



Empowering Communities,
Building Futures.

Continuum of Care Board Meeting

February 26, 2025

FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FAIRFAX COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

Agenda

1. Approve meeting minutes from January 22, 2025.
2. Announcements.
3. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Finalize review of NAACP Recommendations.
 - b. Finalize Committee Structure.
 - c. Review draft Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form.
4. New Business:
 - a. Coordinated Entry policy to support sunseting project.
 - b. March 25 Board of Supervisors Housing Committee.
5. Next Meeting on March 26, 2025.



Announcement # 1 – Fair Ridge Shelter

- **January 29:**
 - Planning Commission approved using the former hotel as shelter.
- **Phase 1:**
 - Prior to April 1: Move in families from Rucker and Henry shelters.
 - On and after April 1: Move adults from North County Hypo to Rucker. Move in families from scattered site hotel rooms.
- **Phase 2:**
 - More substantial renovations.
 - Integrate north county domestic violence shelter.
 - Timeline to be determined through Capital Improvement Program.



Announcement # 2 – FY 2026 County Budget

- Advertised budget published on Feb. 18.
- Homeless Services impact:
 - + \$3.38 million increase for Fair Ridge Shelter operations.
 - \$75 thousand reduction for case management for adults in shelter.Continued support for affordable housing.
Indirect impacts due to reductions in other departments.
- Budget timeline:
 - April 22-24: Board of Supervisors holds public hearings.
 - May 13: Board of Supervisors adopts budget.



Announcement # 3 – Action Plan

Draft One-Year Action Plan published - <https://bit.ly/42zQ9I7>

Focused on use of CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds.

The County is seeking community feedback on proposed priorities, strategies, goals and activities to guide the investment of funds.

Public comments welcome via online, email, in writing or hand delivered, or at Board's public hearing on March 18 at 4:00 pm.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/data/consolidated-plan>



Announcement # 4 – Solicitation Published

- Soliciting help for Fairfax County and the Continuum of Care in its community engagement and strategic planning.
- Request for proposals published on February 5.
- Offerors' submissions are due March 5.
- Afterwards staff will review technical and cost proposals, conduct interviews, negotiate budgets, and make an award.
- Contract to begin on or soon after April 1.



Unfinished Business

- a. Finalize review of NAACP Recommendations.
- b. Finalize Committee Structure.
- c. Review draft Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form.



Recommendation #1

“If an encampment must be cleared, the county should offer residents an indoor shelter at least with overnight accommodation, where they can receive food and social services. Vulnerable tent campers—those who are elderly or have mental or physical health issues—should be offered daytime shelter as well. Homeless campers must be notified of how to obtain alternate shelter.”

Draft Response: Needs Approval

- The CoC Board agrees that shelter should be provided for individuals living in an encampment prior to a closure. The CoC Board recognizes that shelter bed capacity is insufficient to meet the current needs of adults experiencing homelessness and there are serious negative impacts to individuals’ lives when forced to move without a place to go. The CoC Board also acknowledges a significant increase in resources is required to shelter every adult in need and recommends that, at a minimum, Fairfax County should utilize all available space in existing shelters, including floor space, to provide shelter for people whose encampments are being closed. Use of floor space will be limited by building and fire code requirements, and the nonprofit shelter providers may need additional resources to operate the facilities safely with additional guests.

Recommendation #2

“The time and date of any planned removal must be announced at least two weeks in advance both publicly (in the county website and in a press release and to the tent encampment (through posted notices).”

Draft Response: Complete

- The CoC Board agrees that a two-week notice, at a minimum, must be given not only to encampment residents but also publicly so that organizations serving unsheltered residents may also be informed and help prepare unsheltered residents for alternate arrangements. A notice of more than two weeks is preferred.

Recommendation #3

“County employees sent to clear an encampment must include co-responders — mental health professionals from the Community Services Board as well as officers trained in de-escalation techniques — to carry out the operation without harm to the homeless people.”

