

Baltimore City Continuum of Care

General Body Meeting – Draft Agenda

Date: December 4, 2025 **Time:** 2:00pm -4:00pm **Location:** Helping Up Mission

Address: 1029 E. Baltimore St. Baltimore, MD, 21202

Agenda Item	Description	Time	Facilitator
Welcome	Opening remarks	5 min	Nico Sanders
Agency Spotlight	Feature the agency chosen for the spotlight nomination	10 min	Jamal Turner
Review of Recent Board Vote	Sharing the Board's recent vote on the FY2025 Local Competition scoring tool, timeline, and related decisions.	15min	Aliza Sollins
Anticipated Federal Policy Changes & System Impact	Discussion regarding expected shifts in HUD priorities.	15min	Jamal Turner
Department of Social Services Update	Updates from the Department of Social Services, including highlighting changes to work/education requirements for SNAP	30 Mins	DSS
MOHS Updates	Updates including Winter Shelter; Pit Count Update	30 min	Lakeysha Williams; Althea Lyness-Fernandez

Open Floor for Member Announcements and Questions	Member updates, events, and resources	10 min	All Participants
Closing & Next Steps		5 min	Nico Sanders

Welcome

- **Tone-setting:** Framed the meeting as occurring in a period of “volatility,” emphasizing the need to uplift providers and protect system stability.
- **Core message:** “You have to participate” — reinforcing shared ownership and engagement as a condition of influence and benefit (a subtle accountability cue to the broader CoC body).

Agency Spotlight

- **Governance + narrative strategy:** Spotlight positioned as a **community legitimacy tool**—highlighting provider impact publicly, encouraging engagement (“put your name in the hat”), and using visibility to counter negative narratives.
- **Engagement mechanics:** Continued promotion (“tweet this”), **public voting**, and **giveaways** to incentivize participation and build public buy-in.
- **December Spotlight recognition: Empowerment Society (“YES”)** recognized for youth health/wellness and preventing youth homelessness through advocacy and services; included a **certificate signed by the Mayor** (political endorsement + public validation of provider work).
- **Political implication:** Strengthens provider morale, reinforces city–CoC alignment, and spotlights youth homelessness as a priority area.

Review of Recent Board Vote

- **Purpose of section:** Orient membership to board action on the **FY2025 local competition scoring tool and timeline** (a legitimacy and transparency move).

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- **Process emphasis:** Reinforced that the CoC’s annual funding process requires CoC membership and coordination with MOHS as Collaborative Applicant.

Anticipated Federal Policy Changes & System Impact

- **Major shift framed as crisis:** HUD changes described as a **system-wide disruption** with emotional impact (shock/fear), paired with a call to collective resolve.
- **Core policy change: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) capped at 30%** of funding (down from the historically dominant share). This was framed as a direct threat to Baltimore’s homelessness response model.
- **Local stakes & narrative:** Strong argument that PSH works (high retention), so cuts are portrayed as irrational and harmful.
- **Mobilizing message:** “We will not work in silos” + “no program left behind” — explicit push for coalition behavior and shared defense of at-risk programs.

- **Advocacy posture:** Call to elevate the issue externally (public education, policymakers, media), noting that awareness outside the CoC ecosystem remains low.

Department of Social Services Update

- **Policy change (SNAP):** Federal legislation changes work requirements; **housing instability no longer functions as an automatic exemption** for certain adults—raising risk of benefit loss for unsheltered/sheltered populations.
- **Operational risk:** DSS emphasized the system will **auto-close cases** when documentation isn't timely—creating a predictable “cliff” for clients with unstable access to mail/technology.
- **Coordination ask to providers:** Providers can support by helping submit verification and documenting participation/activities; DSS shared an email workflow and verification participation form concept.
- **Equity/system lens:** Discussion acknowledged that benefit reductions can compound harm (including questions raised about downstream impacts like crime), suggesting the need for cross-agency data coordination.
- **Political implication:** This is a **structural pressure point** likely to increase crisis demand on shelters, outreach, and case management—requiring CoC-wide messaging and mitigation planning.

MOHS Updates

- **Matching pause (PSH):** RAC pause on PSH matches effective **Dec. 1 through Jan. 7** to avoid placing households into programs that may not continue post-NOFO—framed as a cautious harm-reduction step under uncertainty.
- **Shelter system change:** **The Nest (city-funded shelter)** scheduled to close **Jan. 30, 2026**, with MOHS coordinating transitions for residents.
- **Service expansion:** **Weinberg Resource Center** opened a wellness facility (on-site navigation/recovery services + privacy/quiet spaces), framed as a positive capacity-building development.
- **Procurement note:** Property management RFP open to support operation of city shelters; request to share with facility/property management networks.
- **PIT Count 2026 reminder:** PIT Count scheduled **Jan. 25–26**, with **alternative dates Jan. 30–31 (weather)**; registration deadline noted; virtual training required.

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- **Community relationship-building:** Highlighted outreach accomplishments and public events as proof of continued action and partnership.

Open Floor for Member Announcements and Questions

- **Member concerns surfaced:**
 - Winter shelter logistics and transportation access (including hospitals and late-night needs).
 - Clarifying **Cold Blue vs Cold Purple** activation criteria and public confusion.
 - Need for extended/24-hour response coverage and clearer coordination protocols.

Closing & Next Steps

- **Unifying political takeaway:** Maintain solidarity, accelerate coordination, and increase external advocacy/education.
- **Immediate action signals:** Training/communications for PIT, provider readiness for NOFO timeline, and rapid adjustments to federal and state policy shifts.