

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 | 3:00-5:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: A. CARLISLE, A. PATINO, D. KELLY, J. LITTLE, J. MOGENSEN, K. MONTGOMERY, R. WEATHERS, K. WYATT, M. WILLIAMS, J. HALL, K. HOENER, N. ADELMAN, R. SMITH, R. KRAUT, T. LEE, Z. FOSLER, J. MONAHAN, A. SEIPELT, A. LABARRE, A. KRAEMER, K. KUNES, E. TENNISWOOD

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
3:00pm	1. Call to Order R. Smith started the meeting.
3:03pm	2. Welcome/Introductions
3:05pm	3. Public Comment No participants shared.
3:10pm	4. Approval of Agenda (ACTION) Z. Fosler moved. Supported by A. Carlisle. All in favor.
3:12pm	5. Approval of Minutes (ACTION) J. Mogensen moved. Supported by A. Seipelt. All in favor.
3:15pm	6. Approval of Ranking Policies for the CoC Funding Competition – <i>Andrew Kraemer, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED)</i> (ACTION) A. Carisle moved. A. Kraemer presented on the Continuum of Care program funding competition. Washtenaw County eligible for \$7,500,000 this year. Additional funds available to apply for for new bonus projects and domestic violence survivor projects. We are automatically renewed 93% of this fund. We are competing for the other 7%. To pick which projects will be in the renewed versus competitive portion, projects are ranked. The ranking policies place permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects above rapid rehousing (RRH) because those are actual units being used by residents currently. A. LaBarre asked about the likelihood of the county putting a position in budget and said that he could speak about it at a county meeting.

M. Boydston said please do voice it to the county. We put a budget forward and have not heard back.

All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

3:25pm

7. Approval of the Consolidated Application for the HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – *Andrew Kraemer, OCED* **(ACTION)**

a. Funding Review Team Recommendations for the CoC Renewal Projects, Bonus Projects, Domestic Violence (DV) Projects

Moved by J. Mogensen. Supported by A. Seipelt.

A. Kraemer presented the Funding Review Team (FRT) recommendations for 2023. FRT has been meeting July through September. SOS Coordinated Entry proposal included SOS/SAWC/OCED. Avalon PSH Singles Expansion project proposal would increase units. The FRT recommends funding both projects with adjustments. Both were scaled down to be able to fit.

A. Carlisle said I agreed to speak on behalf of the FRT on our recommendation. Across the board we ranked the PSH project above Coordinated Entry. We felt the Coordinated Entry application was lacking details. We voted to create a compromise to support both applications, to support PSH and coordinated entry. We discussed with Avalon scaling down so that the remaining dollars would go to the SOS collaborative application.

A. Kraemer said we received one proposal for DV Bonus funding. SOS RRH to fund rental assistance, supportive service, and admin.

T. Lee asked about the issues with the SOS collaborative application.

A. Carlisle said FRT put together feedback for them and sent to OCED to pass along to grantee. I did not get as much clarity as hoped for but hope they will apply with a stronger application to HUD. They did say that the timeline for submission was limited and with three partners it was difficult.

T. Lee asked if it is not a good application, would HUD not approve it?

A. Carlisle said part of it will be how well the competitive application. We haven't gotten funded for the last 6/7 years through the bonus project. Not confident in getting it anyway. But FRT wanted them to clarify so the application would be clear for the reviewer.

A. Kraemer said HUD scores on a 100 point scale. 50 points from the consolidated application. 40 points that have to do with funding available to our community.

