

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

Planning Council Members Present: Rico X (Chair), Liz Mallard (Vice Chair), Meredith MacLeod Jaulin, Drew Freeman, David Langgle-Martin (Conflict – CoC Funded Agency) , Alyssa Fernandez (Conflict – ARPA Funded Agency), HG Stovall (Conflict – ARPA Funded Agency), Jaha Martin, Angie Lawless (Conflict – Board of CoC Funded Agency), Stephanie Cooper, CM Erin Evans Staff Present: April Calvin, Allison Cantway, Derrick Smith, Raquel de la Huerga, Tytiauna Ruffin, Dr. Monte Talley, Kelly Muldoon	Date: March 11, 2026 Start Time: 8:30AM Place: Sonny West Conference Center AB, Howard Office Building Recorded by: Raquel de la Huerga, Office of Homeless Services
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION
I. WELCOME, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, MOMENT OF SILENCE, MINUTES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT	► Welcome by Chair Rico X Chair X called the meeting to order and noted that the body had not reached quorum. Chair X reflected on the Homelessness Planning Council retreat, including strategic planning and visioning efforts for the upcoming years. ► Recognition of New Members Chair X noted that there are two new mayoral appointments to the Homelessness Planning Council, Mick Nelson and Mark Chandler. ► 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 No corrections noted. ► Public Comment Period None.
II. STORY OF PROGRESS	OHS Cold Weather Overflow Shelter, Tytiauna Ruffin Chair X noted that there has been an extraordinary number of nights for the Cold Weather Shelter this winter season. Chair X introduced the Office of Homeless Services Shelter Manager, Tytiauna Ruffin. The shelter has been open for 50 nights this season and there are potentially more nights of shelter upcoming. Ms. Ruffin credited the success of the program to a broad team including multiple providers and community members, noting that the shelter is a collaborative community effort. She emphasized that the team works with the available tools and resources to the best of their ability, with the goal of saving lives every night of the cold weather season. Ms. Ruffin shared appreciation to everyone who provided resources, donations, and support throughout the shelter season. HPC Member Drew Freeman prompted a round of applause for the OHS team and Ms. Ruffin. Coordinated Entry Needs Assessment for Stable Families (NASH), Dr. Monte Talley

	Dr. Talley presented an update on NASH, the new community-built coordinated entry assessment tool developed over the past year-plus to replace the current VI-SPDAT. NASH addresses four major problems with the existing VI-SPDAT: it can be retraumatizing, subject to score manipulation, too long, and not housing-focused. The new tool is person-centered, community-built, direct, and short. A Core Assessment Group, comprising representatives from nearly every community partner, has been developing NASH with thoughtfully designed the questions. Dr. Talley highlighted some innovative features of the new NASH tool. There is a box for a qualitative assessment to better understanding of what is most important for client's housing and look more holistically at what the client is going through. There is also visual assessment to capture objective narratives that may not fit neatly in a particular question, but could be relevant for care coordination. These sections will be unscored. HUD Technical Assistance noted that this feature may be the first of its kind in the country. These key changes were actually generated by engaging people with lived experience in the creation of the NASH. The NASH tool began the first round of piloting between November and December to test key hypotheses with a convenience sample. This process indicated that training is one of the most important considerations. Assessors need to feel comfortable with the tool and know the intentions behind each question. The pilot has been built out on the HMIS platform and the Office of Homeless Services is working with the HMIS vendor WellSky to figure out how to incorporate and transition fully to the new tool in the future. Dr. Talley was happy to announce that the Coordinated Entry team has started the second round of piloting with one outreach group and will train another outreach group in the coming week. This phase will be a blind pilot where assessors will not be able to see the score generated to focus on ensuring information gathered is accurate rather than for assessors to try to manipulate vulnerability scores. Dr. Talley noted that a key factor in this piloting process will be change management and she hopes for the Homelessness Planning Council's support in helping the community navigate this transition. Board members were invited to attend Core Assessment Group meetings or upcoming training sessions. A member asked how the tool might work for someone that has recently entered homelessness. Dr. Talley noted that they are hoping to emphasize this issue in triage and figure out prevention and diversion resources for those that do not have high scores.
VI. REPORTS & UPDATES	Continuum of Care Report, Kenna Hasler, Liz Mallard, and David Langgle-Martin Liaison Kenna reported that the Continuum of Care Updates Report has been revised to include requests from the General Membership for the Homelessness Planning Council. Liaison Hasler noted that a key concern is what the plan is for when ARPA funding ends. Director Calvin noted that the ARPA report for February is included in the members packet. Director Calvin noted contingency planning efforts for ARPA, addressing concerns noted from the auditor, and following up on ARPA monitoring efforts. Liaison Hasler noted that the Standards of Care Committee is also working on establishing expectations for instances when programs are ending or changing to notify the community and their clients.

