

BALTIMORE CITY COC MINUTES



CoC Board Meeting

February 20, 2025 | 2p.m.-4:30 p.m. | In-Person: Our Daily Bread, 725 Fallsway | Meeting called to order by Nico Sanders

In Attendance

Attendees (from current board): Da'Mel Ross, Edward Blackstone, Shannon Peterson, Carolyn Johnson, Levy Johnson, Director Ernestina Simmons, Lolah James, Lara Figures, Lonnie Walker, Renee Lau, Greg Brown, Tia Gasque, Tia Richards, Nico Sanders, Jamal Turner, Jeffrey Griffin, Darroll Cribb, Aliza Sollins

Members of the support entity representatives: Mary Rode, Ellis Lee, Lakeysha Williams

Members of the public: Refer to Sign-In Sheet

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda

Welcome – Nico Sanders, CoC Chair welcomed the Board and called the meeting to order.

- Nico addressed the issue of Conflict of Interest. All Providers have received guidance to disclose their relationship with MOHS on the form. All CoC Board members must fill out the Conflict-of-Interest form.
- The contribution of the 2024 CoC Chair, Tara Taylor, and Vice Chair, Edward Blackstone was acknowledged.

Agenda items/order are subject to Discussion

Budget Report (Aliza Sollins) - a Power Point was presented to the Board.

- a. Aliza is the Chair of the RAC – Resource Allocation Committee. This committee is responsible for working in collaboration with the Collaborative Applicant (MOHS) to release, review, score and rank grant applications. No entity who receives funding can be a member of the RAC (refer to CoC Charter the Bylaws).
- b. First Quarter Budget was presented.
- c. Funding sources were discussed (CFA – Consolidated Funding Application, HUD CoC NOFO – Notice of Funding Opportunity)
- d. Stipends were paid in January. The stipend for lived experience needs to be analyzed. This will result in a draft policy that will be presented to the CoC Board for discussion and vote. There was discussion that the CoC Board must be committed to the members with lived experience, including mentoring and hiring them for career pathways and to ensure that no members of the CoC Board experience homelessness.

- e. Nico, Jamal and Lara are meeting with the Web designer to assess what work has been done with the money he has received thus far, and to address the need for the Web Site to be current and accessible.
- f. Fundraising needs to be a priority. The CoC funds are currently limited. The Resources Development Committee will be reinstituted.
- g. Budget will come back to the CoC Board in 3 months.

FHO Project (Levy Johnson, Da'Mel Ross, Eddie Blackstone) - handouts were provided, including a project draft project description and a budget.

- a. There is a committee working on developing the FHO project. They presented a draft of their work for feedback from the CoC Board.
- b. The proposal will fund a workshop series aimed at fostering collaboration, leadership, and empowerment among individuals with lived experience, service providers, and policymakers.
- c. Recommendations included:
 - o Reduce the number of training courses
 - o Include others in the planning process (Lolah James, Lara Figures)
 - o Present final plan in next CoC Board meeting

Sub Committee Chairs – a sign-up sheet was passed for Board members to sign up to be Sub Committee Chairs. Once all committees have a lead and a MOHS support staff is assigned, an Orientation will be scheduled.

Board Vacancies – there are currently 2 Board vacancies.

- a. Systems Leader – the next Board meeting there will be nominations for potential systems leader representatives.
- b. City Council Member – Director Simmons is working with the Baltimore City leadership to identify a City Council member to be on the CoC Board.
- c. There was a motion to remove the Race Equity Action Committee from the CoC Charter and Bylaws. There was a discussion. The motion was seconded. Eleven members voted in favor of the motion, four abstained.

Policy and Procedure Document – A Policy and Procedure draft document was sent to the Board and hard copies were provided.

- a. The Board was asked to review this document and be prepared to discuss and vote on it during the next CoC Board meeting.
- b. The policy will be provided to the Board on a Google form to solicit written feedback.

MOHS Updates – Director Simmons provided updates.

- a. January 1, 2025, HUD contracts have not been signed by the federal government.
- b. Baltimore City is upfronting funding to Providers for rents for January through March 2025.
- c. MOHS is not receiving communication from HUD.
- d. Director Simmons will be sending an email to Providers to provide guidance.

Community Comments:

- a. There was a goodbye and thank you to Ellis Lee. He has accepted a position as a Housing Navigator at MOHS. He will continue to the Chair of the LEAC.

The CoC Board meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next CoC Board meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2025.