

Baltimore City Continuum of Care

General Body Meeting – Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18 2025 **Time:** 2:00pm -4:00pm **Location:** Helping Up Mission

Agenda Item	Description	Time	Facilitator
Welcome & Introductions	Opening remarks and introductions	5 min	Nico Sanders, Jamal Turner
Agency Spotlight Introduction	Feature agency chosen for the spotlight nomination	5 min	Jamal Turner
Veterans Administration Resource Reminder	Reminder of resources available to veterans experiencing homelessness	10 min	Shanita Burch
MOHS Updates	Status of FY24 CoC, CFA, HOPWA agreements; outreach listening sessions; PIT Count planning	15 min	Lakeysha Williams and Althea Lyness-Fernandez
Recap on proposed changes to CoC Board Membership Bylaws	Flag proposed changes that will go to CoC Membership vote	15 min	Jeff Griffin, Althea Lyness-Fernandez
Open Floor for Member Announcements	Member updates, events, and resources	10 min	All Participants
Closing & Next Steps	Summarize action items and confirm next meeting date	5 min	Nico Sanders

1) Opening & Framing

Appreciation for member participation and cross-system collaboration.

Meeting agenda covered: agency updates, veteran resources, proposed CoC governance/membership changes, and Spotlight Agency recognition.

2) Spotlight Agency

Helping Hands PRP recognized for comprehensive, person-centered behavioral health supports (youth & adults), addressing mental health needs, housing barriers, and resource navigation.

Emphasis on partnership building, outreach, and consistent support yielding tangible community impact.

3) Veterans Resources – VA Overview

Walk-in clinic (Mon–Fri, federal holidays excluded) focused on rapid housing for unhoused veterans.

On-site psychologist/NP; outreach team available to meet veterans in shelters/day programs or transport to VA.

Referrals to transitional housing and SSVF; support for veterans in unsafe/unstable housing.

Call to partners: notify VA of veteran encounters; brochures shared; goal is no veteran unhoused.

4) MOHS Updates (Funding, Policy, Ops)

Federal budget/NOFO: FY26 negotiations ongoing. White House proposal to consolidate HUD programs not adopted in House draft; strong bipartisan support for HUD funding noted. FY2025 NOFO timing uncertain; monitoring litigation affecting some federal initiatives.

Contingency planning: Coordination for potential National Guard deployment impacts; winter shelter readiness (space, transport, staffing, food).

Community engagement: Recent overdose-response outreach; large-event surge supports; participation in city events; emergency services staffing update (new leadership; weddings noted).

Shelter system: Partnerships expanding (e.g., Tuerk House SUD treatment, MONSE mediation, Children & Family Services in family shelters). Draft length-of-stay policy for MOHS-funded shelters (time limits with extensions for medical / matched-to-housing cases) to maintain shelters as temporary pathways to permanent housing.

Data & compliance: Close of federal fiscal year 9/30—update HMIS data ASAP. HMIS data standards refresh 10/1; refresher training required for all current users.

5) 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count – Preview of Final Numbers

Methodological changes: full citywide census; increased participant incentives.

Total counted (Jan 26–27, 2025): 2,024 people (sheltered + unsheltered).

Demographics: ~70% Black/African American, ~21% White; persistent racial disparities vs. city population.

Age: disproportionate impact among 35–64; growing needs among older adults.

Health/Safety indicators:

~ $\frac{2}{3}$ unsheltered adults reported serious mental illness; ~76% reported SUD.

HIV prevalence higher than general population but decreasing; HOPWA served 726 people in 2024.

DV reports higher among unsheltered.

Subpopulations: ~13% chronically homeless (down from prior years); ~7% veterans (decrease).

Qualitative survey signals: pathways into homelessness include incarceration, treatment discharge, survival sex; primary causes cited include addiction and being asked to leave by friends/family. Reminder: formal PIT report forthcoming; begin planning for PIT 2026 (volunteers, training, logistics).

6) Governance & Elections – Proposed Policy Changes (Draft)

Membership policy revisions under review (to be circulated via Member365):

Dedicated Board seats for YAB and LEAC chairs.

System leader seat selected by the Board (not full membership).

Define terms/selection/eligibility for each seat.

Cap 2 seats per organization; only one may be a lived-experience seat.

Clarify handling when committee chair/vice-chair terms misalign with Board service.

Elections timeline (tentative): Nominations open soon (1 month window; mid-Oct deadline), Board slate review, voting mid-Oct–early Nov via Member365, certification Dec 2025; orientation Dec; chair/vice-chair elections early July 2026.

Action: ensure you're enrolled in Member365 to receive ballots/updates.

7) Open Floor – Announcements & Opportunities

Housing units coming online (incl. subsidized and 30% AMI units); eligibility noted.

Justice-involved services funding (no patient status required); housing/financial assistance pathways.

New partnerships (security videos/ID support; outdoor services; food distribution).

Hiring across agencies and MOHS functions; multiple case manager/outreach roles open.

Resource reminders: deposits, arrears, utilities, transportation, case management supports available through partner agencies—contact info shared in room.

8) Memorial Tribute

Heartfelt remembrance of Eileen (LEAC leader): mentorship, caregiving, unwavering advocacy for lived experience voices; moment of silence observed. Reminder to maintain up-to-date contact trees to support community members in crisis.

9) Q&A Highlights

NOFO delays/bridge funding: City aims to keep providers whole where possible; this year may require case-by-case negotiations depending on federal language/outcomes. Some national injunction requirements are not applicable to Baltimore's COC; monitoring continues. Be prepared for contingency planning.

Committee participation: Multiple committees active (Resource Allocation, Homeless Response System, Shelter Transformation, Resource Development, Performance/Data, Governance, LEAC, YAB). Most meet ~1 hour on monthly/weekly cadences; staff liaisons available to onboard new participants.

Action Items & Deadlines

All Providers

Update HMIS data by Sep 30; complete HMIS training by Oct 1 for continued access.

Enroll/confirm access in Member365 (nominations, policy comment period, voting).

Submit announcements/job postings/units to MOHS for the next GBM blast.

Governance Committee / MOHS

Circulate draft Board membership policy changes via Member365 for comment.

Release Board nominations form (open ~1 month; target close mid-Oct).

Publish final PIT 2025 Report (when ready) and launch early PIT 2026 planning.

Veteran-Serving Partners

Share veteran encounters with VA team; coordinate on-site outreach/transport.

Distribute VA brochures; align referrals to SSVF and transitional/PSH pathways.

Key Dates (near-term)

Sep 30 – Federal FY end; HMIS data updates due.

Oct 1 – HMIS data standards refresh; refresher training required.

Mid-Oct (TBD) – Nominations deadline for Board seats.

Mid-Oct–Early Nov – Board voting window via Member365.

Dec 2025 – Election certification & Board orientation.

Early Jul 2026 – Chair/Vice-Chair elections; leader onboarding.