

Agenda

Columbus & Franklin County Ohio Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2025

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

St. Philip Episcopal Church

166 Woodland Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43203

Present: Alison Marker, Beth Fetzer-Rice, Beth Lonn, Carlie Boos, Donna Mayer, Emily Savors, Jeff Pattison, Jim Rose, Diana Alecusan, Juliet C. Dorris-Williams, Malcolm Turner, Marcus Johnson, Mary O’Doherty, Meghann Cicola, Michael Wilkos (Continuum of Care Chair), Rei Scott, Sarah Hatchard, Scott Scharlach, Shannon Isom, Sheila Prillerman, Sue Villilo, Tiara Ross, and Walter Dillard.

Not Present: Chanda I. Wingo, John Oswald, Courtney Elrod, Dr. Desiree Polk-Blank, Dr. Maria Houston, Emerald Hernandez-Parra, Ian Labitue, Le-Ann Harris, Lt. Kyle Kincade, Makaylah Downour, MarQuan McCarrel, Nancy Hashman, Nathan P. Wymer, Robert Bramlish, Greg Winslow, Scott Johnson, Shianne Howard, Sonya Higginbotham, Terri Power, Tina Rutherford, and Vallen Martin.

CSB Staff Present: Sherrice Sledge-Thomas, Tracy Whalen-Payne, Christina Blair, Samba Silla, Adam Rowan, Timothy Mercer, Niel Jurist, Bryan Romaine, Steve Skovensky, Jeremiah Bakerstull

Community Members Present: Yolanda Jackson, Tiana Purvis, Lois Hochtentier, Adrian Furman, Jennifer Gulley, Trey Haddox, Jen Fralic, Catrell Butler, Asia Fortner, Kat Weathers, Melissa Graves, Lynda Weller, Kyra Crockett

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Wilkos at 2:17 p.m. He welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda to Continuum of Care General membership meeting.

II. Introductions

- Michael Wilkos asked that everyone in the room introduce themselves. The Chair acknowledged a high number of RSVPs, explained some attendees had not yet arrived, and welcomed guests.

III. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of previous minutes was delayed until the quorum was reached.

Later in the meeting, the following occurred:

- Sheila Prillerman moved to approve the minutes from the June 11th, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Walter Dillard. Tiara Ross abstained. Motion has passed.

III. Status of Continuum of Care

- Adam Rowan presented that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Continuum of Care (CoC) projects has not been released. Items postponed because of this in the September membership meeting include updating the Project Scoring Tool, reviewing and approving scoring and ranking policies, and preparing both the CoC and Supplemental Applications.
- The President's FY 2026 Budget proposes consolidating or dissolving the CoC program, which could significantly reduce funding for permanent housing. Members are encouraged to contact their representatives, participate in advocacy efforts, and share local impact stories to help protect CoC priorities. Proposed HUD changes, including moving HOPWA into the ESG program, could cut nearly 70% of permanent housing funds.

V. FY2025 Annual Systems & Programs Indicator Report (SPIR)

- Adam Rowan presented the July 2024–June 2025 system report. Average shelter stays rose to 88 days, and successful housing outcomes were 22%, below the 30% goal but the best since FY2020, with direct cash assistance helping. Rapid Rehousing (RRH) showed strong results, especially in Men's Shelter, where 14% participation led to 40% successful housing outcomes. Prevention programs served slightly fewer households, with a small drop in successful housing outcomes and longer stays. RRH census declined 15%, but successful housing outcomes improved, while Permanent Supportive Housing served fewer households due to changes in Emergency Housing Vouchers, though occupancy reached 92%. Longer shelter stays were tied to limited housing and long-term clients. Overall, system outcomes were affected by housing availability and clients with higher barriers, though PSH retention remained strong, and RRH showed positive impact.

VI. Community Updates

- Steve Skovensky presented updates on reducing unsheltered and chronic homelessness. Efforts include targeting chronic homelessness in Permanent Supportive Housing, expanding outreach through Reeb Center and Downtown Columbus, Inc., and strengthening community partnerships. Planning initiatives

include Housing & Income Pathways, the Resilient Housing Initiative, and the next Homelessness Prevention Network to address gaps left by ERA. The system launched its first adult diversion program, and winter planning covers overflow sites, warming centers, and extreme weather response. For the 2026 funding cycle, local partners like the City of Columbus and Franklin County are involved. Kaleidoscope Youth Center must relocate 10 residents after the Ohio Department of Health did not renew the grant.

