

Baltimore City Continuum of Care Board Meeting –Agenda

Date: Nov 18, 2025 Time: 12:00pm-12:45pm Virtual

Virtual Board Meeting

Time	Agenda Item	Description/Notes	Facilitator
5 mins	Welcome & Agenda Overview	Opening	Nico Sanders
25 mins	Review on RAC Scoring Criteria and FY 25 HUD NOFO	Discussion of proposed scoring criteria and impact of FY25 NOFO	Aliza Sollins
10 mins	Closing Remarks	Summarize action items, confirm next meeting date, and closing remarks	Nico Sanders

Attendance : Lonnie Walker, Nico Sanders, Althea Lyness-Fernandez, Lolah James, Ernestina Simmons, Janae Jeter, Carolyn Johnson, Damel Ross, Levy Johnson, Edward Blackstone, Greg Brown, Aliza Sollins , Jamal Turner, Lara Figures, Jeffrey griffin, Dana Carr, Renee Lau, Maragaret Flanagan, Crystal Pitts, Corrine Lovett, Tia Gasque, Kemmesha Thomas, Daisean Foster, Mary Rhodes

1. Convening & Quorum

- The Board convened an emergency session due to the release of HUD's FY NOFO and its significant, unanticipated requirements.
- A quorum was confirmed quickly, demonstrating strong board responsiveness despite the last-minute nature of the meeting.
- Members expressed appreciation for rapid coordination and collective readiness.

2. Context & Purpose of Emergency Meeting

- Leadership emphasized that the newly released NOFO includes major structural shifts not previously forecasted, requiring immediate recalibration of the local competition process.
- Historically, top-ranked PSH programs were expected to roll over their scores under a presumed two-year NOFO structure. This year's NOFO invalidated that assumption, requiring all programs — including those previously exempt — to compete.

3. Major Policy Shifts Introduced by HUD

A. YHDP Now Competitive

- YHDP programs must now participate in the full competitive process for the first time.
- This shift creates equity and access concerns, especially since YHDP would not have been captured under the originally proposed top 30% protection model.

B. Changes to Disability Prioritization

- HUD introduces new emphasis on serving:
 - individuals 62+,
 - individuals with physical or developmental disabilities.
- This diverges from the CoC's longstanding practice of prioritizing chronic homelessness regardless of disability subtype.

C. Housing First De-emphasis

- HUD signals a philosophical shift away from traditional Housing First incentives.
- Income growth and workforce attachment re-emerge as competitive scoring priorities.

4. Implications for Local Competition

A. Impact on PSH Portfolio

- HUD's 30% cap on PSH eligibility sharply contrasts with the CoC's current portfolio in which ~93% of renewal dollars are PSH.
- This creates a significant displacement risk:
 - Historically \$26–27M in PSH spending
 - Now only ~\$9M potentially eligible under HUD's framing.

B. Transitional Housing (TH) Strategy

- To prevent mass displacement, the CoC proactively surveyed providers regarding willingness to reapply as TH.
- Most providers signaled readiness to convert, creating a system buffer to prevent immediate homelessness among households currently in PSH.

C. Local Scoring Tool Adjustments

- RAC has updated the scoring tool to ensure alignment with HUD's new priorities while preserving fairness.
- Local priorities on racial and gender equity were removed to avoid penalizing applicants due to HUD's clarified restrictions.
- Scoring categories now account for:
 - service to HUD priority populations,
 - program type distinctions (PSH, RRH, TH, SSOs),
 - vulnerability characteristics aligned with federal definitions.

5. Governance, Transparency & Conflict of Interest

- RAC members with provider affiliations recused themselves from deliberations and abstained from the vote.
- The scoring tool reflects RAC's unanimous approval and compliance with CoC bylaws.
- The full Board was engaged due to the unprecedented scale of changes and potential system-wide impacts.

6. Discussion Themes & Board Concerns

A. System Vulnerability & Human Impact

- Members acknowledged the likelihood that households will experience homelessness due to reduced PSH eligibility and funding compression.
- Concerns included anticipated service surges, inability to replace ~\$19.5M in PSH funding, and long-term sustainability.

B. Data & Prioritization

- HUD disability prioritization requirements clarified as federally mandated rather than local choices.
- HMIS will need additional data pulls to identify qualifying priority populations.

C. Veterans Services

- Veteran prioritization will be addressed at the system level via MOUs, not project-specific scoring.

D. Placement of System Grants

- Coordinated Access and HMIS renewals will remain in Tier 1.

E. Program Type Prioritization

- PSH renewals prioritized, followed by TH, then supportive services.
- RRH renewals are unlikely to score competitively and encouraged to reapply as TH.

7. System Preparedness & Mitigation

- No immediate replacement funding exists for projected PSH losses.
- Short-term strategy focuses on maximizing TH conversions to avoid mass displacement.

8. Motion & Vote

- A motion was made to approve the RAC scoring tool, updated timeline, and public release schedule.
- 3 Providers with conflicts abstained.
- 12 Board members approved
- The motion passed with full documentation captured via hands and chat.

9. Closing Remarks

- Leadership emphasized unity, preparedness, and pride in Baltimore's national reputation for transparent competition standards.
- NOFO resources and TA materials were shared in the chat.