



Empowering Communities,  
Building Futures.

# Continuum of Care Board Meeting

December 04, 2024

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

# Agenda

1. Approve meeting minutes from October 23, 2024.
2. Debrief CoC Builds submission.
3. Committee Structure.
4. Encampment resolution recommendations.
5. Next meeting



# CoC Builds Debrief

## 2024 CoC Builds Scoring Results

Agency Name	Project Name	Score (#)	Maximum	Request
Pathway Homes	Health and Hope Through Housing	86.2	100	\$7,370,905
Wesley Housing Development Corporation	Beacon Landing	89.4	100	\$7,500,000

# CoC Builds Debrief

- Selected project had site control
- Financing is in place, including LIHTCs
- Strong leverage of non-HUD funds
- More PSH units being proposed (54 versus 15)
- Poised to move to construction in 2025
- Partnership with The Lamb Center; works with DBHDS
- Site is walkable.

# Summary of CoC Responsibilities

Charged with designing a local “system” to assist sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness and providing the services necessary to help them access housing and obtain long-term stability

Promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness

Enhance coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness

Improve data collection and performance measurement



# Current Committee Structure

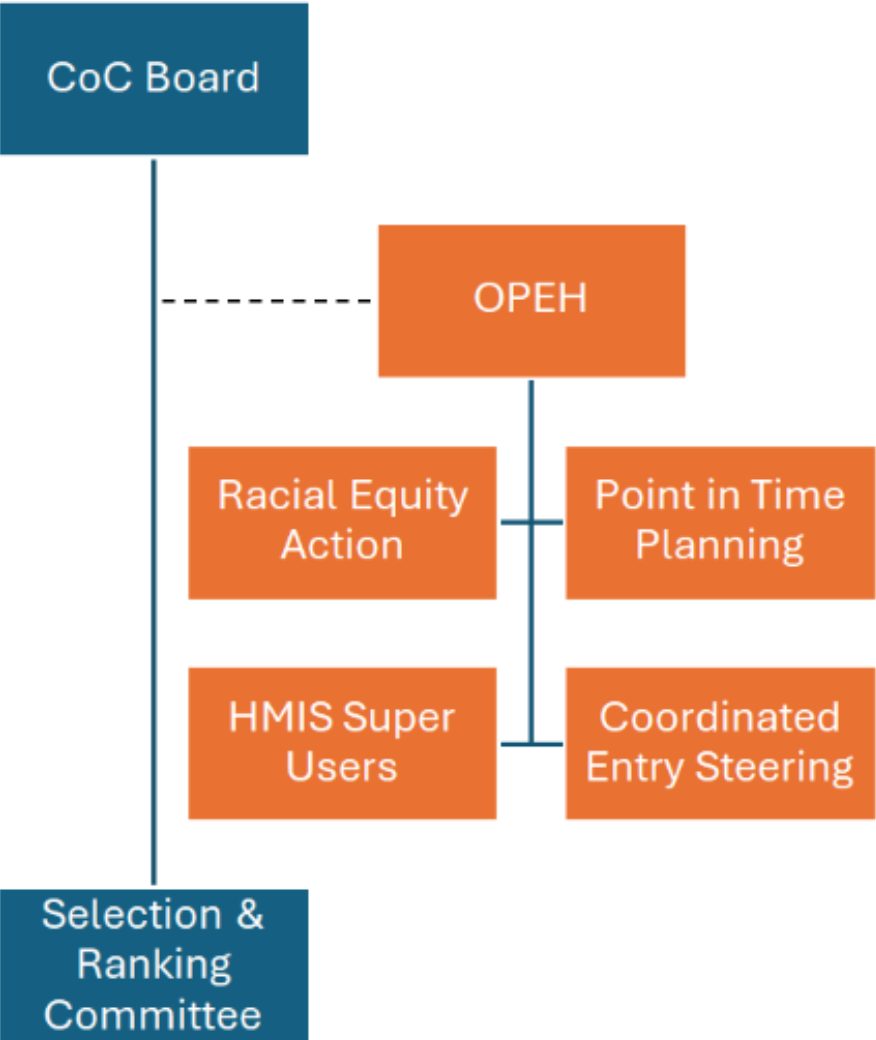
Only one committee currently exists: Selection and Ranking.