	Final 10 points are on if program commits to housing first model. So it matters more where the project is ranked in our priority. A. Kraemer presented HUD CoC Project Rankings. Tier 1 will all be funded again. Tier 2 is ranked below them. Total funding recommendation will be \$7,599,000. The CoC Application is being prepared by OCED. A PDF version will be shared until September 26th for review then submitted September 28th. J. Mogensen asked about the SOS RRH being stuck in a bridge situation next year. A. Kraemer said this is how we've always done it and gotten the funding. The struggle for our community has been getting the maximum score on the community application. All in favor. No oppositions. A. Patino abstained.
3:40pm	8. Approval of the new Community Housing Prioritization (CHP) Policy – <i>Andrew Kraemer, OCED (ACTION)</i> Moved by J. Mogensen. A. Seipelt supported. A. Kraemer said we do not have enough PSH projects to serve our county. Our CHP policy helps us allocate limited housing resources to those our community wants to serve most. If we had enough resources we would serve everyone. When a unit is available, we first make sure it is being allocated appropriately, by checking unit size and accessibility... Then we look at the households. For PSH for individuals, chronic homeless status is prioritized first because it is required by grants. Then, we look at VI-SPDAT score, medical/physical/DV vulnerability, mental health vulnerability, length of time homeless. For PSH family prioritization, we have less resources. We look at those receiving RRH who we know need a higher level of care from PSH. RRH for individuals is our smallest grant. This is the only resource for individuals who aren't chronic so we target VI-SPDAT scores of 12 and below. RRH for families is our biggest grant. Highest needs families used to get RRH right away and it would take forever to get down to the families with lower scores. So we made high, medium, and low range groups, and we take the longest time homeless within those groups. This keeps us from flooding providers with all highest need families.

Hickory Way doesn't need chronic status so as a pilot we are prioritizing disability, over age 55, accessibility needs, unsheltered status, VI-SPDAT 12 and under, length time homeless.

Z. Fosler asked about the low medium high groups. Is that for PSH or RRH?

A. Kraemer said it is just for RRH for one grant administered by SOS.

Z. Fosler said I like the idea of staggering levels of need for providers. Will certain providers just get high needs folks?

A. Kraemer said we do our best to track it with each provider.

J. Mogensen said for Hickory Way you start with disability and accessibility which I know is a big issue.

A. Kraemer said we do our best to match accessibility needs with accessible units.

N. Adelman asked about high, medium, low groups. I assume SOS and IHN members supported this? It feels hard that we would de-prioritize the highest. Just making sure agencies had input.

A. Kraemer said I would say they were the key drivers behind that system. We didn't frame it as highest needs getting less resources. We were finding that those without the highest range scores were getting delayed. This resource is intended for a range of 4 to 14 score so we are making access for all people to the program.

N. Adelman said yes I appreciate how hard it is to prioritize.

T. Lee said I know the VI-SPDAT score is not the only factor but it does concern me that some high needs people may not be adequately served. Will they be bumped further down but eventually served?

A. Kraemer said we have been doing the high medium low thing for several years. Our system has changed from previously you used to get RRH if you just stuck around, but right now there are huge waits. We are trying to address those who have been on the list for a very long time instead of only serving newest high needs families. There is a lack of faith around the VI-SPAT in predicting high needs. It doesn't mean that someone with a lower score doesn't actually have very high needs.

T. Lee asked if families ever get re-scored.

A. Kraemer said yes if agencies think someone should be ranked higher then we have them propose to us why the score should be adjusted, and we discuss it and can move it upwards.

T. Lee said one of the unit criteria was criminal background restrictions.

A. Kraemer said some places can't house someone with a criminal sexual record. We find that people with that background sit on the list for a very long time so we try to match them with a unit.

A. Patino said this isn't the provider standard, it is a third party standard.

T. Lee said she is glad because there is a push to help address discrimination against people with records.

A. Patino plugged an advocacy day for that issue.

A. Carlisle said I wanted to clarify that we have had this tiering system for a while. The high medium low is not as different as it may seem.

All in favor. No oppositions or abstentions.

3:55pm

9. Approval of a CoC Compensation Plan for PWLE of Homelessness– *Kristin Kunes, OCED* **(ACTION)**

Moved by J. Mogensen and supported by A. Seipelt.

K. Kunes said our CoC has been intending to make a plan for compensating people with lived experience so that they are in our spaces and decisions. Part of applications for funding ask if we incorporate PWLE. At our last Board meeting it was requested to present something in writing. The proposal is to create a task force to formulate a policy. We would need to identify a funding source, a payee, a payment method, definition of a person with lived experience...

