gone out and there has not been clarity on when HUD will release the grant agreements. OHS noted that there has been little communication from HUD and the notice of funding opportunity for the youth homelessness (YHDP) grant has not yet been reposted. OHS has been meeting with the agencies that receive CoC funding, to work on building a community narrative of the impact of the CoC funding. OHS is working with those agencies to prepare an Impact Report to outline the number of clients served by CoC funding, along with leases and staff supported by the funds. OHS has met with these agencies weekly to check in and determine next steps as updates from the federal government emerge. OHS has also met with CoCs across the state and has taken the lead to help build a state-wide narrative. OHS invited HPC members to help contribute to the narrative around the vital nature of these funds and help the community understand what is at stake. ► HMIS Monthly Report, Hannah Cornejo-Nell: 3,243 people experienced homelessness in Nashville in the month of February. These 3,243 people were in 2,782 households; 228 families and 2,782 adult only households. The HMIS team has also added the number of children to this report, which was 379 for February. Over the past 12 months, 10243 unique people have experienced homelessness in Nashville. Over the last few months, OHS has added a new section to the report to include data from the Nashville Rescue Mission and Cold Weather Shelter. This data is being reported separately as the OHS HMIS team works to integrate the data. In February, 883 people were served by the Metro Cold Weather Shelter and 1,881 were served by the Nashville Rescue Mission. 9% of those experiencing homelessness in February were veterans, 7% were youth age 18-24, 45% were experiencing chronic
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	homelessness. 580 individuals were entered into HMIS in February. 50% of those experiencing homelessness were Black, 40% were White, 62% were men, and 37% were women. In February, 123 people were housed across 83 households, including 14 families that included 34 children, and 69 adult only households. The average length of time from when someone entered HMIS to when they exited was 184 day, a significant increase from previous months. The majority of people moved in with friends and family, with the second largest groups being no subsidy and rapid re-housing. The organizations that housed the most people were the Operation Stand Down and Room in the Inn. Of those housed in February, 54% were Black, 37% were White, 58% were men, and 42% were women. ► Continuum of Care Updates, Raquel de la Huerga: The first General Membership meeting for 2025 is scheduled for the following Thursday. The Nominating and Membership Committee will be releasing a survey to gather input on what the community would like to get out of the General Membership meetings. The All Chairs meeting will be held on the afternoon of March 21st, where the chairs will be digging into the Strategic Plan. The Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee is working to finalize their draft of the updated policies and procedures manual. They hope to release the manual for public comment in April and hopefully present it to the HPC in May or June. The Standards of Care Committee is working on adding a referral section to the Written and outline additional training expectations for providers. Any suggestions for language to be included in these section of the Written Standards can be sent to Raquel.
ACTION ITEM: HMIS POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL	Shanley Deignan introduced herself as the chair of the Data and HMIS Oversight Committee. A few months back, Shanley presented proposed changes to the HMIS Policies & Procedures Manual to the HPC. The committee reviewed the HPC's feedback and have made some additional revisions to the proposed Manual. Most of the changes that the committee is recommending are very minor and focus on ensuring the document reflects current practices. Fundamentally, the key changes for consideration are the proposal to shift responsibility and liability of several sets of HMIS responsibilities. When the Manual was last updated HMIS had far fewer participating agencies. Over time, the committee has realized that some key responsibilities would feasibly need to shift from the HMIS Lead Entity to the participating agency, considering that those agencies are better equipped to ensure that their end users are fit to use the system and following the policies and procedures. Previously, the committee had presented some changes that would shift the responsibility to participating agencies to ensure that their end users do not have backgrounds that would bar them from accessing HMIS. HPC members expressed concerns that the language was too ambiguous, which could lead to future liability issues. The committee took that feedback and strengthened language in the Manual along with three additional documents, including the HMIS Participating Agency Agreement, End User Agreement, and Point of Contact Agreement. The committee also sought guidance from Metro Legal and HUD Technical Assistance. The three additional agreements require each person responsible for each component of the agency's use of HMIS to verify and ensure that users do not have backgrounds of concern. Jamie Villegas moved to approve the amended Policies & Procedures Manual as presented to the HPC, along with three supplemental documents. Angie Lawless amended the motion to clarify that the three supplemental documents are the HMIS Participating Agency Agreement, End User Agreement, and Point of Contact Agreement. Seconded by Rico X. All in favor. Motion carried.