The CoC Board delegated some responsibilities to OPEH, which it fulfills through four interagency workgroups:

1. Coordinated Entry Steering
2. HMIS Super Users
3. Point in Time Planning
4. Racial Equity Action



# Current Org Chart



# Review of Other CoCs' Subcommittees

A review of 12 different CoCs found that the most common subcommittees were as follows:

- ❖ Coordinated Entry (7 out of 12)
- ❖ Racial Equity (7 out of 12)
- ❖ Youth (4 out of 12)
- ❖ Lived Experience (4 out of 12)
- ❖ HMIS Data Management (4 out of 12)





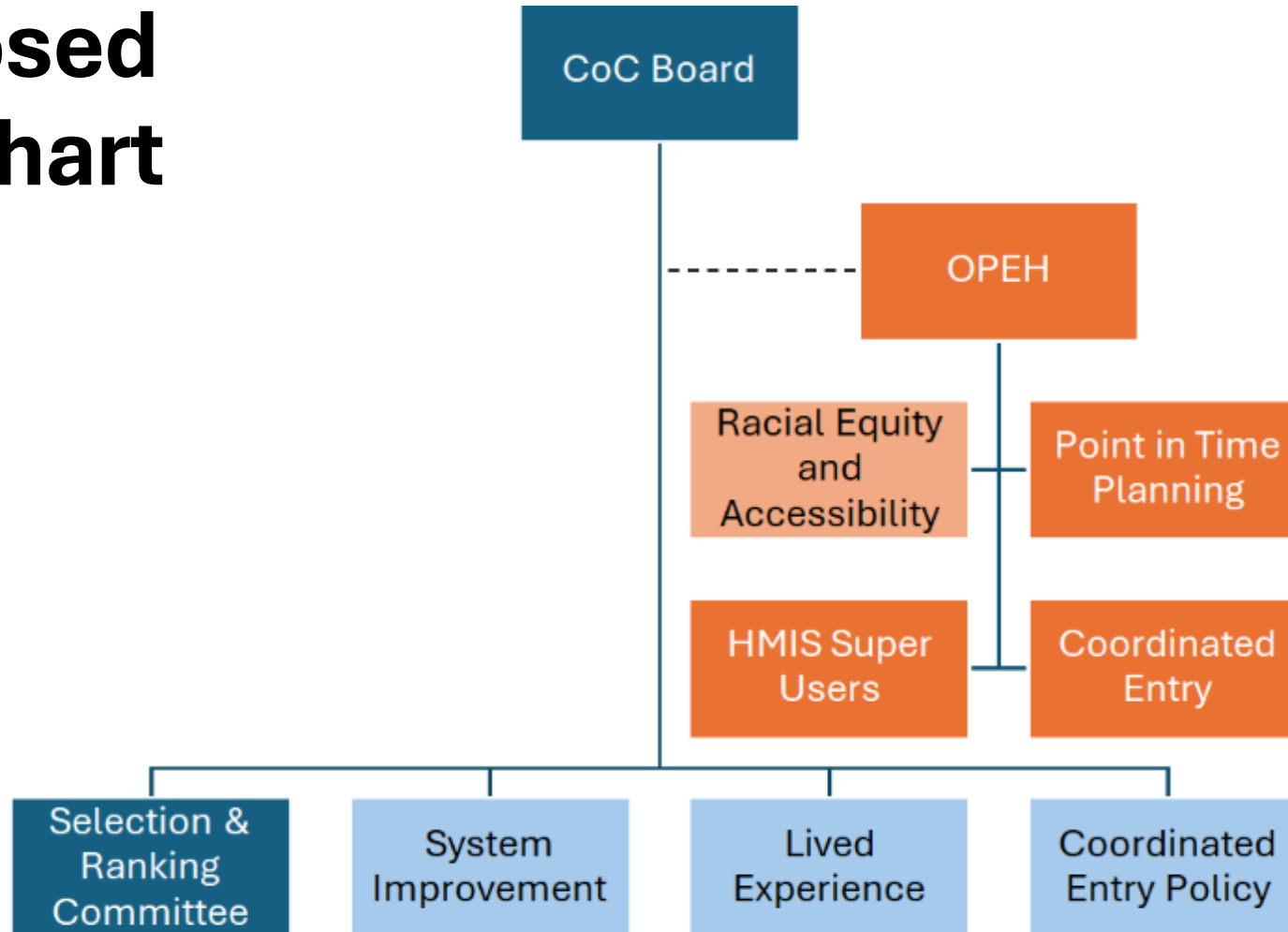
CoC	PIT Count 2023	Committees
Yonkers, Mount Vernon/Westchester County CoC	1317	*Anti-Racism Evaluation & Advisory *Coordinated Entry/Data & Systems *Landlord Relations *Lived Experience Advisory *Street Homeless *Permanent Supported Housing Coordinated Entry Referral Conference *Rapid Re-Housing Coordinated Entry Referral Conference *Housing Success *Education *Self-Sufficiency *Patriot Housing Initiative
Imperial County	1303	*Evaluation & Resources *Vulnerable Populations *Coordinated Entry System *Point-In-Time *Training, Outreach, & Recruitment
Vancouver/Clark County CoC	1300	*HMIS System Performance Measurement *HMIS Data User's Workgroup *Veterans By Name List *Chronically Homeless By Name List *Coordinated Assessment *Coordinated Outreach
District of Columbia	4922	*Strategic Planning *Emergency Response and Shelter Operations *Executive *Training & Capacity Building *Coordinated Entry Policy & Procedure *Housing Solutions *Youth *Racial Equity *Healthcare
Montgomery County	894	*Governance *Intragovernmental Advisory *Outcomes and Improvement *HMIS *Workforce Development *Youth *People's Committee *System Coordination *Partnership and Funding *Coordinated Entry System *Allocation *Racial Equity
City of Alexandria	152	*Employment *Housing Crisis Response *Transition Planning *Gaps & Needs *Priorities *Data *Health *Strategic Planning *Membership

