

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 (conflict), Liz Mallard, Dr. Xyzeidria Ensley, India Pungarcher, Drew Freeman, D’Yuanna Allen-Robb, Michelle Southard, David Laggle-Martin (conflict), Courtney Johnston (<i>non-voting</i>), John Rutherford (<i>non-voting</i>), Lizzie Goddard, Angie Lawless, Jaha Martin Staff Present: April Calvin, Raquel de la Huerga, Allison Cantway, Derrick Smith, Hannah Cornejo-Nell	Date: April 9, 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 The meeting began with an acknowledgement of the need to have difficult conversation to address homelessness. The Chair emphasized that while these conversations can be challenging, they must remain rooted in solutions and a commitment to collective progress. Participants were encouraged to imagine the collective potential of everyone contributing from their respective lane to end homelessness. Chair Patterson shared her intention to translate the communal commitment of advancing all people out of homelessness. Chair Patterson acknowledged the ongoing need for stable housing and provided spotlights for My Brothers Keeper bringing on 500 hotel rooms, the city of Austin onboarding 1,200 permanent supportive housing units, and other innovative strategies for expanding housing solutions for those experiencing homelessness. Chair Patterson also acknowledged national leaders such as Sam Tsemberis and Bigger Vision Films for continuing to pour into the Nashville community. As the first Homelessness Planning Council Chair with lived experience, Chair Patterson shared her desire to remain steadfast and reflect on our journey toward transparency, unity, harm reduction, collective change, and overall alignment. Chair Patterson noted the strides that have been made by the Continuum of Care (CoC) committees and ongoing efforts to improve processes and incorporate people with lived experience. ► Remembrance & Moment of Silence Members took a moment of silence for lives lost while experiencing homelessness in the month of March. ► Review of March Minutes No corrections.
II. UPDATES	► Office of Homeless Services Director’s Report, April Calvin: Director Calvin shared information regarding the methodology for the housing surge at the Old Tent City encampment. Director Calvin noted that the Homelessness Planning Council approved a revised Outdoor Homelessness Strategy in December. In the months of August and September, the Prioritization Team for the strategy identified and assessed three potential locations for a housing surge and prioritized Old Tent City. In January, the Office of Homeless Services brought on a new provider for the intensive services offered at the Rodeway Inn interim housing location. Director Calvin noted that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy outlines its goal is to provide “interim housing options that lead to permanent housing solutions”. The entire strategy is designed to focus on the safety of the encampment residents, location, and environment. Throughout this process, the OHS outreach team was working to gather a By Name List of encampment residents who would be included in the housing surge. OHS then worked to assess and secure housing options to support the transition of the encampment residents. Director Calvin shared that OHS worked to decompress the Rodeway Motel to make room for this scale of housing surge and noted that the city only pays for rooms at the Rodeway Inn when they are occupied, thus no money was wasted to make room for more residents.