VI. Access and Impact Collective Committee

- Sherrice Sledge-Thomas presented that the Access and Impact Collaborative Committee has been focusing on analyzing data and discussing how it reflects the experiences of domestic violence survivors. The Access and Impact Collective Committee maintains their commitment to continued evaluation and providing solutions for demographic trends and equity.

VI. Executive Orders

- An executive order is a directive issued by the President that is only binding on the federal government's Executive Branch. It does not apply to the Judicial or Legislative branches and cannot create new laws.
- Executive Order 14151, *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* (signed January 20, 2025; published January 29, 2025), terminates federal diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility mandates, programs, preferences, and related activities. The Director of OPM, with input from the Attorney General as needed, is tasked with reviewing and revising federal employment practices, union contracts, and training policies. The order's impact includes the termination of federal DEI initiatives, limited legal implications, potential corresponding state legislation, and loss of funding and institutional support. In response, administrative strategies have been reviewed to ensure alignment with federal directives, funder expectations, and successful housing outcomes of philosophies. System language is being refreshed for clarity, credibility, and consistency, adopting the Housing and Income Pathways approach to drive sustainable housing outcomes. To stay aligned with federal directives, CSB is refreshing system language to ensure clarity, credibility, and consistency across all communications.
- Executive Order 14168, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government* (signed January 20, 2025; published January 30, 2025), directs the executive branch to recognize only two sexes, male and female, which are considered immutable and grounded in "fundamental and incontrovertible reality." The order directs all federal agencies and employees to enforce laws protecting sex-based rights, opportunities, and

accommodations for men and women as biologically distinct sexes. Federal funds may not be used to promote gender ideology, and agencies are required to remove any statements, policies, or materials that advance it. The order affirms the 'federally protected right to express the binary nature of sex and access single-sex spaces in workplaces and federally funded entities.' Its impacts include limited legal consequences, termination of existing EEOC and HUD gender identity discrimination cases, refusal to accept new cases, grant requirements for recipients to attest they will not promote gender ideology, and directives to restrict or defund youth gender-affirming care. CSB's Crisis System Policies and Procedures do not specify gender identity in their existing language, and CSB along with system partners will continue to monitor and review any new enforcement or contractual requirements as they arise.

- Executive Order 14218, *Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders* (signed February 19, 2025; published February 25, 2025), directs federal agencies to identify programs that allow 'illegal aliens to receive cash or non-cash public benefits and to take action to prevent such access, including enhancing eligibility verification systems to the maximum extent possible.' This interacts with updated HHS guidance under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), which bars certain documented and undocumented immigrants from accessing many health care, educational, and other social services, resulting in limited legal impact. In response, new requirements have been implemented for Metropolitan Housing Authorities nationwide to verify citizenship for voucher use. CSB and local partners are monitoring the real-time impact of these changes.
- Executive Order 14321, *Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets* (signed July 24, 2025; published July 29, 2025), prioritizes support for civil commitment of individuals with mental illness and directs federal agencies to assess discretionary grant programs to favor states and municipalities that enforce prohibitions on open drug use, urban camping, loitering, squatting, and address individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others due to serious mental illness or substance use disorder. The order ends support for "housing first" policies and requires recipients of federal housing and homelessness assistance to participate in substance use or mental health treatment as a condition of participation. HHS and HUD are pursuing criminal or financial actions against recipients operating safe consumption sites and may require collection and sharing of health-related information with law enforcement were permitted by law. The order has limited legal impact, as it currently lacks supporting federal legislation, and federal courts have enjoined attempted enforcement pending litigation. In response, CSB has held planning

meetings with the ADAMH Board of Franklin County and the Columbus City Attorney's office to discuss coordination and expectations, is reviewing CSB/CoC policies for potential challenges, and is examining the SAMHSA "Housing Capacity" grant for alignment with treatment-based requirements.

VII. Public Comment

Michael Wilkos opened the floor for general comments from those who are not part of the CoC and the CoC membership.

- Concerns about inter-agency communication and staff education highlighted.

VIII. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn was made by Sheila Prillerman and seconded by Marcus Johnson. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Next Meeting Date: January 29th, 2026

Minutes Prepared By: Tracy Whalen Payne

Approval By: Samba Silla