	The General Membership also asked whether a designated HPC liaison to state legislators exists. It was confirmed that no formal role or relationship currently exists between the Homelessness Planning Council and the legislature. It was noted that Metro utilizes a lobbying firm for all Metro bodies, but the HPC has never received updates from that lobbyist, nor proactively engaged it. Councilwoman Evans noted the importance of relationship-based advocacy at the state level and referenced Darren Jernigan (Mayor's Office) as a key resource on state legislative temperature. It was also noted that Open Table Nashville already tracks legislation affecting the unhoused population and should be brought into this conversation. Stephanie Cooper, an HPC member from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), noted that attending regional planning and policy meetings (Davidson County is Region 4) is a pathway for influencing the department's budget asks to the governor. HG Stoval requested that the lobbyist pathway be provided to the body in writing before the next meeting. OHS will follow up with Darren Jernigan on sharing the statewide legislative tracking document and whether it is public. This topic was requested to be a formal agenda item at the next HPC meeting. The General Membership requested advocacy for more mental health and addiction recovery beds. Stephanie Cooper noted the Commissioner recently presented the department budget to both chambers, including a beds component related to Jillian's Law and other mental health evaluation laws. Metro Government is examining opioid settlement spending and RFP processes and related legislation or resolutions expected this year. The General Membership asked how it will be notified of available funding opportunities. OHS confirmed that grant and funding info is distributed via Constant Contact. Agencies that come across external funding opportunities should send them to Raquel at OHS for distribution. OHS has a staff member who tracks and compiles grant opportunities and now that OHS Planning and Research staffing is stabilizing, this function will be re-activated and shared via CoC channels. It was also recommended for agencies to connect with the Center for Nonprofit Management and the Regional Housing Facilitator (contact Shanley Deignan at Park Center). Housing Opportunities Committee Updates The Housing Opportunities Committee has been active since September 2024. Its charge is to identify, develop, and expand housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. Flexible Funding Pool Initiative: • After reviewing existing housing types and programs locally and nationally, the committee concluded that most primary housing types exist in Nashville, but certain funding mechanisms do not. • A flexible funding pool for supportive services and rental assistance is identified as a promising gap to fill. Similar models exist in Austin, Dallas, and other cities. • The model would pool contributions from investors including businesses, banks, philanthropy, government, and community foundations to create a local funding stream.
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- Four prerequisites for supportive/affordable housing were identified: developers, construction/development subsidies, operating subsidies/rental assistance, and supportive services funding. The flexible funding pool addresses the operating subsidy gap.
- The Barnes Fund is construction-focused; the Catalyst Fund has a separate purpose; the current mixed-income pilot is a capital subsidy, not an operating subsidy — none fully address this need.
- Metro Council, under Director Calvin's leadership, approved flexible rental assistance dollars in the current budget year as a pilot of this concept.
- Momentum is building with philanthropic organizations, banks, and businesses interested in deploying impact funds.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- Ties directly to HPC Strategic Plan Objective 2.1 (aligning funders/stakeholders to capture funding) and Unified Housing Strategy Objective E, Action 28 (rental assistance).
- The committee will coordinate closely with OHS, the Housing Division, and the Unified Housing Leadership Council.
- The committee's primary goal for the calendar year is advancing the flexible funding pool in collaboration with partner entities.

