



FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S Continuum of Care Board

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

WHEN: May 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Fairfax County Government Center
Conference Rooms 9/10
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order.
2. Approve meeting minutes from 04/24/2024.
3. Point in Time Count (PIT), Housing Inventory Count (HIC), & Simple Gaps Analysis.
4. Results from Practice New Project Prioritization Exercise.
5. Update on Community Engagement Plan.



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ATTENDANCE:

Name	Attending (Yes/No)	Name	Attending (Yes/No)
David Meyer, Chair	Yes	Maura Williams	No
Adrienne Hosein	Yes	Megan Goffney	Yes
Aimee Garcia	Yes	Michael Axler	Yes
Ashley McSwain	Yes	Noah Abraham	Yes
Cathy Benn	Yes	Pamela Michell	Yes
Connie Johnson	No	Penelope Rood	Yes
Douglas Dane	Yes	Randy Shusman	No
Fatima Khalid	Yes	Rena Alexander-Lewis	No
Janet Kedzie	Yes	Ruth Pearson	Yes
Julie Hendricks	Yes	Seth Pearson	No
Kameron Wilds	Yes		
Lisa Jones	No		

Non-Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Members

Organization	Name	Attending
Housing and Community Development, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness	Thomas Barnett	Yes
	Stephen Knippler	Yes
	Meghan Heaney	Yes



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I. Call to Order.

- The meeting was called to order by CoC Board Chair David Meyer.

II. Approve Minutes

- CoC Board member, Penelope Rood made the motion to have the prior meeting minutes approved. CoC Board member, Pam Michell seconded the motion.
- All in Favor- unanimous vote to pass the motion.
- The Minutes for the April 24, 2024, CoC Board Meeting were approved with no objections.

III. Announcements

- CoC Board Chair David Meyer introduced new Board Member Julie Hendricks who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as the Mason District representative.
- CoC Board Chair David Meyer announced that the County Board of Supervisors met last week and approved the nomination for Claire Egan Keena to be the new CoC Board representative from the Springfield District

IV. Presentation of the PIT

- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett presented the 2024 Point in Time (PIT) results to the CoC Board.
- Overall, the Fairfax County 2024 PIT results demonstrated a decrease of 2% or 32 people from 2023. This should be viewed with caution and considered to be more of a flat rate. This decrease can be attributed to a lower number of families in shelter and a lower number of unsheltered individuals.
- Other jurisdictions within the Washington, DC metro region saw an increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT.
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett highlighted some of the key findings from the 2024 PIT count and different trends that have been identified throughout the years.
 - ❖ There was a steady reduction in the number of people experiencing homelessness between 2008 and 2017. There was an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness from 2017-2021. The numbers decreased again in 2022; in 2023 there was an increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett highlighted the different trends between the Household Types, specifically the differences between households with children and adult only households.
 - ❖ The number of people in families with children decreased by 8 percent (58 people) between the 2023 and 2024 counts. This decrease is attributed partially to improved and increased diversion efforts through which families' housing



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crisis is resolved without needing to go to a shelter. Enhanced eviction prevention efforts, such as emergency rental assistance, landlord and tenant outreach, and increased legal assistance, have also reduced the demand for family shelter.

- ❖ The number of single adults experiencing homelessness increased by 5 percent (26 people) during the same time.
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett reviewed trends among special populations: chronic homelessness, veterans, transitional age youth, and survivors of domestic violence (DV).
 - ❖ There were 257 adults identified as experiencing chronic homelessness during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (30 percent of the total adults counted) and 192 adults identified to be experiencing chronic homelessness during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (22 percent of total adults counted).
 - ❖ There were 34 persons who self-identified as veterans during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (4 percent of the total adults counted) and 26 people that self-identified as veterans during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (3 percent of total adults counted).
 - ❖ There were 73 transition aged youth identified during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (9 percent of the total adults) and 53 transition aged youth identified during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (6 percent of total adults).
 - ❖ There were 87 households identified as currently fleeing domestic violence and 227 households that reported a history of domestic violence during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (11 percent and 30 percent of total households counted). There were 59 households identified as currently fleeing domestic violence and 194 households that reported a history of domestic violence during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (8 percent and 25 percent of the total households counted).
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett reviewed the disparities among different demographics, specifically, race and age.
 - ❖ The most significant disparity in the demographics of those experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count remains the disproportionate representation of people identifying as Black or African American. While 10.9 percent of the general population in Fairfax County is estimated to identify as Black or African American, 48 percent of people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count identified as Black, African American, or African. The imbalance remained the same as in the 2023 count, when 48 percent of people identified as Black or African American.