N. Adelman voiced concern about having cameras off during voting.

K. Kunes said we can think about how to actually track a vote.

Jennifer said it is going to be complicated to ask Board members to make donations. If the county goes in and the housing commission will match it, it would take the burden off everyone else.

K. Kunes said if total is over \$600 you need an IRS form. Today we are just proposing making a task force for this, not implementing a member agency fee policy.

Jennifer said that \$600 is for the recipient of the money.

M. Boydston said that the county has to consider someone an employee to pay them. This would mean that if the county facilitated the process then the person would need to put that on their records and it could potentially affect benefits.

T. Lee said it seems like it is a done deal in this proposal that a member agency fee will be done. I would like it amended to say that the task force will explore all options.

T. Lee moved to amend and A. Carlisle supported.

T. Lee said if the member fee is not completely decided I would like it to consider other methods of funding.

J. Mogensen discussed the IRS 1099 form. If our country is moving to compensate PWLE, they should make a change to exempt that income. I would be interested in being involved in the process but not leading the task force. Ideally we can have a plan for next year completed.

R. Smith asked if we were ready to approve with the amended wording. All in favor. No oppositions or abstentions.

4:15pm

10. Fiscal Year (FY) 23-24 MSHDA and HUD ESG Funding – *Kristin Kunes, OCED*

K. Kunes said in July there was an action item on a virtual vote for this. You all voted on the FRTs recommendations for ESG funding. It was approved.

A. Carlisle asked if in previous years the ESG funding was used for prevention.

K. Kunes said we are using same amount for prevention. This is the first year with a very small portion for direct assistance.

A. Carlisle asked about the reason for this.

K. Kunes said SOS decided that funds needed to go to salary to keep the program going, more than prevention assistance. It was discussed by the FRT and we met with MSDHA because this is not in line with the percentages they want for funds to go to. They gave us the go ahead to fund our system this way.

	R. Weathers said yes it comes down to how much the agency has to contribute to this project for it to function. We put over \$100,000 into this project already and if we didn't used ESG for staff, then it would have \$200,000 which couldn't be sustained. A. Kraemer noted that HUD ESG funding increased slightly.
4:20pm	11. CoC FY 23-24 Priorities and Strategic Planning – <i>Renee Smith, Co-Chair</i> R. Smith said this is required by MSDHA. Policy briefs with our priorities will be shared. We suggest that you take a good look at that information for the November Board meeting so that you will be familiar with the priorities. We will have a lot to decide on, so look at that.
4:25pm	12. Winter Task Force Update – <i>Rhonda Weathers, SOS, and Dan Kelly, SAWC</i> R. Weathers said the task force has been meeting and looking at history of winter sheltering. Looking at other communities presently including Detroit and Kent. We found that they are having an increase in need as well. With data from OCED we know we are expecting the same or more need from families this winter. We are putting together a response plan to look at different options. It can include diversion first and foremost. Options include rotating shelters for individuals and families. Continuing some hoteling for more folks seems critical. D. Kelly said great summary. A lot of it comes down to sites, capacity, and funding for this. City of Ypsilanti and county and congregational partners are involved. We are trying to have a holistic approach. A. Patino said how do we articulate shelter capacity or even educate people around what currently exists and the possibility of ramping up? It would be helpful to know if there is a limit on what we can do. R. Weathers said we anticipate similar or more need as last year. D. Kelly said in the plan we hope to have specifics like that. A. Patino said at the highest number of taking people in, were there still waits? What did it look like? D. Kelly said on the individuals end there hasn't been a wait in the winter but right now we have a record number on the waitlist. Honestly we throw out the restrictions as much as we can to allow people into shelter in the winter.

M. Boydston said there was not a waitlist for families last winter but we had 98 families hoteled at the highest point and 30-40 families received a stipend. Years prior with limited shelter for families, there is usually a waitlist for families.