HPC Nominations

- **Upcoming elections:** the nomination process will be announced at the next COC General Membership meeting. All current HPC members who are not rolling off (or eligible for re-nomination) are requested to submit a brief bio outlining their work related to homelessness.
- **Attendance concerns:** The Chair and nominating committee raised serious concern about attendance, noting that today's lack of quorum prevented two action items from being addressed. Members will be contacted regarding their attendance records and continued ability to commit.
- **Board size:** The HPC has discussed for several cycles reducing the size of the body. This will factor into the upcoming nomination and slate process.
- Desired representation areas (from COC General Membership survey): discharge planning, immigrant service providers, lived experience, and philanthropic community.
- Suggestion raised: committees could nominate proven committee members for HPC seats — similar to a board pipeline model.
- Raquel confirmed that the nomination form includes a full overview of the time commitment and the four priority expertise areas before candidates reach the questions.
- The nomination form and public announcement will be distributed via the COC list serve and OHS website.

Continuum of Care Manager Updates

- Charter Updates: All committees have been asked to review and confirm accurate summaries of their goals as the COC charter is revised. The Charter Committee and Shanley Degan have been coordinating outreach to all committees on this.
- Committee scheduling: Some committees are shifting meeting days/times in the new year. Members are asked to check the OHS/COC website for updated schedules. Standards of Care is moving to a different day.

	HMIS Report, February HMIS highlights: • Individuals encountered: 4,094 (slight increase from January), comprising 3,391 households — 223 families (including 499 children) and 3,168 adult-only households. • Last 12 months: 12,527 unique individuals experiencing homelessness. • Individuals housed in February: 172, comprising 100 households — 32 families (56 children) and 77 adult-only households. • Top housing exit destinations: rapid rehousing (31 households), no subsidy (30), permanent housing with family/friends (22). • Top agencies for February housing: Nashville Rescue Mission (23 households), Operation Standown (20), Oasis Center (10).
VII.	Director Report, April Calvin Metro Rapid Response Funding A detailed report will be presented at the next meeting. This is a new pilot using flexible funds approved by Metro Council. OHS is working through deployment logistics, landlord document requirements, and aligning with federal NOFO guidance. Federal funding for Q1 and Q2 is expected to be confirmed; Q3 and Q4 remain uncertain. American Rescue Plan Act • The five-year comprehensive housing package is nearing completion. OHS will compile a summary report of outcomes, agency performance, and contingency planning results. Mending Hearts received an extension on their funding obligation date (previously showing 12/31/25). OHS will update the packet accordingly. Additional funding resolutions for other agencies are going before Metro Council the following week. OHS continues to pursue remaining ARPA funds as potential flexible dollars for ongoing housing operations. HUD Mega Waiver HUD released a mega waiver applicable during a crisis/disaster (related to Storm Fern). COC-funded agencies will be convened to discuss applicable needs. Extensions on certain requirements may be available. Barnes Housing Trust Fund Commission Appointment The appointment of a new HPC liaison to the Barnes Housing Trust Fund Commission was on the agenda as an action item but could not be addressed due to lack of quorum. Concern was raised about whether the Barnes Trust Fund Commission will have quorum issues for upcoming funding rounds without a filled liaison seat. It was noted that Lizzie Goddard stepped down from the HPC due to a role conflict, but that conflict may not apply to the Barnes Commission itself. Clarification will be requested. Options discussed: (1) request the previous liaison continue serving in that capacity until a replacement is elected; (2) call a special meeting to address this urgent business if quorum can be achieved. Derrick (Metro legal) clarified the requirements for a special called meeting: must be in-person, achieve quorum, have a sufficiently specific agenda, and address no other business.

	Housekeeping, Raquel de la Huerga All HPC members are requested to fill out and return a public contact information update form before leaving the meeting (per Metro code requiring all board/commission members to have publicly available contact information). Members who were not present will be followed up with via email.
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