	Director Calvin shared that the Rodeway Inn is just one of many housing options that will be presented to encampment residents. Other options include CCF mobile housing navigation, bridge housing, single room occupancy, shared housing, recovery programs, family reunification, etc. OHS outreach workers have provided individual notices to encampment resident to ensure they were well informed and engaged in the process. OHS decided to shift towards a 60-day notice to align with the work of advocacy organizations asking for the same amount of time from the state. After notices were provided to the residents, OHS reached out to notify the district council member, HPC chair, SWOP chair, etc. Engagement and case management at the encampment will be ongoing. As a part of the mobilization phase of the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy, the OHS outreach team will be onsite Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm to help residents of the encampment prepare for housing (e.g. ordering birth certificates, talking through housing options). OHS noted that households will be able to take their pets to the Rodeway Inn and the outreach team is actively working to ensure pets are appropriately vaccinated. OHS will host a weekly resource fair at the encampment every Thursday. OHS has calls with both Interim Gap Housing sites twice each week to ensure all partners are aligned. OHS will also host weekly Encampment Care Coordination, outreach, and logistics planning meetings. OHS is gearing up to make housing referrals and expect many resident to elect to move into housing sooner than 60 days. OHS has a non-disclosed storage location where residents can store items they might not want to take with them to housing. Councilman Kupin is working with OHS to coordinate Welcome Kits for encampment residents, a tradition started by other councilmembers who have had housing surges take place in their district. Director Calvin shared that there will be ongoing communication with Metro Council, the SWOP Committee, Mayor's Office, and General Membership, along with an After Action Plan once the surge has been completed. CM Johnston shared that she had helped coordinate Welcome Kits in the past, which provided an opportunity for members of the public to support the initiative. CM Johnston shared that the Rodeway Inn units are quite bare and it can be helpful to receive donations for pillows, towels, sheets, plates, etc. CM Johnson asked Director Calvin if there has been an effort to follow up with the Community Foundation to create a QR code to make it easy for community members to contribute to the cause. Director Calvin will follow up with Hal Cato. Chair Patterson added that she is aware of a partner organization that regular receives pallets of donations that might be of use. A member asked if a list could be provided for the number of beds/units available at each transitional housing option to assess sufficient capacity to house those on the By Name List. OHS noted that availability might fluctuate throughout the surge. For example, Community Care Fellowship operates on a per diem basis and has needed to actively maintain utilization in their program. OHS added that there are some residents in RVs and campers and their team is also worked to assess which are registered and operable to determine potential options for those residents. A member noted that many individuals living in vehicles need a safe place to park. A member noted that there are very few vouchers in circulation locally and shared concerns that without subsidies the housing surge feels like a temporary option. OHS shared that the strategy has been successful in permanently housing participants from previous surges and plans to continue to explore all options for clients, especially as vouchers are limited. The community continues to house individuals across the community with and without vouchers and that effort does not stop when there is a housing surge. OHS emphasized that it is still unclear when vouchers will come back online, but the small set aside of vouchers dedicated towards homelessness has never been enough to end homelessness. Thus, OHS continues to have conversations with partners and bring speakers from other communities to identify new funding streams. OHS brought the representatives from Austin to Nashville to help make the case for funding non-traditional rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. A member noted that the city of Austin created their own revenue source for vouchers, which might be a strategy Nashville will need to explore. Regarding the \$50 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding, a member shared concerns that the slides need to be updated to reflect changes to the \$25 million for gap permanent supportive housing (PSH). The member suggested for OHS to clarify what funds went to the Barnes Fund and indicate which units are designated for PHS vs 0-30% Area Median Income (AMI). OHS noted that the I Am Next contract that was funded through Barnes has already been executed. The member added that there are Housing First Supportive Services funding that need to be spent down faster to ensure everything has been expensed before the end of 2026.
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► **Collaborative Applicant Report, Allison Cantway:**

Allison shared that CoC-funded agencies received their award letters, but only one received the actual grant agreement. Agencies across the country that received grant agreements had them rescinded by HUD within 24 hours and are still awaiting a resolution. Allison shared that the Continuing Resolution budget was passed in Congress, however, it did not include the increases to Fair Market Rent that were reflected in this year's award amounts.

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

3,570 people experienced homelessness in Nashville in the month of March. These 3,570 people were in 3,018 households; 230 families (including 371 children) and 2,778 adult only households. Over the past 12 months, 10,286 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 March, 372 people were served by the Metro Cold Weather Shelter and 2,005 were served by the Nashville Rescue Mission. 9% of those experiencing homelessness in March were veterans, 7% were youth age 18-24, 45% were experiencing chronic homelessness. 1,097 individuals were entered into HMIS in March, a significant increase from previous months. OHS clarified that those entered are not necessarily experiencing homelessness for the first time, 847 of the 1,097 were returning to HMIS, likely from being deemed inactive and re-engaging with services. % of those experiencing homelessness were Black, 40% were White, 61% were men, and 37% were women.

In March, 142 people were housed across 88 households, including 18 families that included 35 children, and 70 adult only households. The average length of time from when someone entered HMIS to when they exited was 135 days, a decrease from February. 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 Operation Stand Down, Oasis Center, and Park Center. Of those housed in February, 51% were Black, 42% were White, 54% were men, and 44% were women.

► **Continuum of Care Updates, Raquel de la Huerga:**

The General Membership elected Kenna Hasler from Park Center to serve as their Vice Facilitator and HPC Liaison. The General Membership will meet again on April 17th to focus on a survey developed by the Initiatives Efficiency Ad Hoc Task Force.

Governance Charter Committee met for the first time in March and will meet on the 4th Monday of each month moving forward. The committee is actively recruiting more members and those serving on the HPC are encouraged to join to ensure alignment. Lived experience leaders is exploring potentially pulling the Consumer Advisory Board out of the Charter to reduce restrictions on compensation.

Data & HMIS Oversight Committee completed a review of all reports produced by OHS and determine next steps for research efforts.

OHS helped to rework the CE Policies and Procedures Manual to align with examples from peer cities and ensure the document is more digestible for CE users. CE Oversight committee will likely release the manual for public comment in May and then bring it to the HPC in June.