NEW BUSINESS	Federal Changes, Alyssa Fernandez: Alyssa Fernandez introduced herself as the chair of the committee working to navigate the federal executive orders that may impact the Continuum of Care. The federal executive orders specifically target language that is no longer allowed for federally funded programming, which

	includes many terms previously promoted and embedded across the Continuum of Care. Alyssa’s committee has been working to effectively pivot their work and pause their existing efforts to determine how to best respond to the executive orders. On an almost daily basis, there has been more and more concern from various people in the community about having this particular committee and how it can impact our all of our millions of dollars in funding if we don't comply with what these executive orders appear to be telling us to do. OHS and the committee have already taken some precautionary steps to change language in agendas and other forms of communication in an effort to comply. The committee has held multiple public meeting to make plans for how to mitigate risk and respond nimbly to emerging concerns. These efforts have been shared at committee meetings across the CoC in the past month and Alyssa will also be presenting these updates to the General Membership. The committee is proposing to suspend all work of the E&D Committee. This comes at a great pain to share as many of their members joined the committee due to their passion for the work. However, the committee recognized that there are limited alternatives as federal executive orders take precedence over local processes. The committee has also remained committed to preserving the Continuum of Care funding, recognizing that the funds are a necessary resource to make progress in ending homelessness. Instead, the committee hopes to brainstorm a new concept for a committee that might be able to address ongoing needs of the Continuum of Care, with specific attention to items in the Strategic Plan that have yet to be assigned to a committee. The committee is proposing to be renamed “Initiatives Efficiency”, but will continue to engage with the community to gather feedback before proposing a final name and scope of work. A member shared feeling concerned about walking back the community’s values, while recognizing the significant pressures to comply. The member shared they would vote to do what is best for the Continuum of Care, but worries that changes may be made that will have lasting consequences. Another members shared that this is a season of pivoting. At this time, the terminology used within the Continuum of Care will have to change, but this may also be an opportunity to thing strategically and innovatively as a community. Lastly, a member emphasized that the community will follow the executive orders for the sake of ensuring that homelessness can be addressed in the community. Downsizing the Homelessness Planning Council Two and half years ago, HUD Technical Assistance provided a recommendation to downsize the Homelessness Planning Council to ensure the body could be more effective and efficient in ending homelessness. Members received notes from past engagement with the General Membership and the Homelessness Planning Council to brainstorm a path forward. OHS also shared research on the size of CoC Boards in peer cities. The Executive Committee has drafted a proposed adjustment in size for the Homelessness Planning Council and will present their suggestion to the General Membership. The proposed format is to have 15 voting members, including 11 elected by the General Membership and 4 appointed by the mayor, with 2 additional non-voting members from the Metro Council. Director Calvin suggested for there to be two sessions in the coming month for the community to have a deeper conversation regarding the proposal. Strategic Plan Retreat Notes from the HPC Retreat were included in the members packets. The HPC agreed to ensure that the Strategic Plan aligns with contingency plans for federal funding. Addition suggests were to outline the next steps for the Strategic Plan along with who/what is missing to move the work forward. Members suggested for the Strategic Plan to be brought to the upcoming All Chairs meeting.
V. STORY OF PROGRESS	► PIT Count, Rico X Rico X shared his experience of participating in the PIT Count and recognized Lakisha Davenport for her dedication and compassion as an outreach worker. Rico shared how Lakisha spent the entire night of the PIT Count looking for the community members that she checks in on daily, including an individual who has recently suffered a loss and she knew would be grieving. Rico shared the care Lakisha had for this individual and their heartfelt reunion. Rico emphasized that the PIT Count is more than just an effort to collect data, but also an opportunity for our community to connect with and check in on those who are unhoused.

