

Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC)

INITIATIVES EFFICIENCY MEETING MINUTES

DATE: MARCH 21, 2025

LOCATION: Oasis Center

TIME: 11AM

FACILITATORS	Alyssa Fernandez, Oasis Center
RECORDED BY	Raquel de la Huerga, OHS Continuum of Care Manager
ATTENDANCE	Alyssa Fernandez (Oasis), Suzie Tolmie (MDHA), Raquel de la Huerga (OHS), Nelson Guillen (NOAH), Liz Mallard (HPC), Giovanni Achoe (MSS), Michelle Southard (VUMC), Allison Cantway (OHS)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
UPDATES	Federal Developments The Office of Homeless Services provided an overview of recent developments, including: • Several Nashville agencies received their CoC award letters. While this is an encouraging step, those award letters usually come with grant agreements attached. Only one agency received the grant agreement, which was then rescinded by HUD less than 24 hours later to be revised to be consistent with federal laws and court orders. The language in the grant agreement that was received, had new restrictions for CoC grant programming and the funding recipient. • The US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) was identified in an Executive Order issued the previous week, which would “largely gut USICH’s capacity to achieve its mission” - according to the NAEH. • Last week, HUD rejected Hurricane Helene relief efforts because their proposed recovery plan included language that was not in compliance with executive orders. Attendees then debriefed the General Membership meeting where Chair Alyssa Fernandez presented the proposed shift to develop an Initiatives Efficiency Committee. The suggestion was met with a range of questions from the community, who wanted to revisit the topic at their meeting in April. Some attendees also felt that the proposed committee scope might have potential redundancies with other CoC committees, such as Standards of Care, HPC Executive Committee, and the Lived Experience Cohort. Chair Fernandez presented the same information to the Homelessness Planning Council, who were broadly supportive of the committee’s efforts to preserve CoC funding. The proposed scope of work for Initiatives Efficiency will also be discussed at the All Chairs meeting to determine what components of the Strategic Plan might fit within their scope. OHS also shared that they are working with the Performance Evaluation Committee to create a Continuum of Care Funding Impact Report that would show how many clients, staff, organizations, and landlords would be impacted if funding was lost.
DISCUSSION	Attendees discussed ongoing risks to Continuum of Care funding. Attendees recognized that initial steps have been taken to be in compliance with the Executive Orders. An attendee suggested for the group to begin to move forward, recognizing ongoing discussion of these issues may not be of benefit to the community. Attendees noted that the community wants to be involved in the decision-making process, however, under these circumstances there really isn’t a choice when it comes to

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	complying with the executive orders. Others noted that there is a broad need for the community to gather legal advice and technical assistance to determine how to navigate current circumstances, however, cuts to HUD Technical Assistance may limit these opportunities. Nelson shared that he is working with other community organizers to start a cooperative to provide Technical Assistance, who might be able to help the Continuum of Care navigate ongoing concerns. Other attendees noted that HUD Technical Assistance was comprised of national leaders in homelessness who were trained by HUD to provide approved assistance. That level of support may be difficult to replace. Attendees did agree that it could be helpful for the new Initiatives Efficiency Committee to be able to consult with organizations that need various forms of support. Attendees suggested that it might be helpful for the future committee to work on special projects, like a permanent Ad Hoc Task Force. The committee could be tasked with promoting innovation and helping to map key processes to streamline the work of the Continuum of Care. The committee could also work on building capacity and continuous improvement. Michelle Southard suggested that the committee could “map and analyze organizational processes across committees and organizations, identifying opportunities to eliminate gaps, streamline workflows, and align operations with strategic objectives.” Attendees then discussed that it could be helpful at the next General Membership meeting to have a panel discussion to field questions from the community regarding the Continuum of Care funding and the federal executive orders. Attendees felt that it might be helpful to have multiple lawyers and others who might be able to help the community understand these circumstances. The committee hopes that the General Membership will understand the urgency of this situation.
ADJOURN	12:47PM