Draft Response: Complete

- The CoC Board agrees that mental health professionals and police officers trained in crisis intervention and de-escalation must be present when encampments are being closed. It is important that this approach is well documented in Fairfax County’s policies and procedures and approved by the departments involved.

Recommendation #4

“Witnesses must be invited. These could include a representative of the National Lawyers Guild in DC or an attorney or representative of a civil rights group such as NAACP.”

Draft Response: Complete

- The CoC Board does not agree with this recommendation. Fairfax County already includes several skilled individuals when responding to the closing of encampments; these skilled individuals include homeless outreach and mental health professionals, as well as police officers trained in crisis intervention. Adding more groups to this process could become overwhelming for everyone involved, especially during such a sensitive time. In fact, it may be preferred to have minimal witnesses out of respect for the dignity of unsheltered individuals experiencing a traumatic loss of their temporary home in an encampment. It is the opinion of the CoC Board that the thoughtful and capable professional individuals currently participating are sufficient to support the individuals affected by the closure of an encampment.

Recommendation #5

“Homeless people who are being displaced should not be arrested. Being homeless is not a crime.”

Draft Response: **Complete**

- The CoC Board is in full agreement that no one should be arrested solely for experiencing homelessness.

Recommendation #6

“The belongings that the homeless people wish to help should be put in storage for 60 days at a known location accessible by transit so the person can retrieve them at no cost.”

Draft Response: **Complete**

- The CoC Board does not support this recommendation. While the intent is commendable, the CoC Board is concerned about the level of resources that would be needed for a storage solution and has doubts that it would be effective. As Propublica reported in its November 2024 article, entitled “Cities Say They Store Property Taken From Homeless Encampments. People Rarely Get Their Things Back,” in a survey of 14 cities with such programs there were frequent challenges, including identifying storage locations convenient for people experiencing homelessness; limited operating hours, space, and storage timeframes; and damaged, lost or stolen items. The CoC Board believes that the resources needed to stand up such a program could be more strategically invested in other programs.

Finalize Committee Structures

- **Proposed Committees of The Continuum of Care (CoC) Board:**
- The following groups are proposed to operate as committees of the CoC Board in fulfilling the responsibilities of the CoC (see [24 CFR 578.7](#)). The CoC Board's [bylaws](#) and [operating policies](#) may need to be updated to reflect these changes.
- ***Coordinated Entry Policy.*** The committee provides policy direction for the CoC in designing its system for assessing the needs of individuals and families for housing and services, as well as the written standards for providing homeless services – including evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility and prioritizing who will receive assistance.
 - Meetings would occur on a regular basis to be determined by the committee.
 - Members come from the CoC Board and, according to the Board's bylaws, the committee is composed of at least four members. Members that have personally experienced homelessness must be included to ensure their perspective is integrated into decision-making processes for a more effective and empathetic solution.



- **Selection and Ranking.** The committee is responsible for: (1) reviewing applications for new funding opportunities, if available, during the CoC competitions and selecting new project(s) for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application; and (2) ranking all projects, including both new and renewal projects, according to the priorities identified by the COC Board.
 - Meetings do not occur on a regular basis but are scheduled during the CoC competitions.
 - Membership may come from the CoC Board and community members without a conflict of interest in CoC project funding decisions. Members that have personally experienced homelessness must be included to ensure their perspective is integrated into decision-making processes for a more effective and empathetic solution.

- **Strategic Planning.** The committee will lead the development and updating of the CoC's strategic plan, grounded in best practices and data-informed decision making, to address the needs of families and individuals experiencing and at-risk of homelessness. The committee will lead the effort to conduct an annual gaps analysis to identify unmet needs and resource allocation priorities and will regularly review the performance of the CoC system, as well as individual projects funded through the CoC, to ensure alignment with the strategic plan and achievement of desired outcomes. This includes monitoring progress toward established goals, evaluating the effectiveness of current strategies, and recommending adjustments as needed to maximize impact and promote continuous improvement in the community's response to homelessness.
 - Meetings occur on a regular basis to be determined by the committee.
 - Members come from the CoC Board and, according to the Board's bylaws, the committee is composed of at least four members. Members that have personally experienced homelessness must be included to ensure their perspective is integrated into decision-making processes for a more effective and empathetic solution.