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- ❖ There were 19 individuals aged 70 years and above experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (2 percent of the total adults), including an individual in emergency shelter at the age of 98 years old.
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett, informed the board that Fairfax County is required to report on the number of individuals experiencing homelessness over the course of a full year to the Federal Department of Housing. For the fiscal year ending in September 2023, Fairfax County reported that for the year there were 3616 individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett demonstrated the PIT Dashboard and how to navigate within the dashboard and access the data.
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett then reviewed the Council of Government's report for the region, Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington.
 - ❖ This report provides a regional map of all counties that participated in the regional COG report.
 - ❖ Demonstrates how the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness has changed across all jurisdictions from 2023-2024 and the trends from 2020 up until 2024. Provides an overall percentage of change for each jurisdiction.
 - ❖ Demonstrated the percentage of the population in this area that are experiencing homelessness.
 - ❖ This report also provides information on the trends for each specific household type and regional racial disproportionality.
- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett presented a Simple Gaps Analysis to the CoC Board. This was a comparison of the Point in Time (PIT) and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) regarding chronic homelessness and non-chronic homelessness. The analysis also looked at the data for unsheltered households. Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett reported on the projects that are in the pipeline and the gap.
- A question-and-answer period followed the presentation and covered the following:
 - ❖ Douglas Dane stated that he would like to analyze data on what type of shelter is going to be most utilized. What type of facilities need to be built based on what would be most utilized?
 - ❖ Pam Michell asked if the number of families in motels has decreased or if we are still seeing large numbers. Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett reported that the County saw the highest number of families in motels at the end of 2022 and that there are still large numbers of families in hotels. When he last counted there were 70 families in motels in Fairfax County.
 - ❖ Michael Axler wanted to point out the definitional differences of homelessness between public schools and homeless services. The public school system follows the definition of the US Department of Education. This definition is a broader definition that includes doubled up households, those living in motels as self-pay, etc. In April the Fairfax County Public Schools counted a total of



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2,019 students who met the department of education's definition of homelessness. CoC Board Chair, David Meyer proposed that the board have a presentation by Michael that reviews the FCPS definition of homelessness and the numbers of homeless students that FCPS is seeing.

- ❖ CoC Board Chair, David Meyer, and board member, Cathy Benn, stated that there are over 565 students that are unaccompanied minors in the school system experiencing homelessness. This means that one fourth of the student homeless population is made up of unaccompanied youth.
- ❖ Kameron Wilds asked: as one looks at the PIT, is it also broken out by geography to determine where in the county are these numbers most prevalent? Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett stated that the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness does not currently have the data separated out but is able to obtain that information.
- ❖ Kameron Wilds asked: for emergency sheltering, is the gap that the community is experiencing seeing based on data from hypothermia season when we have the additional beds or is it done when those beds are not available? The response is that it is a larger gap because what the board is seeing right then is calculated based on the number of additional beds from Hypothermia Prevention Program.
- ❖ A brief discussion was initiated by Douglas Dane regarding the challenges with Housing Voucher programs and the lack of landlords that are willing to accept those vouchers and/or available units that meet the voucher standards. Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett explained the County's initiative to introduce the small area fair market rent guidelines to open additional housing opportunities for voucher holders.
- ❖ Megan Goffney reported that in Baltimore they did a youth count in addition to their PIT and spoke on work that they did to focus on the sub-group of households with children that were meeting the length of homelessness time requirement for chronic status but did not have a diagnosed disability. Therefore, they were not able to move into a HUD funded PSH program.
- ❖ Noah Abraham asked about the HIC count. The "other permanent housing" inventory count has gone up over the years. How is this program funded and leading to these increases? Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett attributed this to the 169 Housing Choice Vouchers that were awarded at the end of the pandemic and the addition of the Rental Subsidy and Services Program (RSSP).

