

# Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC)

## COORDINATED ENTRY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** JUNE 18, 2025

**LOCATION:** Family Safety Center

**TIME:** 8:30 – 10AM

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>CHAIR</b>        | DeShaun Reed, Park Center                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>RECORDED BY</b>  | Raquel de la Huerga, Office of Homeless Services                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>ATTENDANCE</b>   | Nicole Piispanen (United Way), Catherine Knowles (MNPS) DeShaun Reed (Park Center), Raelonda Wynn (VA), Terri Lawson (Step Up), Alec Miller (Launch Pad), Terry Vo (Metro Council)                                              |
| <b>GUESTS/STAFF</b> | Dr. Monte Talley (OHS), Raquel de la Huerga (OHS), Aubrie Hardy (OHS), Kelsea Combs (OHS), Corey Ellis (Mary Parrish), Allison Cantway (OHS), Rori Knight Durham (TA), David Langgle-Martin (Park Center), Marvin Trotter (OHS) |

| AGENDA ITEM           | DISCUSSION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b> | <p>None were registered at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>Members reviewed the seven public comments that were submitted within the 30-day public comment period.</p> <p>Dr. Talley noted having added an Appendix with the districts covered by outreach workers. A suggestion was made to <b>add addresses, times, and phone numbers.</b></p> <p><b>Public Comment #1</b><br/>It was suggested to <b>adopt the suggests in comments numbered 1 and 2.</b></p> <p><b>Public Comment #2</b><br/>Members agreed to <b>change all references to OHS to be the CE lead.</b> Multiple comments were made concerning “no wrong door” and access points. Members suggested for there to be <b>a public page with access points advertised</b>, which could be added to the OHS website after the draft is finalized. OHS staff also shared that they are working on updating their outreach site too. <b>Members requested for OHS to eventually create a one-pager with a list of physical locations for CE access and add to the OHS phone tree the option to hear a list of locations.</b></p> <p>Members noted a need to <b>clarify how the CE team utilizes “tie breakers”, especially when it comes to length of time a person experiences homelessness.</b></p> <p><b>Comment #3</b><br/><b>The committee agreed to add to pages 17 and 22 clarifications on what re-activity can look like to explain that someone being “exited” does not prevent them from being re-opened in CE after they re-connect with a service provider.</b> The CE team also clarified that currently a person can be re-opened without having to complete a new assessment, unless they have experienced a major life change.</p> <p><b>Comment #2 &amp; 4</b><br/>The committee discussed pg 17 where it notes that the “CE team reserves the right to re-evaluate and change protocols as new high-risk populations are identified and/or new resources becomes available.” <b>The committee agreed to change the second</b></p> |

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sentence to indicate that changes to protocols should be presented, discussed, and voted on by the CE Oversight Committee at their following meeting and an opportunity for public comment should be provided. The committee noted that there will need to be flexibility to allow the CE team to respond nimbly to changes in the community, however, they wanted to ensure that the committee would have opportunities to weigh in on how resources are being referred. Members also noted a need to clarify whether it is the CE lead or the CoC/CE Oversight Committee that has the authority to set prioritizations for Coordinated Entry. It was noted that the CoC Charter outlines that the committee is responsible for helping establish CE priorities. Members noted that CE is a community process so there is a community responsibility to determine what we want for how CE prioritizes. Members emphasized that prioritization, regardless of where the responsibility lies, should be grounded in data. Members noted that adequate data and justifications should be provided to help the committee and community understand proposed shifts in prioritization. **Members suggested that the General Membership and the Homelessness Planning Council should also be notified before the CE Oversight meeting where changes in prioritization are to be discussed and informed of opportunities for public comment. Members also recommended for the Governance Charter Committee to clarify the public comment process.** Members noted that many of the public comments emphasized a desire for the community to be involved in decision-making around Coordinated Entry to ensure that shifts in prioritization truly reflect community needs.

Members acknowledged the comments from the Legal Aid Society regarding expanding who can be served by Coordinated Entry. Members noted that Coordinated Entry is limited to the resources that are able to be referred through the process and that a larger conversation is needed to expand prevention resources.

OHS noted a desire to have Metro Legal weigh in on the comments from the Legal Aid team regarding discriminatory language.

### Encampment Prioritization

Chair Winter noted that many of the public comments expressed concerns regarding Encampment Prioritization. Chair Winter read the draft language on page 17 aloud and then noted that many comments indicated that Encampment Prioritization should be removed altogether. Other comments focused on the way in which prioritization and the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy operates.

A member asked whether encampments are prioritized because they are the community's priority or the city's priority? OHS staff noted that the mortality rate on the streets is higher than in shelters and that those who are unsheltered have higher rates of chronic homelessness. OHS staff shared that the last HUD monitoring indicated a need to have an abatement plan for encampments. A member noted that the Coordinated Entry process could then prioritize those are unsheltered rather than encampments specifically. Members noted that to highlight encampments specifically feel political and a desire to ensure the process is fair for all who are unsheltered. Members also wanted to gain clarity on who is responsible for determining camp closures and what the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committees role might need to be in that process.

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|                   | <p>Members noted potential misalignment between the Coordinated Entry process and the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy. <b>Members suggested to invite representatives from the Shelter, Weather, Outreach, and Prevention Committee to the next meeting</b> to get their insights on how the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy was intended to connect with CE to determine whether it makes sense for the CE Policies and Procedures Manual to have a dedicated section on Encampment Prioritization. Members also noted a need to have serious discussion around the way in which the community is prioritizing resources via CE.</p> <p>Members emphasized a need to look closer at encampment data to assess the vulnerability of those in encampments and look into whether Encampment Prioritization aligns with local needs. Members noted that the purpose of CE is to try to identify the most vulnerable people in your community to match them to community resources, which is why it will be important to determine if those in encampments are more vulnerable than their unsheltered peers.</p> |
| <b>NEXT STEPS</b> | <p>The committee will meet again on July 23. The committee agreed for OHS to work in incorporating straight forward changes into the draft.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |