



Continuum of Care Board Minutes

1/16/2025

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Attendance:

Board Members: Laura Golino de Lavato, Mark Morford, Adriana Rangel-Ponce, Casady Monroe, Jamar Summerfield, Kat Salas, Trevor Nissen, Christina McGovney, Hannah Studer, Steven Gilbert, Lizzie Cisneros, Helmi Hisserich, JJ,

[Absent – Xenia Gonzalez, Patrick Reynolds, Brandi Tuck, Tonya Jones, Ian S]

JOHS & County Staff: Alyssa Plessner, Malka Geffen

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land & Labor Acknowledgment • Review Community Agreements • Review Racial Equity Lens Tool • Review Agenda 	
Vote on Community Agreements	<p>Board members suggested the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not trump > does not override • trigger > content • accept & expect non-closure > seek resolution, while also expecting and accepting non-closure • be accountable > be accountable and transparent • Spend more time on first bullet <p>Will vote on the updated agreements at the February CoC Board meeting</p>	
Vote on Charter	<p>See slides for background information about the charter.</p> <p>Discussion: See Charter Review Discussion Notes document (attached)</p>	
2025 Board Focus Areas Vote on 2 Focus Areas for CoC Board	See Mural document (attached)	
Next Steps	Voting on the charter is postponed until more discussion is had.	

Charter Review Discussion Notes:

Section G:

General Comments:

- Be very direct in the language of the responsibilities

#1 Providing strategic direction for CoC activities including equitable system change and ensuring the CoC resources are supporting the implementation of systems of care that eliminate racial disparities and lead with racial equity

- This responsibility should be broke up into two separate sections
 - CoC activities is one and racial equity is the other
- What are the CoC Activities?
 - CoC funded activities are RRH and PSH
 - Approving projects for CoC funding
 - Ensuring organizations are applying and appropriately utilizing CoC funding
- Ensuring the CoC resources are supporting the implementation of systems of care that eliminate racial disparities and lead with racial equity
 - What is the HOW?
 - In the past this has looked like recruiting and promoting culturally specific providers, performance evaluation metrics for projects based on racial equity metrics
 - In the future: better incorporating RELT into decision making

#2 Ensuring the CoC is in alignment with the community's efforts to end homelessness such that CoC competitiveness for HUD CoC funding is maximized

- The statement is clear but there is no "how"
- Change definition of "community" → alignment with funding & policy making entities
- Is CoC Board is aligning with HUD to maximize funding or if the Board is centered in community - be direct about which one it is
- Ensuring we are looking at community efforts and priorities

#3 Promoting visibility of the CoC in the community and educating elected officials, agency heads, and community leaders regarding policies and actions to promote CoC objectives

- Language does not need to change, but could benefit from subpoints about the HOW
- Questions that came up: What does promoting CoC look like? What does education look like? What is the connection with elected officials? What leverage does the Board have?
- In the past this has been through the Collaborative Applicant writing memos for elected officials on impacts of decisions on HUD funding and presentations at County Commission meetings
- What it could look like: Engaging with elected officials to know what their understanding of the CoC is, what they are doing as it relates to CoC and inviting them to meetings; utilizing the provider conference for education on the CoC

#4 In consultation with recipients of CoC and ESG funds within the CoC, creating and operating a coordinated assessment system that provides comprehensive assessment of needs.

- This item should be removed and placed under Collaborative Applicant responsibilities. It is not the role or responsibility of the board to create and operate Coordinated Access
- The role of the Board is to be asking questions of the Collaborative Applicant as the body that is running coordinated access - the Board should be reviewing and making recommendations around the Coordinated Access system but NOT creating and operating

#5 Ensuring that the CoC meets HUD requirements, and uses federal funds in a manner that maximizes the impact of local, State, Federal and private resources

- Take out the word “ensure”
- Rephrase to “Understand how CoC funding intersects & supports (or aligns with) local, state, and private funding, including maximizing the spend down of CoC funding”
- How:
 - Understanding barriers providers are facing with the goal of better positioning organizations to apply for the funding and be successful

#6 Monitoring CoC systemic performance through the Collaborative Applicant

- This should be removed entirely. It is repetitive of an exact sentence that exists in the Collaborative Applicant responsibilities

NEW Responsibility

- Cultivating a bi-lateral communication pathway with HUD offices to communicate issues and advocate for providers

#7 and #8 Establishing priorities that align with local and federal policies for recommending projects for HUD CoC Program homelessness assistance funding & Responding to the HUD Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) by reviewing and approving the CoC’s process and the final submission of applications

- #7 is too structured
- CAC does this work under #8
- CAC and JOHS work together under #7
- How:
 - Board to better understand what the CAC does, especially with the existing budget cuts
 - Pretty rigid, should this be opened up to have a better understanding, voice around curiosity?