V. Results from Practice New Project Prioritization Exercise

- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett presented the results of the Practice New Project Prioritization Exercise. The exercise is not a final determination of gaps or priorities, but



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an exercise to introduce common terms for homeless assistance and identify areas where more information is needed before making final recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. CoC Board members had, at the CoC meeting on April 24, 2024, identified the types of households and projects that may be needed across the county, as well as what information they needed to make final recommendations.

- For Households with Adults and Children (Families), the largest number of participants in the exercise selected homelessness prevention services countywide should be a priority.
 - ❖ A high number of participants identified increased affordable housing and permanent supportive housing countywide.
 - ❖ There was also a need identified for increased rapid rehousing services in Region 1 and Region 2.
- For Households with Adults Only (Singles), the largest number of participants selected permanent supportive housing countywide should be a priority.
 - ❖ A high number of participants identified increased homelessness prevention, street outreach, rapid rehousing, and affordable housing to be a priority countywide.
 - ❖ The need for increased emergency shelter in Region 1 was also identified.
- For Households with Children Only, the largest number of participants identified the need for an increase in emergency shelters countywide for this population.
 - ❖ There was a high number of participants identifying increased street outreach, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing for this population in Region 1.
 - ❖ The need for life skill building for this population was also identified.
- For Special Populations, participants identified the following needs:
 - ❖ There is a need for an increase in permanent supportive housing for individuals with a disability in Region 1.
 - ❖ Countywide the need for additional domestic violence shelters was identified.
 - ❖ For Transitional Age Youth, participants identified the need for increased affordable housing and permanent supportive housing countywide and increased foster care transition programs.
 - ❖ For individuals who were formerly incarcerated participants identified the need for permanent supportive housing in Region 1.
 - ❖ For people migrating from other countries, participants identified the need for increased homelessness prevention, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing countywide.
 - ❖ For Veterans, participants identified the need for increased permanent supportive housing countywide.



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- To make final decisions the CoC Board members requested the following additional information:
 - ❖ Data on the homeless population count during the summer, length of stay, gaps by region, number of individuals not accessing programs, long waits, justice system involvement, trafficking, inflow, and barriers.
 - ❖ Policies surrounding hotel funding, extended rapid rehousing with gradual reduction, shorten steps to housing, supportive housing for people with disabilities but not chronic length, services for immigrants, and transitional housing.
- A question-and-answer period followed the presentation and covered the following:
 - ❖ Ashley McSwain asked what it would take to provide permanent supportive housing (PSH) to individuals without a disability. Deputy Directory, OPEH, Tom Barnett clarified that, due to HUD funding that is utilized to support most current permanent supportive housing programs, program participants must meet their eligibility requirements. Therefore, to remove the disability requirement, the CoC would have to use local or state funding.
 - ❖ Ashley McSwain asked about incentives or awards for a reduction in the number of individuals who are experiencing homelessness. There used to be contracts awarded based on performance.

VI. Update on Community Engagement Plan

- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett presented an update on the community engagement plan.
- Community engagement will begin with people currently experiencing homelessness.
- Inspired by “Story Circles” method.
- Facilitated & recorded by case managers, other staff.
- The initial interviews will focus on three Questions:
What led to you experiencing homelessness?
What resources or support have been helpful during your homelessness?
What ideas do you have to improve the services you receive?
- In June they will begin recruiting sites and staff. Then in July the interviews will start.

Closing:

- CoC Board Chair David Meyer provided a recap of where the CoC is as a board and the next steps.
- The Board will continue with the education piece, reviewing the data, narrowing down where it wants to focus its work by the end of the summer.



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- The next board meeting will be held on June 26, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.