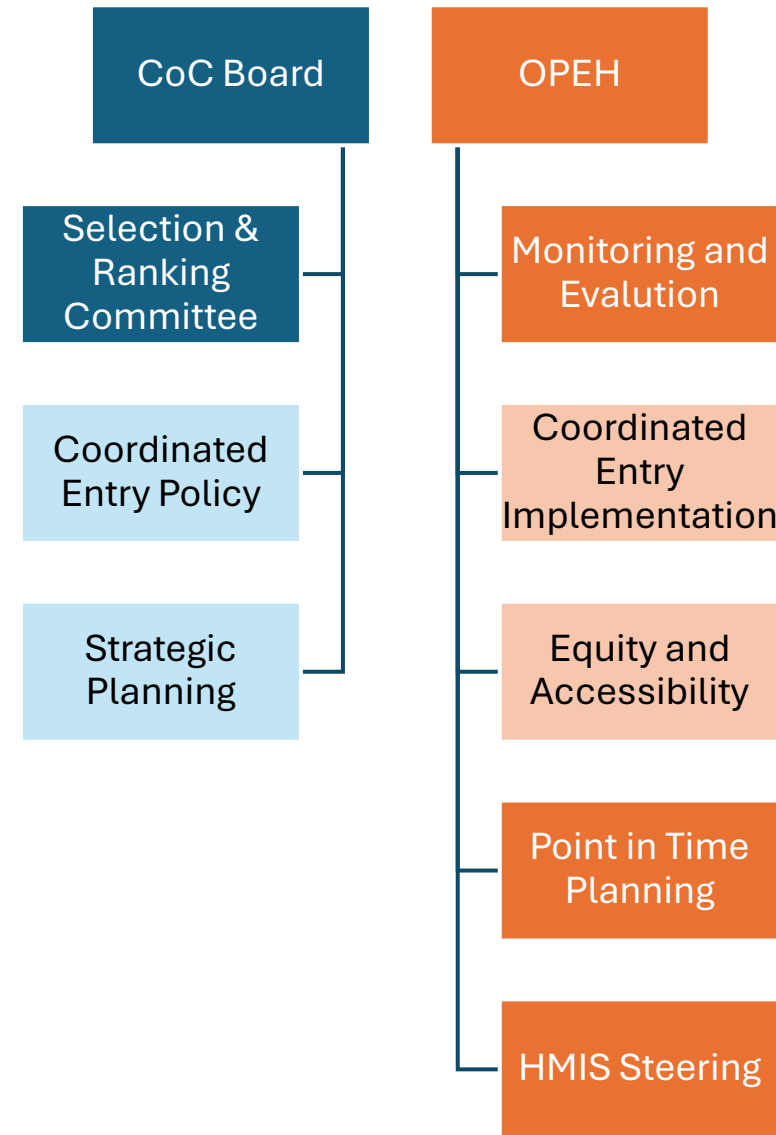
Committee Volunteers To Date

Coordinated Entry Policy	Selection and Ranking	System Improvement
Adrienne Hosein (1)	Adrienne Hosein (2)	Gwenn Minton (1)
Claire Keena (1)	Claire Keena (2)	Julie Hendricks (1)
Cathy Benn (1)	Doug Dane (2)	Lisa Jones (1)
Kameron Wilds (1)	Sue Armstrong (2)	Doug Dane (1)
Maura Williams (1)	Gwenn Minton (3)	Sue Armstrong (1)
Pam Mitchell (1)	Julie Hendricks (3)	Cathy Benn (2)
Rena D. Alexander-Lewis (1)	Lisa Jones (3)	Kameron Wilds (2)
Ruth Pearson (1)	Cathy Benn (3)	Maura Williams (2)
Gwenn Minton (2)	Kameron Wilds (3)	Pam Mitchell (2)
Julie Hendricks (2)	Maura Williams (3)	Rena D. Alexander-Lewis (2)
Lisa Jones (2)	Pam Mitchell (3)	Ruth Pearson (2)
Doug Dane (3)	Rena D. Alexander-Lewis (3)	Adrienne Hosein (3)
Sue Armstrong (3)	Ruth Pearson (3)	Claire Keena (3)