Z. Fosler said I was contacted by the chief of police in Ypsilanti to talk about solutions. I did respond to him and provided a number of your names. I hadn't heard back from him and was wondering if you all had heard from him.

R. Weathers said she was not contacted.

D. Kelly said he met with the city manager for winter sheltering but not the police.

K. Hoener said met with the chief today.

J. Mogensen said as the faith representative, the pandemic did influence what has happened in congregations. It would be helpful to have a document in October before everything starts up. There does seem to be some reduced capacity in the faith community and less interaction between congregations.

J. Little said we have so many folks using vouchers in Ypsilanti so I would want to talk to Ypsilanti police but I have not been contacted.

Z. Fosler said I will connect.

K. Wyatt said this chief is new. Has anyone invited him to this meeting? He might not know that they have a place here or that we have an emergency winter task force. When the old chief left, there was someone on an interim who was not looped in well so I don't think Chief Moore knows about this. We should invite him instead of him trying to create something on his own.

Z. Fosler said yes I am not trying to throw him under the bus at all. He has been a great partner. I was just wondering because I provided him those names to see if he had contacted them. That is a great idea to reach out him to invite him.

K. Wyatt said I think he will appreciate at least the invitation to the winter task force and this meeting.

A. Patino asked who is on the shelter task force and how people join in.

A. Carlisle said we put this task force together in April/May and invited people then. We are almost done meeting but if folks want to join next Tuesday, I can forward the calendar invite.

J. Mogensen said there is controversy in the community with the new chief of police with the Growing Hope situation and transit center proposal. Having these conversations as soon as possible would be good. PWLE are very activated on this issue so folks know.

4:30pm

13. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Updates:

a. CES Timeliness Data

HAWC July and August Data – *Andrew Kraemer, OCED*

A. Kraemer shared the data. Just below 2,700 calls for July. Average wait time 1:52 minutes. For August, busiest month ever with 3,100 calls. Average wait time 1:34 minutes. Big shift to much more miscellaneous calls in August.

Agency Updates – *Morghan Boydston, OCED*

M. Boydston said for the call center we are hiring for an intake position. We posted it and interviewed for a HMIS role for the call center. If you know folks interested, they can send me a resume.

B. Goodwill asked for qualifications for that role.

M. Boydston said no educational/license requirements. Ideally they have call center and human service experiences.

b. HAWC Individual Assessment Agency – *Dan Kelly, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC)*

D. Kelly said we have an assessment team manager now and are finally fully staffed. Continuing to get as many assessments done in real time and ramping up HCV application process.

c. HAWC Family Assessment Agency – *Rhonda Weathers, SOS Community Services*

R. Weathers said we are in community standard for within 48 hours for the last few weeks. We did divert one of our staff out of prevention to do this because it had slowed down. We are happy to have met that mark. We are excited because we added in a diversion specialist on our team who just started taking clients this week. Will be looking to get people off the CHP list and into housing. The provider page has drawn us back a bit but should be up and running. I know SAWC is actively interviewing on their side of it.

d. HAWC Prevention Assessment Agency – *Rhonda Weathers and Kara Painter, SOS Community Services*

R. Weathers said we started getting ESG funding so we are almost through June for paying arrears and utilities. Almost into July and hoping for influx in funding. Scheduling 3-4 weeks out for prevention assessments but we are in the midst of adding a new worker on the prevention side who is fully trained. Should go quickly once she is on board.

e. Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) – *Morghan Boydston, OCED*

M. Boydston said I have no additional comments at this time.

f. Oversight & Evaluation Committee– *Kristin Kunes, OCED*
Leadership Transition

K. Kunes said we are still looking to alleviate A. Carlisle overseeing the committee. It does need to be someone on the CoC Board. It meets monthly on the second Monday via Zoom. We would love to get someone without a conflict of interest in overseeing coordinated entry. What we have planned for our November Board will be a lot of being very strategic. We plan to hopefully sunset this big chunk of agenda items now that changes have occurred. We will still do regular HAWC data updates but we are looking to free up this space for other topics.

