

Columbus & Franklin County Ohio Continuum of Care Membership Meeting Notes

**Columbus KTC Buddhist Center Community Room,
645 W Rich St, Columbus, OH 43215
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

In-person Members in Attendance: Alison Marker, Beth Fetzer-Rice, Carlie Boos, Chanda I. Wingo, Donna Mayer, Emerald Hernandez-Parra, Emily Savors, Jeff Pattison, Diana Alecusan, Juliet C. Dorris-Williams, Malcolm Turner, Michael Wilkos, Nancy Hashman, Robert Bramlish, Greg Winslow, Sarah Hatchard, Scott Scharlach, Shannon TL Isom, Sheila Prillerman, Sue Villilo, Vunessa Martin, and Walter Dillard

Virtual CoC Membership: Mary ODoherty, Jim Rose, Sonya Higginbotham,

Virtual Community Members in Attendance: Dean Sloane, Tara Taylor, Isaac Barton, Donna King, Kamilah Twymon, Tina Rutherford, Ryan Cassel

In-person CSB staff attendance: Steve Skovensky, Adam Rowan, Sherrice Sledge-Thomas, Twila Wellmaker, Samba Silla, Tracy Whalen-Payne, Kimberly Sanders

Not in attendance: Beth Lonn, John Oswalt, Courtney Elrod, Dr. Desiree Polk-Blank, Dr. Maria Houston, Le-Ann Harris, Lt. Kyle Kincade, Makaylah Downour, Marcus Johnson, MarQuan McCarrel, Meghann Cicola, Nathan P. Wymer, Rei Scott, Scott Johnson, Shianne Howard, Terri Power, Tiara Ross, Ian Labitue

Virtual CSB staff attendance: Christina Blair

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Wilkos at 2:08 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

- Michael Wilkos led the introductions.
- Acknowledgment was given to Emerald Hernandez-Parra as the newly elected CoC Board Vice-Chair (voted in May 2025).

III. Approval of Minutes

- Emerald Hernandez-Parra moved to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Shiela Prillerman and passed unanimously.

IV. Franklin County Five-Year Consolidated Plan

- Donna King of M&L Associates provided an overview of eligible activities under the ESG, HOME, and CDBG programs and announced that \$3 million will be available for the 2025 allocation. She reviewed the planning process and funding mechanisms for these programs, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder engagement and public input in shaping funding priorities. Donna facilitated a discussion on urgent needs within homelessness programs, encouraging participants to share insights to guide effective resource allocation. The group agreed to distribute a follow-up member survey before June 18 to gather additional feedback, noting that previous community surveys received over 360 responses, indicating strong stakeholder engagement.

V. Access and Impact Committee

- Sherrice Sledge-Thomas shared updates on recent efforts to ensure compliance with new federal language requirements, provided an overview of the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) survey, and discussed the development of policies aimed at compensating individuals with lived experience for their contributions.

VI. System and Community Framework Update

- Steve Skovensky provided updates on several key initiatives, including the outcomes of the winter warming centers, which saw increased utilization and improved results. He also highlighted the expansion of outreach efforts, the positive impacts of the Direct Cash Transfer program, and a new collaboration with Ohio State University to develop an app designed to enhance access to homelessness services.

VII. CoC Annual Plan

- Tracy Whalen-Payne highlighted the Continuum of Care's focus on outcome-based planning, emphasizing inclusive engagement with stakeholders and the implementation of streamlined meeting formats to foster more meaningful discussions and efficient decision-making.

VIII. CoC Builds Competition

- Adam Rowan presented on HUD's reissuance of the CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), noting revisions to the scoring criteria that included the removal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) points and the addition of points for projects located in opportunity zones. CMHA's "Beacon 360 Hometown PSH" project received the highest score. Emerald Hernandez-Parra moved to recommend the CMHA project for submission to HUD, with a second by Emily Savors. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Comprehensive Budget

- Shawn Smith presented the Comprehensive Budget, Unit Cost Matrix along with the annual funding strategy and funding allocation.

X. Annual Funding Strategy

- Diana Alecusan moved to approve the annual strategy; Carlie Boos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

XI. Annual Funding Allocation

- Shiela Prillerman moved to approve the allocation, seconded by Walter Dillard, and the motion passed unanimously.

XII. 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

- Presenters Steve Skovensky and Twyla Wellmaker reported a total homelessness count of 2,556, reflecting a 7% overall increase. Of this number, 2,101 individuals were sheltered, while the unsheltered population decreased by 11% to 455. Notable changes were observed in subpopulations, including those experiencing domestic violence, severe mental illness, and families. The housing inventory showed increases in adult shelter beds and permanent supportive housing, while family shelter capacity declined.

XIII. Program Evaluation Results

- Adam Rowan reported that 14 of 15 providers were found compliant during program evaluations, with only one program identified as noncompliant.

XIV. FY24 CoC Competition Debrief

- Presenter Samba Silla reported that two new projects, Deer Hill and HMIS Expansion, were funded, accompanied by a \$4 million increase in overall funding.

XV. System Performance Measures

- Adam Rowan highlighted key system performance outcomes, including a reduction in returns to homelessness, longer stays attributed to housing shortages, and improved housing retention rates.

XVI. System Indicator Report (Q3)

- Adam Rowan presented data highlighting extended lengths of stay in shelters, low numbers in rapid rehousing programs, and strong outcomes in homelessness prevention efforts.

XVII. New CoC Action Plan

- Tracy Whalen-Payne presented the updated CoC action plan, emphasizing goals to increase inclusive collaboration, promote data-driven solutions, and create engaging learning sessions for stakeholders.

XVIII. Discussion: Community Housing Solutions

- The discussion focused on systemic housing barriers and emphasized the importance of regional partnerships to address these challenges. Participants urged the community to support diverse housing models tailored to varying needs and cautioned against placing blame on service providers, highlighting that the root causes of homelessness extend beyond their scope.

XIX. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn was made by Emerald Hernandez-Parra and seconded by Juliet C. Dorris-Williams. The meeting adjourned at 4:11 PM.

Next Meeting Date: September 18th, 2025

Minutes Prepared By: Tracy Whalen Payne

Approval By: Christina Blair