Proposed CoC Structure

- Questions:

1. Does the CoC Board agree with the proposed structure?
2. Who are the committee leaders?
3. When will committees meet?



Review of Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure

In accordance with the provisions of [24 CFR 578.95](#), each member of the Continuum of Care ("CoC") Board shall affirm that they have read this document and acknowledge that they are to avoid conflicts of interest in their actions and service on the CoC Board. It is expected that all CoC Board members will use good judgment, adhere to high ethical standards, and avoid situations that create an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

As a member of a CoC Board, you acknowledge the following (please acknowledge by checking the boxes):

- I Agree** – Each person serving on the CoC Board or its committees must avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts. In cases of question, they may: (1) request an opinion or a decision of whether a conflict or the appearance of a conflict is present; (2) recuse themselves from any portion of their duties that presents a potential conflict; or (3) request an exception to the conflict-of-interest provisions. In questions of conflicts of interest, they must either bring it to the attention of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness or the CoC Board Chair.
- I Agree** – If the organization I represent receives funds or benefits from the CoC, I agree not to participate in the decision-making process or deliberations or gain inside information that would benefit the organization that is unavailable to other organizations, with regards to obtaining funds or benefits, unless the actions fall under an exception listed in [24 CFR 578.95\(d\)\(2\)](#).
- I Agree** – If I am unable to render impartial assistance in the provision of any type or amount of financial assistance or be objective in performing work with respect to the CoC, I will recuse myself from those activities, which may include removing myself from a meeting, discussion and/or deliberation.



I Agree – If the organization I represent receives funds or benefits from the CoC, I agree that I have a conflict of interest. This conflict does not exist if it is subject to an exemption listed in [24 CFR 578.95\(d\)\(2\)](#).

I Agree – If I, or someone in my immediate family or business ties, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from the award of funds or benefits and/or if I, or someone in my immediate family or business ties, have a financial interest in any contract, subcontract or agreement with respect to funded activities and/or if I, or someone in my immediate family or business ties, have a financial interest in the proceeds derived from a funded activity, I agree that I have a conflict of interest. This conflict provision applies to my time as a member of a CoC Board and during the one-year period following my tenure. This conflict does not exist if it is subject to an exemption listed in [24 CFR 578.95\(d\)\(2\)](#).

I Agree – If I have a conflict of interest, I shall not vote or use my personal influence to address the matter, and I shall not be counted in determining the quorum for the vote.

To fully disclose possible conflicts of interest, I hereby disclose that I have a financial or other interest (such as your current employment or a seat on a Board of Directors, for example) of the following non-profit and/or for-profit organizations: (please include the organization you represent, if applicable.)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Board Member Name (signature and printed name)

New Business

- a. Coordinated Entry policy to support sunsetting project.
- b. March 25 Board of Supervisors Housing Committee.



Coordinated Entry Policy Support

- 2011 Pathway Homes Supportive Housing Program grant ending on August 31, 2025.
- Challenge:
 - Keeping 20+ individuals in housing when grant ends.
- Request:
 - CoC Board approve a temporary policy through remainder of calendar year 2025 that permits Pathway Homes and other local permanent supportive housing providers to prioritize program vacancies for individuals exiting the sunsetting project.



Board of Supervisors Housing Committee

- Presentation on March 25 at 11:00 am.
- Content:
 - Fair Ridge Shelter – share update, thank them for support.
 - Share CoC Board work so far.
 - Update on community engagement and strategic planning.
 - Note recent Point in Time count and anticipated May publication.
- Questions:
 - Additional ideas for content?
 - Speaker from the CoC Board?



Adjourn

Next meeting is March 26, 2025.

