

Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC)

COORDINATED ENTRY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: JULY 23, 2025

LOCATION: Family Safety Center

TIME: 8:30 – 10AM

CHAIR	DeShaun Reed, Park Center & Grant Winter, Safe Haven
RECORDED BY	Raquel de la Huerga, Office of Homeless Services
ATTENDANCE	Nicole Piispanen (United Way), Catherine Knowles (MNPS) DeShaun Reed (Park Center), Raelonda Wynn (VA), Alec Miller (Launch Pad), Courtney Berner (Oasis), Grant Winter (Safe Haven), Jesse Call (Village at Glenclyff)
GUESTS/STAFF	Dr. Monte Talley (OHS), Raquel de la Huerga (OHS), Kelsea Combs (OHS), Allison Cantway (OHS), April Calvin (OHS), Marvin Trotter (OHS), Mary Katherine Rand (Mary Parrish), Carolina Smith (RITI)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
WELCOME	Chair Winter highlighted the committee's vision, norms, and expectations to ground the conversation.
PUBLIC COMMENTS	None were registered at the beginning of the meeting.
REVIEW REVISED COORDINATED ENTRY MANUAL	Dr. Monte Talley reviewed the changes that were made to the draft Manual since the last meeting. The changes focused on the basic changes (e.g. changing Office of Homeless Services to CE Lead, defining "tie breakers", adding times and dates to the appendix) requested at previous meetings and HUD requirements. The committee requested for a note to be added to the appendix indicated that an updated list of Access locations can be found on the OHS website. The committee discussed the "tie breaker" language that was added, noting that the length of time experiencing homelessness is calculated based on their current episode of homelessness. Committee members suggested to research how other communities measure length of time homeless in their CE Prioritization, but felt comfortable leaving the language as is for the time being.
ENCAMPMENT PRIORITIZATION	Grant Winter presented the following language that he had drafted to attempt to address the committee's concerns regarding Prioritization Protocols: "In the event that there is a need to shift prioritization and/or allocation of CE resources, the CE Lead must engage the CE Oversight Committee for discussion and potential approval of necessary changes at the next scheduled meeting, or a specially called meeting as necessary on a case-by-case basis. Public notice of the next meeting will be given and opportunity for public comment will be provided. These changes should be limited in scope and time, reported to the CoC General Membership and Homelessness Planning Council, and will be considered for any permanent changes to the CE Policies and Procedures during the next revision. 2. Encampment Prioritization While the unsheltered homelessness strategy working group of the Shelter, Weather, Outreach, and Prevention (SWOP) Committee pursues new research and exploration of strategies to unsheltered homelessness, there shall be no additional prioritization of

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encampments. Re-adoption of encampment prioritization shall be reviewed during future revisions in coordination with the SWOP committee, and an opportunity to review how the CE Oversight Committee should be incorporated into the community's Outdoor Homelessness Strategy.

If there is an impending encampment closure, the CE lead and the Encampment Prioritization Team must notify the CE Oversight and SWOP committees, CoC General Membership, and the Homelessness Planning Council. Any requested allocation of CE resources related to an impending encampment closure will follow the protocol listed above."

Chair Reed noted that most camp closures take a least a month and in those circumstances there should be enough time to call a special committee meeting. Members noted that I they are aware of emergency circumstances they would be amendable to having a special meeting.

Committee members noted a desire to adopt the language presented. Catherine Knowles asked for input on the proposed language from the Office of Homeless Services. Director April Calvin from the Office of Homeless Services shared concerns that the proposed language would limit the community. Director Calvin shared that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy was drafted for many reasons and in part to ensure the community can receive the maximum amount of Continuum of Care funding. For example, the community had to lose out on a Special Notice of Funding Opportunity a few years back because an Outdoor Homelessness Strategy was not in place. Director Calvin also noted concerns of having public meetings before camps are noticed as they strive to notify the residents first as a trauma-informed strategy.

