



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

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

WHEN: August 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

AGENDA:

1. Vote: July 24 meeting minutes
2. Information: Funding Opportunities
3. Information: Encampment closures
4. Information: Planning, Engagement Contractor
5. Discussion: "All in" Federal Strategic plan
6. Discussion: Meeting Schedule



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

ATTENDANCE:

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

Non-Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Members

Organization	Name	Attending
Housing and Community Development, Fairfax County <i>Office to Prevent and End Homelessness</i>	Thomas Barnett	Yes
	Stephen Knippler	No
	Meghan Heaney	Yes



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

I. **Call to Order.**

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

II. **Approving Last Meeting Minutes:**

- CoC Board member Penelope Rood made the motion to have the prior meeting minutes with the new changes approved. CoC Board member Cathy Benn seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.
- The minutes for the July 24, 2024, CoC Board Meeting were approved with no objections.

III. **Information: Funding Opportunities**

- Deputy Director, Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), Tom Barnett presented information on the different funding opportunities that are available to Fairfax County service providers.
- The Housing authority will be releasing the FCRHA affordable housing development and preservation project funding opportunity.
- \$1.5+ million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funding is available to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate affordable rental housing, including permanent supportive housing. These applications are due on 9/27/2024.
- The CoC is preparing applications for:
 - ❖ Annual HUD CoC funding, due 10/30/24
 - ❖ CoC Builds funding, due 11/21/24. There is up to 7.5 million dollars in funding available. Of that 7.5 million dollar 10% can be used for administration and 20% can be used for operating costs.
- A CoC Board member asked who is going to be on the selection and ranking committee. Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett was able to provide a brief overview of where members are pooled from and informed the CoC Board that OPEH staff can provide them a full list of committee members via email.
- It was further reported to the CoC Board that, when reviewing applications for CoC Builds, the selection and ranking committee will be able to conduct their work as normal to select one application to send to HUD. Criteria requirements will be modeled after the criteria that HUD has put forth, and the application that is determined to have the biggest impact on the community will be prioritized.



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

IV. Upcoming Encampment Closures

Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett presented an overview of the progress and timeline of resolving the encampments.

- Hunter Mill District
“The Hill” in Reston
Aug 27- No Trespassing signs posted
Sep 10- Final Closure
- Providence District
“Pump House” at Arlington Blvd and Pickett Rd.
August 21- No trespassing signs posted
Sep 4- Final Closure
- A CoC Board member asked if any services will be provided for individuals that refuse to leave the properties. It was stated that street outreach workers are engaging the unsheltered individuals sleeping at the sites, helping them find shelter and other resources to meet their needs, and ensure they understand that remaining at the site on the day of the final closure will put them at risk of arrest. Mental health professionals from the Community Services Board will be on-site on the final closure date to engage any remaining individuals before the Police Department take any action.
- A CoC Board member asked if anyone had a conversation with the Sheriff regarding using their CIT officers (in house mental health staff) when they close the encampments. It was also recommended bringing up a homelessness docket.
- A CoC Board member asked what is the role of the CoC for receiving this information? What role, or voice, or changes can the CoC assist with under these situations? CoC Board Chair David Meyer reported that it is for awareness. These are not the only encampments, and the CoC Board members may be able to take this knowledge back and share it with others in the community when facing these challenges.
- A CoC Board member initiated a robust conversation and present several questions to the participants, staff, and CoC Board Chair. The CoC Board member stated that every single winter Fairfax County does a really good job of providing shelter for individuals who would otherwise be sleeping outside. The Board member recommended that information regarding the prioritization and the process for setting up the hypothermia shelters be provided to the board. The CoC Board member stated that they struggle with the fact that if someone becomes homeless tonight there is nowhere for them to go and sleep tonight that is safe. A CoC Board member asked staff to provide data at the next meeting about the average wait time for an adult shelter bed in the Fairfax CoC and how many additional beds are needed to meet the needs of every individual experiencing unsheltered homelessness on any given night in Fairfax County.



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

- A CoC Board member asked what is their role as a CoC Board? CoC Board Chair David Meyer followed up that part of the CoC Board's role is to approve funding for participants. From the political side of it the CoC Board's role is to address how to solve homelessness in Fairfax County and to act as advocates.
- A CoC Board member asked why priority for the Temporary Occupancy Shelter (TOS) in Reston is for only those who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness on "The Hill". It was clarified that there are individuals sleeping in overflow capacity at Embury Rucker who are going to be transferred to TOS after everyone from "The Hill" has come into the TOS. After transferring these individuals and then the regularly scheduled opening of the Hypothermia Prevention Program in the region, which is located where the TOS is operating, the TOS will be at capacity.
- A CoC Board member asked what the street outreach approach is to assist individuals with housing. Have peer specialists gone out to the encampments and assisted with those who are suffering from substance abuse? The CoC Board should not be focusing on increasing shelter but on looking for real solutions to end homelessness. How can the CoC Board pull all of those together with the strategic plan that was discussed last meeting?

V. Information: Planning, Engagement Contractor

- Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett reported that he has already spoken to several contractors. The current priority is to find a suitable vendor that is already contracted with the County or neighboring jurisdictions. However, these contractors have limited availability to dedicate to Fairfax. It was reported that the CoC Board may have to solicit for new vendors that the capacity to take on the scope of work.
- A CoC Board member wanted to know what would be the vendor's scope of work. Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett shared that the contractor would be asked to conduct inclusive community engagement and facilitate strategic planning.
- A CoC Board member asked if there is documentation that reflects what did and did not work for previous strategic plans. Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett reported that there is a retrospective of the 10-year strategic plan that was published in 2019 and remains on the County website.

VI. Discussion: "All in" Federal Strategic plan

Deputy Director, OPEH, Tom Barnett presented a brief overview of the Federal Strategic Plan that was published in December 2022 and developed by US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) with 19 other federal agencies. The plan includes six "pillars":

- 3 foundations: equity, data and evidence, and collaboration.
- 3 solutions: housing and support, crisis response, and prevention.



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

The federal plan is intended to be a blueprint for local communities' plans. Tom Barnett reviewed and informed the CoC Board that the presentation will be sent via email for their review.

VII. Discussion: Meeting Schedule

CoC Board Chair David Meyer informed the CoC Board that the upcoming meetings for the remainder of the year needed to be discussed and dates confirmed.

- The CoC Board Chair will be out of the state for the September meeting so it will be facilitated by another member.
- CoC Board Meeting for October 23 will remain, as scheduled.
- Due to the regularly scheduled dates in November and December conflicting with holidays, it was decided that the CoC Board will meet on December 4 only.