

Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio
Continuum of Care Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2025
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Attendees

In-person attendance: Alison Marker, Beth Lonn, Carlie Boos, Christopher Maitland, Donna Mayer, Jeff Pattison, Jim Rose, Jonathan D. Welty, Malcolm Turner, Marcus Johnson, Michael Wilkos (Continuum of Care Chair), Sarah Hatcher, Shannon TL Isom, Sheila Prillerman, Sonya Higginbotham, Steve Gladman, Terri Power, Tiara Ross, Walter Dillard, and Erka Gable

Virtual attendance: Beth Fetzer-Rice, Juliet C. Dorris-Williams, Kier Scott, Le-Ann Harris, MarQuan McCarrel, Mary O'Doherty, Meghann Cicola, Nancy Hashman, Robert Bramlish, Roxann Payne, and Sue Villilo attended virtually.

In-person CSB staff attendance: Lauren Hiskey, Christina Blair, Steve Skovensky, Niel Jurist, Tracy Whalen-Payne and Adam Rowan

Virtual CSB staff attendance: Sherrice Sledge-Thomas

Not in Attendance: Chanda I. Wingo, Courtney Elrod, Dr. Desiree Polk-Blank, Dr. Maria Houston, Emerald Hernandez-Parra, Emily Savors, Felisha Lyons, Lt. Kyle Kincade, Makaylah Downour, Nathan P. Wymer, Rei Scott, Scott Scharlach, Tina Rutherford, and Vivian Turner was not confirmed.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM by Michael Wilkos.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve minutes from 10.23.24 and 11.14.24 made by Alison Marker, seconded by Christopher Maitland. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Recommendation of the prioritization of PSH projects for OHFA tax credits.

- Adam Rowan reviewed the scoring for CHN Deer Hill and Homefull Dublin Granville PSH.
- Discussion on CHN Deer Hill Place moving forward with unit construction.
- If Homefull does not receive funding, alternative funding can be explored.
- Sonya Higginbotham made a motion to approve the resolution prioritizing CHN Deer Hill as priority number one for the PSH prioritization process. Sheila Prillerman seconded. Motion passed. (Carlie Boos abstained)

2. Federal Funding & CoC Strategy

- Shannon recommended CoC establish a Plan B in case of federal funding cuts.
- Discussion on securing \$24,000,000 in HUD Funds.
- Call to Action:

- Increase active participation in meetings.
- Strengthen financial sustainability measures.
- Engage in advocacy at federal and local levels.
- Maintain relationships with policymakers.

3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Challenges

- Concerns regarding policy interpretation and potential terminations.
- Proposal to create a clear definition and guidance on DEI policies.
- Veterans fall under DEI considerations.
- Franklin County CoC lacks a robust DEI program.

4. CoC Retreat & Governance Charter Updates - Christina Blair presented the CoC retreat feedback analysis and planning survey results.

- Identified needs: broader engagement, improved communication, and enhanced advocacy efforts.
- Common themes included an approach that combines clear messaging, inclusive representation, targeted education, strategic advocacy, compelling storytelling, and data-driven arguments to create a comprehensive and effective advocacy platform.
- Goal to develop a stronger, unified voice for homelessness advocacy.
- Governance Charter Updates:
 - Currently, 44 members.
 - Expansion needed for more inclusive representation.
 - Annual membership process in March, with decisions finalized by July 1st.
 - Potential for forming a specific committee to oversee representation.
- Development of Subcommittees
 - Proposed Committees:
 - Performance & Outcomes
 - Executive
 - Executive Committee to handle emergencies and long-term planning.
 - CoC membership expressed that the CoC board should act as the Executive Committee
 - Innovation
 - Equity in Action
- Strategy needed to bridge the gap between the CoC board and general membership.

5. System Indicator Report - Adam Rowan presented the first quarter's system indicator report.

- Compliance efforts aim to prioritize quality over compliance.
- Current Shelter Stay Averages:
 - Families: 118 days
 - General Shelters: 88 days
- Rapid Rehousing (RRH) improvements from 2023 to 2024.
- 2025 Goals:
 - Improve RRH targeting.
 - Expand Domestic Violence RRH referrals.
 - Reduce shelter stays before housing exits.

6. Winter Warming Center & Homeless Camp Challenges

- Pet accommodations are limited.
 - Discussion on expanding services year-round.
- Should pets be the focus?
 - Increase in families that are homeless.
 - Need to be strategic about what the focus is.
- Need for clearer client communication regarding resource limitations.
 - Noted racial disparities in access to resources.

7. Housing & Financial Stability Strategies

- Steve Skovensky presented the system and community framework updates.
 - Diversion & Community Transition (DCT) Program: 80% success rate in keeping individuals out of shelters for six months.
- Partnered with Rise Together for affordable housing initiatives.
- Discussion on shallow subsidies and how it affects rent payments.
- Need for financial literacy training with incentives.
- Exploring partnerships with landlords and investors to reduce rent costs.

8. 2024 Continuum of Care Awards - Christina Blair presented the 2024 Continuum of Care awards were announced.

- \$4,000,000 funding increase secured.
 - HMIS Expansion and Deer Hill added as new funded activities, and regional cost adjustments to make up the \$4MM increase

9. PIT Count Feedback:

- Volunteer turnout reviewed.
- Survey questions noted as overly personal—recommendation for improvement.

10. Schedule of CoC Membership Meetings was presented by Tracy Whalen-Payne

- June 11, 2025 - 2:30 - 5
- September 25th, 2025 - 2:30 - 5
- October 23rd, 2025 – 2:30 - 5

As there was no further business, Carlie Boos made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30. Jim Rose seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: June 11th, 2025

Minutes Prepared By: Tracy Whalen Payne