4:40pm

14. Emergent Issues – *All*

A. Carlisle said this is related to HAWC. I want to put forth a motion for Board. We have no eviction prevention funds for the community and we are not using ESG for it. We are hearing more funding needed for HAWC so I want to propose seeing gaps in our coordinated entry system in finding sustainable funding sources. Motion: A motion that the CoC Board requests that OCED, as the Washtenaw County Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) and leader of HAWC, provides to the CoC Board and Coordinated Entry Oversight & Evaluation Committee a comprehensive, inclusive (of all HAWC partners) budget for operating Housing Access for Washtenaw County. This should include current funding and grants to operate HAWC: funding and a timeline for grants that are being used; funding that has been applied for; details about staffing positions and salaries; and, match and in-kind support being provided to operate HAWC to-date.

R. Smith said the motion was supported and to discuss it now.

A. Patino said should we be stating by when the budget should be provided?

A. Carlisle said I would love to say before the next coordinated entry meeting on October 10th.

R. Smith said so we will vote on this motion but with the date that this be provided by 10/10 added. All in favor. No oppositions or abstentions.

A. LaBarre said tonight at our county board meeting we are getting a public strategy and mental health millage presentation. The more relevant part is at the end of our meeting (you can watch on video afterward) and it includes getting an update on homelessness. Administration wants to provide commissioners with solutions. We could benefit from getting expertise on this presentation. If you see something missing let me know. You have the commissioners attention at this moment.

4:50pm

15. Public Comment

5:00pm

16. Adjournment

Key Terms

HUD: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

PWLE: People With Lived Experiences

Fiscal Year 23-24: October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

MSHDA: Michigan State Housing Development Authority

ESG: Emergency Solutions Grant

HAWC: Housing Access for Washtenaw County

Board Position	Board Member
WHA Director	Amanda Carlisle, Director, Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA)
CoC At-Large	Aubrey Patiño, Avalon Housing
Homeless or Housing Program	Dan Kelly, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC)
Homeless or Housing Program	Jan Little, Michigan Ability Partners (MAP)
Faith Community	Jim Mogensen, Religious Action for Affordable Housing (RAAH)
Domestic Violence Provider Representative	Kim Montgomery, SafeHouse Center Services Director
WHA Board Member	Rhonda Weathers, SOS Community Services
Police/Sherriff	Sheriff Jerry Clayton, Washtenaw County Sheriff OR Kathy Wyatt
OCED Director	Director OR Morghan Williams Boydston, Human Services Manager
Housing Commissions	Jennifer Hall, Director of Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC)
Workforce Development	Johnny Epps, Michigan Works Southeast
CMH Director	Katie Hoener, Community Mental Health OR Melisa Tasker, Community Mental Health (CMH)
Housing Access for Washtenaw County	Morghan Boydston, HAWC Supervisor
Substance Use Services Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) Representative	Nicole Adelman, Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan (CMHPSM)
Another Township or City Highest Elected Official	Renee Smith, City of Ypsilanti
Public Health Director	Ruth Kraut, Deputy Health Officer
CoC At-Large	Tish Lee, Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM)
Housing Commissions	Zachary Fosler, Director of Ypsilanti Housing Commission (YHC)
City of Ann Arbor Mayor	John Hieftje, Former Mayor
McKinney Vento Liaison	Kellie Rutledge, Ozone House Director OR Pam Cornell-Allen, Ozone House Associate Director
Currently/Formerly Homeless	Jennifer Monahan, Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director	Renee Adorjan, MDHHS Director OR Alice Seipelt, Community Coordinator
Veterans Administration	Gabriel Parra, Health Care for Homeless Veterans Coordinator
Washtenaw County Board Chair	Greg Dill, County Administrator OR Andrew LaBarre, County Commissioner
Private Funder	Jillian Rosen, VP for Community Investment for Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Police/Sherriff	Vacant
Police/Sherriff	Deputy Chief Jason Forsberg, Ann Arbor Police Department
WHA Board Member	Vacant
CoC Non-Funded Agency	Vacant
Institute of Higher Education	Vacant