# Proposed Committee Changes

- **New CoC Board Committees**
  - Coordinated Entry Policy
  - Lived Experience
  - System Improvement
- **Updated OPEH workgroup:**
  - Racial Equity and Accessibility



# Proposed Org Chart



# Encampment Resolution Recommendations

- The following slides summarize draft responses to the NAACP's recommendations regarding encampment closures based on the CoC Board's discussion at the last meeting.
- Staff requests feedback on the draft responses.
- Some responses need clarification on the CoC Board's position on the recommendation, particularly where it involves public safety issues such as officer's carrying weapons or encouraging witnesses to be present.



# 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:

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 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 offer a couple of nights in hotel for individuals told to leave an encampment.

## 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:

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 would be 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:

The CoC Board agrees that mental health professionals and police officers trained in crisis intervention and de-escalation must be present when encampments are 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:

The CoC Board has not taken a position on the presence of witnesses during an encampment closure. Some board members suggested that the presence of a high-level County staff person may be sufficient. Police officers’ body cameras may be sufficient documentation of what occurs



# Recommendation #5

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

## Draft Response:

The CoC Board is in full agreement that no one should be arrested 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:

The CoC Board supports this recommendation; while also acknowledging it would require additional County resources to be invested to provide the staff and space required to make it work effectively. Careful consideration needs to be given to identifying a suitable location, screening out hazardous items, and defining a chain of custody for private property. Vacant commercial buildings might be an option for storage locations.

# Adjourn

Next meeting is January 22, 2025,  
as is the Point in Time count.

Save the date

January 14, 9:30 am - Board of Supervisors'  
Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Proclamation