David Langgle-Martin noted that for the July 4th camp closure the Homelessness Planning Council was aware of concerns approximately a month prior, but was not sure at what point partners and residents were notified. Director Calvin noted that the July 4th camp was an emergency response, but for traditional housing surges under the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy there is a timeline outlined.

Chair Winter noted that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy was created before the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee was created, which now poses challenges for ensuring adequate CE oversight into the process. Jesse Call noted that because the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy utilizes the CE process it is important for the committee to weigh in to ensure the resources that are referred through CE are being prioritized appropriately. Chair Winter noted that any change in how CE resources are used beyond what is typical should have oversight and accountability metrics. Chair Winter noted a desire for both the CE Manual and Outdoor Homelessness Strategy to align. Courtney Berner noted that there may need to be two separate processes 1) the CE process for prioritizing individuals and 2) an outdoor homelessness strategy for prioritizing encampments.

Members noted that the language laid out by Chair Winter could balance both the needs to respond nimbly and the desire of the committee to weigh in when there are changes being made in the prioritization of resources.

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Rori Knight Durham noted that the responsibility of the CE Oversight Committee is to ensure that the process is upheld, however, she cautioned the group being so married to a process that the community loses focus on those being served. Rori suggested to have policies that allow for flexibility to respond more swiftly. Rori also noted that both those who are unsheltered and living in encampments are vulnerable and there will continue to be a need to address both populations.

Jesse Call responded that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy has used CoC-funded resources for encampment closures and expressed concerns that those not in encampments are being overlooked. Jesse expressed concerns that the prioritization process was being influenced by local politics rather than being based on individual vulnerability, as intended. Jesse noted concerns that individuals were not being prioritized solely because they have not clustered together to become a sizeable encampment. Jesse noted concerns that individuals that have exited encampments are not only getting priority for beds at Rodeway and Community Care Fellowship, but might also be prioritized for additional resources through Coordinated Entry.

Director Calvin that the Encampment Prioritization Team makes the decision for which encampments are to be prioritized. Director Calvin noted that there are resources utilized for the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy that are not CoC-funded and may need to be utilized to respond nimbly. For example, there have been outside organizations with TANF funding that have been able to step in when shelters have been at capacity. Director Calvin noted that it will continue to be important to allow those types of flexible funds respond to emerging needs. Director Calvin also hopes to braid and bring in more funding to the community since Continuum of Care funding will not be enough to solve homelessness locally. Chair Winter noted that the proposed language likely would not conflict with the examples provided by Director Calvin as dollars that are outside of the CE process are not dictated by the CE Manual.

Mary Katherine Rand asked Director Calvin if she had additional concerns. Director Calvin noted that having a strong Outdoor Homelessness Strategy has been beneficial both to the CoC's application to HUD. Additionally, having a strategy has helped mediate tension with property owners worried about encampments and deterred the state from imposing additional measures or clearing encampments on their property. Director Calvin noted that another major concern is she hopes to continue the strategy of notifying residents before the community as it has been traumatizing in the past when media became aware before those living in the encampment.

Mary Katherine suggested for the language in the CE Manual to get less in the weeds and rather refer to the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy so some concerns could be sorted out with the SWOP committee. Committee members noted that their primary concern is to ensure that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy does not improperly prioritize CE resources. Members noted that if there is a circumstance outside of the norm there will need to be an opportunity for the committee to weigh in.

Director Calvin noted that encampment closures only account for 10% of those housed within the last year, the remaining successful housing placements utilized the traditional CE Process. Director Calvin noted that the Outdoor Homelessness Strategy

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	is not intended to override the CE process, but rather compliment it. The resources the OHS has worked to add to address homelessness are intended to be in addition to the CE resources. Nicole Piispanen asked if there are ways to change the language to address concerns around responsiveness, person-centered, and flexible. Members suggested to add language that the committee “commits to being responsive”. Other suggestions were to add “when possible” to the paragraph about the committee weighing in. The committee agreed to review the draft language regarding Prioritization Protocols, make comments on SharePoint, and bring suggestions to the meeting on August 6th.
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