An Initiatives Efficiency Ad Hoc Task Force has been established to build committee capacity in getting strategic plan objectives on track by the end of 2025 and piloting grievances processes for the Continuum of Care.

A member noted the need to pause and appreciate the progress that has been made by Director Calvin and the OHS team in helping the Continuum of Care work through messy and challenging strategic initiatives.

NEW BUSINESS	► Austin Visit, Allison Cantway: Representatives from the city of Austin came to Nashville to share how their city has invested in Permanent Supportive Housing. They brought representatives from their planning department, city homelessness department, CoC lead, and a PSH provider. They spoke to the Housing Division of the Planning Department, the Housing Opportunities Committee and other affordable housing stakeholders, and then the Metro Budget and Finance Committee. Austin shared how they have worked to onboard 1,200 units of PHS in just a few years to share insights for how Nashville could scale up PSH development. Austin was also able to create their own voucher program utilizing city funds. The representatives also shared insights for how to make the case for permanent supportive housing to stakeholders, such as the cost efficiency of housing an individual who may be utilizing a lot of city and hospital services due to their homelessness. Vanderbilt Homeless Health Conference, Brina Ratangee: Vanderbilt University hosted a conference, in partnership with Room in the Inn, focused on Street Medicine in Practice. Brina is a masters student at Vanderbilt. Hosted a conference in partnership with Room in the Inn. Focused on street medicine in practice. A lot of pre health students and community partners in the room. The event gathered pre-health students and community partners to discuss innovative healthcare models that meet vulnerable populations where they are. The event featured Bobby Watts from the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council and a street medic from Yale University. The presentations talked about the role of street medicine and the complicated health situations those living on the streets often face. Brina shared that attendees noted the need to address upstream issues and policy effort to prevent homelessness. Attendees also noted challenges, such as not being able to find patients when encampments are closed. Jaha Martin from the VA shared that their team has street psychiatrists that meet clients wherever there are and eventually establish them with home health services. Jaha shared that agencies will need to continue to shift their models and create dynamic programs that can follow individuals into their housing journey. The community needs to develop services that provide dignity and supports to avoid keeping people trapped in cycles of unsheltered homelessness, poverty and trauma. Strategic Plan, Rico X: Rico shared that the HPC conducts a strategic planning retreat every year. At this year's retreat there was a lot of discussion around the amazing work being done within the various committees of the CoC, but work being siloed and not always aligned with the Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee agreed to gather the committee chairs and host a meeting on March 21st focused on the strategic plan. The chairs went through the plan line by line and collectively discussed various levels of responsibility, accountability, and overlap. The strategic plan tracker is an outcome of that meeting. Attendees also worked to provide status updates on the strategic initiatives, such as whether each activity was on hold, on, track, early stages, or if there was more definition that was needed for the committee to get to work. Talked about the various committees and if there were any committees that needed to be consulted. The meeting created an opportunity for broader discussion and points of clarification that were needed. There is going to be a follow up meeting on April 25th and from then on they will meet bi-monthly. Rico noted that any strategic plan is only as strong as the ways in which it is tracked and implemented.
NEW BUSINESS	A member noted the lack of turnout to the first workgroup for downsizing the Homelessness Planning Council. Some members expressed confusion around whether they were the intended audience for the workshop. Other noted that beyond downsizing the HPC there is a need for the body to change how they operate to be more effective and efficient. Members noted a desire to better understand their role within the community and wanting to build on the momentum generated from the retreat and All Chairs meeting. The body hopes to move towards accountability, ownership, and shared responsibility. Additionally, members shared a need to have opportunity for dialogue within meetings and to engage more deeply with the information that is presented. Members noted not wanting the meetings to be focused solely around updated and prioritize time to dive into solutions. Multiple members shared a desire to make HPC meetings more effective and ensure that reports help to track whether we are moving the needle as a community. Another member noted that it is important for HPC members to join and immerse themselves in committees to have a deeper understanding of the Continuum of Care.

	A member moved to get a publicly noticed HPC Operations Workgroup. Metro Legal noted that an action item was not listed on the agenda and this seemed to be more of an administrative request. Members noted that the Workshop scheduled for April 16, the Executive Committee meeting, and All Chairs meetings could be opportunities to discuss this topic.
V. STORY OF PROGRESS	► Beyond the Bridge, David Langgle-Martin: David shared that the Beyond the Bridge screening was intended to be an opportunity to engage stakeholders on how we can come together to end homelessness. David shared that the event was postponed due to the inclement weather and will likely be rescheduled for the fall.