



Continuum of Care Board Minutes

4/17/2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Attendance:

Board Members: Laura Golino de Lavato, Hannah Studer, Brandi Tuck, Trevor Nissen, Christina McGovney, Lizzie Cisneros, Steven Gilbert, JJ, Mark Morford, Xenia Gonzalez, Tonya Jones, Jamar Summerfield

[Absent – Patrick Reynolds, Jessica Harper, Adriana Rangel-Ponce, Helmi Hisserich, Casady Monroe, Kat Salas]

JOHS & County Staff: Alyssa Plessner, Malka Geffen, Britni Eseller, Lori Kelley

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 	
County Budget Update	<p>CoC Lead updated the CoC Board on the County budgeting timeline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair releases her budget next week on April 24, 2025, followed by public hearings on May 14, May 21, and May 28 (streamable live on Youtube or live at the Multnomah County Hawthorn Building) Budget will be adopted in June by Board of County Commissioners Reminder of the constraint budget (less County funds and less SHS funds) Q: Why were there less SHS funds? A: It's an income tax and therefore a less stable tax; more revenue was projected than what was collected (and forecasted by Metro) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seems disingenuous utilizing the funding to do more things and serve more needs, even while it's less HSD staff encourages CoC Board to watch HRS Steering & Oversight Cmte presentations from yesterday CoC Lead informed the Board about a CoC Match funding change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers will be able to spend on any SHS or County general fund expenses to meet needs of program participants 	<p>FY26 Budget Dashboard</p> <p>Welcome Home Coalitions latest briefing/report: https://welcomehomecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Welcome-Home-Coalition_policybrief_April152025_final.pdf</p> <p>HRS Steering and Oversight Committee Meeting: Homeless Re...</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New requirement to take training about eligible costs and match principles 	
Update on HUD/New Administration Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New grant agreements are going out ● CoC Lead walked the Board through new language in grant agreements to align with executive orders (see presentation slides), which doesn't require changes to CoC-funded project programming ● Updated on HUD staffing and field office status (see presentation slides) ● CoC Board member said some CoC-funded housing providers are turning away trans and immigrant status folks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There needs to be some public-facing communication for community to understand what people still have access to; CoC Lead will raise this with leadership and communications team 	
CoC Board Planning Next Steps	<p>Co-Chairs reminded Board about the recent Charter review and update and the next step of establishing the "how" of effecting their charge by choosing two CoC Board Focus Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared the example of Advocacy (would be the "how" of Board Responsibility #4) – see presentation slides for details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CoC Board member shared: From the IRS "In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as lobbying). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status." ○ "The 501(h) expenditure test distinguishes between direct and grassroots lobbying activities. Organizations can spend as much as 20 percent of their entire budget on lobbying (including direct lobbying, where you are the one taking action), and up to a quarter of that total amount can be spent specifically on grassroots lobbying (when you ask the public to take action)." ○ CoC Board will be considerate of the delineation between advocacy and lobbying 	
Focus Areas Brainstorm and Discussion	<p>Co-Chairs referred to the updated Charter and the Board Responsibilities as a place to start for idea generating and suggested landing on two focus areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See Mural slide below ● Question from attendee: How does the voice of the unhoused community get considered in these decision-making conversations? A: Some members on CoC 	

Board have lived experience and bring/take back knowledge from working in the field