#9 CoC Oversight: Serving as the decision-making body for the CoC

- Very vague, potentially remove this item from the charter
- Board doesn’t feel like it can be a voice for our community e.g. lack of youth voices, decisions are coming from people not doing the work on the ground and priorities are getting set without their input
- Would be helpful to define “CoC”, how does HUD define “CoC”, how does region (City or Local) define “CoC”
- How can we carry out activities and connect it to responsibilities?
- Mapping of decision making bodies
- Subcommittees not reporting, silo-ing, sub-committee report out? Does this connect to capacity issues?
- Would like to review sources of funds (pie chart)
 - JOHS gave a high level presentation but didn’t know how to explain some of the information?
 - “Sources and Uses” report, CoC Board should be asking for it
 - Circulate to the board
 - Which groups are linked to each source
 - Helpful tool that can uplift to other groups
 - From Econ Northwest
- How can we have convos around “passing the ball” to teams to function better?

#10 Setting policy and meeting agenda(s) for the CoC and the CoC Board

- The statement is clear

- Co-chairs set our agendas, but in the future do what do we want that to look like?
- CoC Board to identify the problem, how would we want to communicate to HUD/JOHS

#11 and #12 Selecting, monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating the Collaborative Applicant & Selecting, monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating the HMIS Lead

- Monitoring the Collaborative Applicant
- What functions should we be looking at?
 - Budget
 - How is the money spent?
 - Capacity?
- Don't do things, like to explore them, need to scope them?
 - We should look at JOHS policies or rubric
- Reporting to CoC
- Problem rooted in Collaborative Applicant, can the CoC Body help voice these concerns?
- Explore monitoring/overseeing their activities?
- #11 and #12 have authority
- How:
 - Mapping ecosystem to get clarity
 - Who does what?
 - Which bodies have authority?
 - What role can we play to assert ourselves and align better with funding streams and other groups?
 - How can we streamline?
 - How can we center those with lived experience?

#13

- CoC Board does not currently do these things → CoC Board explore revising to more meaningful
- How:
 - Get information from JOHS
 - Have Dan hear the CoC Board
 - Have someone from the data team to relay priorities
 - How does the CoC integrate into those funding decisions?
 - How do decisions become reality? What role does CoC play in this?

Summaries of 7-13

#9-10 & 13

- CoC Board does not currently do these things → CoC Board explore revising to more meaningful
- Hard to visualize
- How do we link outputs to outcomes
- Create an action to better understand the impact of HMIS and CoC, how does this look like at JOHS
- Can we look at narrowing those things

#11 & #12

- Don't do things, like to explore them, need to scope them?
- Interrogate vs. receiving them

Parking Lot

- Data ethics
- New Administration
- Meetings with other larger CoC Community
- Review of other bodies in the community
- How his Board connects with Homelessness Response System and those committees
 - Mission
 - Communication
 - Collaboration
- Get pie chart of funding sources to inform discussion (See Eco Northwest reports)

Impact, Importance, Relevance (IIR)

Ignoring feasibility, how impactful would it be to implement each idea? How important is this idea to the work of the CoC Board? Is it relevant to the CoC Board Responsibilities outlined in the Charter?

Moonshots
High IIR, but not as feasible

Best bets
High IIR and feasible

Low priority
Low IIR and low feasibility

Lower IIR, but feasible

Potential feasibility

Ignoring Impact, how feasible is each idea? (Cost, time, effort, complexity, etc.)

Provider & Project Improvement

Addressing the barriers learned from provider

Advocacy with HUD on behalf of CoC Providers to elevate needs

This would be a best bet but a moonshot in terms of what to expect

Educating elected officials and stakeholders on CoC work

CoC & Collaboration with Homelessness Response System

Better integration of broadest definition of "CoC" - inviting and soliciting community participation in meetings

Board telling to HMIS lead and Collaborative Applicant what info we need to receive

Cultivating a new provider pool & app ready projects

Identifying provider barriers including spend down

Competition Scoring & Performance Targets

Apply for all DV funds available to the community

celebrate the work!! Honor what is working!!

Self Audit of what we want to know and who to reach out to

Reviewing feedback narratives from HUD funded participants

Seeing an ecosystem map to help COC Board understand how they fit in

Understanding Permanent Housing Programs