BALTIMORE CITY COC MINUTES

General Body Meeting

March 20, 2025| 2 p.m.-4:00 p.m. |*Meeting called to order by Nico Sanders*

Agenda + Discussion

I. Welcome, Introduction of the 2025 CoC Chair, Nico Sanders and Co-Chair, Jamal Turner
II. CoC Committees, Chairs and Co-Chairs – Call for Membership
III. CoC Board Selection Process Policy
IV. Calendar Updates, Call for Member 364 Registration
V. PIT Count Report
VI. MOHS Updates
VII. Community Comments

Discussion of Agenda Items

Agenda Topic I: Welcome and Introduction of the 2025 Chair, Nico Sanders and Co-Chair, Jamal Turner

Agenda Topic II: CoC Committees – Nico Sanders

- Nico identified the CoC Committees and announced the Chairs and Co-Chairs.
- The General Membership was encouraged to join a committee. There are current openings for Co-Chairs for several committees. If interested in joining a committee, contact the Chair of the committee and/or MOHS at Katherine.Calhoun@baltimorecity.gov or Mary.Rode@baltimorecity.gov.

Agenda Topic III: Board Election Process Policy – Jamal Turner

- Baltimore City CoC needs a more robust Board Election Process policy in their Charter and Bylaws. Kate Calhoun, an MSW/Shriver Peaceworker Fellow, was approved by the CoC Board to develop this policy.
- Kate worked in collaboration with the Governance Committee, the Board, and the 2024 CoC Chairs to define the 2024 Board Election process. The policy outlines how Board members are elected and the transition process, including CoC leadership transitions.
- Kate documented the process of the 2024 Election, and sought ongoing feedback from the YAB, LEAC, Governance Committee, CoC Board, and General Membership of the Baltimore City CoC.
- The development of the policy has been a community-driven process incorporating feedback from Governance, Board and CoC General Body meetings, a widely distributed survey, and individual feedback meetings upon request.
- The first copies of the draft were sent to leadership of YAB, LEAC, Governance and the Board before being distributed to the general CoC membership.
- In early March, the Governance committee met to review the feedback make adjustments to prepare a final draft.
- On March 12, the most updated draft was distributed to LEAC, YAB, Governance, and Board members as well as the general CoC membership soliciting a final call for feedback through March 19.

Next steps:

- Governance Committee will review the final feedback.
- CoC members who are eligible to vote in elections will be invited to vote on the document via Member365 from April 4 thought April 8.
    - Eligible voters include (1) agency leads and (2) individuals.
    - Detailed instructions will be distributed to eligible voters + all questions can be directed to Kate Calhoun (katherine.calhoun@baltimorecity.gov).

- After the election, the Governance Committee reviews the election results.
- Governance Committee presents election results to Executive Committee on April 10.
- The Board votes on the policy at their April 17 Board meeting.

Agenda Topic IV: Calendar Updates and Member 365 – Jamal Turner

- The 2025 CoC Annual Calendar has been created. This has been sent out to the CoC General Membership through Member 365. Hard copies were available at the General Membership meeting.
- All members of the CoC were encouraged to registered in Member 365. This is the communication vehicle that the CoC uses for all information and announcements.

Agenda Topic V: PIT Count – LaSandra Jackson

- LaSandra Jackson presented preliminary data on the PIT Count. When the data is finalized, it will be posted on the MOHS website.
- The PIT Count is a HUD requirement, every two years, and it is designed to capture a critical snapshot of one night in Baltimore City.
- The PIT Count includes people living in shelters, transitional housing, safe havens, and those that are unsheltered.
- There was a six-month planning process for this year's PIT Count and there were 12-15 people involved in the planning. The training for the PIT Count was online, 141 people completed the training, and 118 volunteered over 2 nights.
- The unofficial PIT Count documented, unsheltered, 179 adults and 3 families. The systems generated count of people living in shelters, transition and safe havens is 1,492 individuals, though it is anticipated that when non-funded programs and domestic violence programs that maintain their own data are surveyed, the number will be closer to 2,000.

Agenda Topic VI: MOHS Updates – Lakeysha Williams

- The CFA applications are due by 5:00 PM on March 21, 2025. Currently, there are 18 completed applications and 85 applications "in process".
- MOHS and DHCD are in the process of drafting the Consolidated Plan. Feedback has been solicited from the community. A survey will be sent to obtain community comments as to how these funds should be utilized.

Agenda Topic VII: Community Comments

- The PIT Count should count more people experiencing homelessness, including soups kitchens and day resource centers. There would need to be a community-wide process to conduct this type of PIT Count, and it would require a longer planning process.
- There is an encampment that needs attention by MOHS. Director Simmons responded. Baltimore City has an Encampment Protocol that includes several Baltimore City agencies. When the community identifies an encampment, they should follow the reporting protocol, that triggers a response that includes deploying the outreach teams, providing services and referrals for shelter, prioritizing solutions, and addressing issues related to health and safety.
- Shelter Concerns. Director Simmons responded. Not all shelters are City operated. The Baltimore City run shelters must be operated with kindness and respect. Shelters are not designed to be a permanent home. A new Grievance Policy has been developed, and MOHS will respond to the Grievances within 3 business days. MOHS will address all concerns and is committed to working with shelter residents and Providers to ensure quality care.
- Beyond the Bridge - Solutions to Homelessness is a movie that will debut at the Senator Theater on April 9, 2025. Doors will open at 3:30 PM. A panel discussion will occur at the end of the movie. There is a total of 700 seats (plus potential overflow), and currently 350 people have registered. The notification was sent out through Member 365.
- Manna House has a supply of NARCAN Nasal Spray that they are unable to use. Anyone interested, please contact Manna House at (410) 889-3001. The Executive Director is Tony Coffield.

- There will be a play at Center Stage in the Spring that includes people with lived experience. More information is forthcoming.
- Safe Haven is opening their new building at 806 Collington. The building will include beds for 24 individuals, there will be case management services, a clinic will be located onsite, and there is a community room. The services are provided to all people, and the entire community is encouraged to participate.
- PEP is providing training Mental Health/First Aid training. Contact MIchelle Smalls at PEP if interested.
- Gaudenzia is offering substance abuse treatment, on demand. The contact information is HELPLINEREFERRALS@GAUDENZIA.ORG, phone number (484) 938-1881. A brochure was distributed at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM. The next General Body Meeting will be held on June 26, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Helping Up Mission.