



Baltimore City CoC Minutes

CoC Board Meeting

April 17, 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): Nico Sanders, Jamal Turner, Kemmesha Thomas, Greg Brown, Jeanette Gibbs, Renee Lau, Jeffrey Griffin, Crystal Pitt, Aliza Sollins, Lara Figures, Lolah James, Margaret Flanagan, Dana Carr, Levy Johnson, Da'Mel Ross, Darroll Cribb, Lonnie Walker, Eddie Blackstone, Ernestina Simmons

Members of the support entity representatives: Althea Lyness-Fernandez, Vioree Bradon-Nettlesford

Members of the public: Refer to Sign-In Sheet

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes occurred once quorum was reached, which was after discussion began
- Executive Meeting Minutes from 3/13/25 were approved with all in attendance in favor, no nays or abstentions
- Board Meeting Minutes from 2/20/25 were approved with all in attendance in favor, no nays or abstentions

Agenda items/order are subject to discussion

- Welcome – Nico Sanders, CoC Chair welcomed the Board and called the meeting to order
- Agenda Item: Roberts Rules – Lara Figures
 - Presentation shared on Roberts Rules of Order, which covers structure for effective meetings
 - Key principles cover how to structure discussion so that voices are heard, how to initiate motions for discussions and votes, and ensuring that personal remarks are left out of discussion
- Agenda item: Website Updates – Lara Figures
 - Discussed issues with website developer, which has stepped down and did not create website in line with request
 - The Developer was paid \$4k, including costs monthly maintenance fee, and the Chairs are working with Lara to create functioning website
 - Working through process/Roberts rules of order can help avoid this in the future by ensuring the right people are reviewing and signing off on contracts
- Minute approval (once quorum reached) – see above
- Agenda item: FHO Grant Updates – Levy Johnson and Da'Mel Ross
 - Youth Action Board (YAB) decided to step away from FHO grant, did not have capacity to see the grant through, and that the decision was done through a committee vote and not individually or unilaterally
 - Concerns were expressed that people's names had been added to this grant without their consent, frustration that the removal of the Race Equity Committee was difficult on people with lived experience, and desire for improved communication around these types of decisions.
 - Nico clarified that committee was turned into a workgroup
 - Concerns were shared that there are not many other sources of funding outside of federal funds, which is why there was frustration around the loss of the FHO gran, and a desire that there had been more conversation before the decision was made and consultation with the Board.
- Agenda item: Shelter Visits – Nico
 - Shelter visits have started in collaboration with Shelter Transformation Committee and the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC). More to come but will be done in small groups. Overall, these have gone well.
 - Members expressed desire to participate in future visits. These will be coordinated by the shelter transformation committee, done in small groups. Email will be sent out regarding the next opportunity in the coming months.
 - Regarding open board seats, ideas on representation included the police department, 988, and Downtown Partnerships as potential valuable

perspectives. Downtown Partnerships also participated in the recent shelter visits.

- Negative Impacts of CoC Landlords - Nico
 - Situations have arisen where landlords that receive CoC rental assistance have units in abatement, and they end up taking the tenant to court. How do we prevent and address this, and train landlords on expectations?
 - Ideas shared during discussion include having a service provider cc'ed to help facilitate tenant/landlord communication, legal aid, and the importance of intervening before it gets to court
 - Director Simmons shared that when a voucher-funded unit fails inspections at the 1 year mark, they cannot receive federal government funds, and that adding language into lease agreements may help us prevent this.
 - The state is creating a tenant and landlord affairs team that could potentially support issues like this
- Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) Update – Aliza
 - 3 new members added to the RAC
 - Discussed status of different funding awards, like the CoC awards (early contract agreements are coming in) which is led by the RAC, and the Consolidated Funding Application (still underway) which is led by MOHS but supported by RAC
 - CoC internal budget no longer projected to be in the red
 - Costs include paying the Member 365 bill, Q1 stipends and early Q2 stipends
 - Upcoming needs include reviewing the fiscal sponsor fee, discussing and creating expectations for people receiving stipends for participating in the CoC.
 - To close out FHO grant, people need to sign up for eBill to receive payments
 - Reach out to Aliza if anyone is expecting a payment that has not been received
 - Request was made to get an excel version of the budget to see current fund availability and budget
- Vote on Proposed Policies
 - CoC Board Selection Process
 - Approved by all in attendance with no abstentions or nays
 - Standardized Procedure Review Process
 - Approved by all in attendance with no abstentions or nays, with the requirement that the title be changed to: “Standardized Procedures: Guidance for the Review Process”
 - Violence Against Women Act Policy and Emergency Transfer Plan

- Approved with 2 abstentions, 0 nays
 - Request for materials to be sent out to everyone again as some did not get a chance to review
- 2025 Strategic Goals
 - Skipped this discussion item for time
- MOHS Updates – Ernestina Simmons
 - MOHS is working with a consultant group to do an analysis of shelter performance and strategy, Coordinated Access prioritization system development, and design of 24/7 outreach. Once their findings are completed it can be shared back to the Board
 - Comprehensive Outreach through the Opioid Restitution Funds will be led by MOHS
 - Discussion around how people are observing more individuals who are employed, but unhoused
- Motion was introduced (and seconded) to remove three members from the CoC Board. Discussion centered around the contents of the motion, and the three members named in the motion also shared their perspective on the grounds for dismissal.
- Community Comments
 - Three openings for culinary prep in the Franciscan Center
 - Question asked about how to join shelter transformation groups, but this was clarified during the discussion that the information comes from the Shelter Transformation Committee and will be done in small groups
 - Reminder that LEAC does not have a co-chair
 - One attendee shared they have seen Levy and DaMel be champions for the CoC in youth organizing and housing work
 - Suggestion to look into trauma informed practices and training for the CoC

The CoC Board meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025.