**CT BOS Semi-annual Meeting Minutes**

**1/15/21**



1. **Welcome**

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1. **Announcements**
* Webinar on ***Accessibility of Electronic Documents*** – 2/18 at 10am.

[Zoom link for webinar](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87483602115?pwd=MVJveEVEQVpOYTBhQXN2T1l4VEJwZz09)

Meeting ID: 874 8360 2115

Passcode: 012972

Call-in: 646 876 9923

* Rehabilitation Act requires that agencies receiving CoC funds provide comparable access to and use of electronic information technology.
* Learn strategies to ensure that published electronic information is compatible with assistive technology devices commonly used by people with disabilities for information and communication.
* HUD Waivers
* In light of the COVID-19 crisis, on [12/30/20 HUD released a new memo](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Waiver-4_CoC-and-YHDP_FINAL.pdf) extending existing waivers for the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) programs. [BOS HUD CoC Waiver Memo](https://www.ctbos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Memo-2020.12-CoC-Waivers-v3.docx)

**3. CCEH Updates**

* Updates on Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) and Point-in-time Count (PIT)
* PIT will be held on January 26, 2021
* PIT webinar training was held on Tuesday, 1/5. The recording and all information on PIT

<https://cceh.org/pit/overview/>

* System Performance Measures (SPMs)
* The SPM report is a summary and year-to year comparison of system wide counts, averages, and medians related to seven areas of performance. Each CoC is expected to use these measures to evaluate how well homeless systems are functioning and where improvements are necessary. The SPMs help communities understand how their system is functioning and if they have deployed the right combination of strategies and resources.
* FY19 compared with FY20
* Overall returns to homelessness is up.
* The annual count of persons experiencing homelessness is down.
* The change in total income for both stayers and leavers has increased.
* There has been a decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time.
* There was an increase in successful housing placements.
* Actions for providers to take to improve/correct SPMs:
* Check exit destinations, check to ensure enrollments are accurate; check for missing data
* Check income and employment entries – check for missing data; review assessments

**4. Department of Labor (DOL) on Steering Committee**

* The Steering Committee agreed by consensus to add a representative from the CT DOL to the CT BOS Steering Committee.

**5. Reallocation Vote**

* At December SC mtg, the following three options were presented regarding the Reallocation Vote. Because of logistics and limitations with Zoom voting, it was decided that SC members would vote using Survey Monkey.

1. Steering Committee (SC) is made aware of the projects that are being

proposed for reallocation and votes on whether to reallocate their funding.

2. Steering Committee makes the decision to reallocate the funding WITHOUT knowing the projects to be reallocated.

3. Steering Committee yields the reallocation decision to the SC Chairs

**6. Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP) Updates**

* The purpose of this project is to provide technical assistance to the CTBOS CoC Steering Committee and to increase the quantity and quality of involvement by persons with lived experience of homelessness (consumers) in BOS.
* Currently, CSH is interviewing for a CSH fellow to be part of this project.
* CLIP held focus groups and the suggestions were made to hold the following trainings for the Steering Committee: Race and Racism 101; Race Consciousness Recommendations; Interrupting and Redirecting Microaggressions; Creating Intentional Space.
* CLIP is proposing that there be a new sub-committee of CT BOS Ambassadors made up of Persons with Lived Expertise (PWLE) and CTBOS Steering Committee Members. These ambassadors would collaborate on how to create ongoing meaningful engagement of PWLE and help to create an inclusive culture and community.

**7. HUD Race Equity Demo**

* Goal of this Equity Demo is to design and adopt a system-wide equitable assessment and prioritization process that helps to increase racially equitable housing stability outcomes.
* Currently CT BOS is working with the HUD TA team to review statewide data and develop plan to address inequities.

**8. Overview of CT BOS Policy Changes**

* + - Permanent Supportive Housing Prioritization Criteria
* CT BOS SC approved the proposed PSH Prioritization Criteria for the CAN Policies thru the Survey Monkey vote. Click for CAN policies: [Updated CAN Policies](https://www.ctbos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CT-Coord-Access-Network-Polices-Procedures-2021.01.11.pdf)
* Clarification on DedicatedPLUS definition:
* BOS received AAQ response (1/11/21) from HUD clarifying requirements related to this category of people eligible for PSH under the DedicatedPLUS definition:
* Reside in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, or unsheltered location and had been admitted and enrolled in a PSH or RRH project (having met CH criteria upon entering) within last year, but was unable to maintain housing placement.
* HUD clarified that this category includes only:

 People who were admitted for entry, enrolled in the permanent housing project, and exited that project -- all within the previous twelve months from the date of intake into the DedicatedPLUS project.

* + - Updated Eligibility Verification Tools
* Homeless eligibility verification documents were updated on 1/11/21. Please replace the old versions with these updated documents.
* CT BOS CoC Homeless Verification Form: [Click here](https://www.ctbos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CT-BOS-CoC-Homelessness-Verification-Form-Ded-Plus-Edits-v11-.docx)
* Sample Letters Documenting DedicatedPLUS: [Click here](https://www.ctbos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Sample-Letters-Ded-v4.docx)

**9. BOS Strategic Plan Updates**

* Improvements to CoC
	+ CT BOS offered a webinar, An Introduction to the CT Balance of State Continuum of Care to orient new members and provide a refresher for current members and is offering it again 3/30/21.
	+ BOS can accept applications & other provider information in the BOS database, Zengine.
	+ BOS recruited a new Co-Chair & and added DOL as a SC member.
* Addressing Inequities in Care
* CT BOS PSH bonus project funded to improve services in permanent housing so that tenants who are not receiving services can get services.
* When new HUD CoC funding is available, BOS will continue to allow providers to request services funding to address gaps in care.
* BOS kicked off Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP).
* Document Reaching Home and CoC roles and responsibilities
* Governance document was updated clarifying relationship and how decisions are made.

**10. Feedback from Steering Committee**

* CT BOS is seeking feedback from the BOS community on what is working well and where there is room for improvement with regard to BOS operations/processes. Please send feedback to ctboscoc@gmail.com. It is anticipated that BOS will hold a strategic planning session at the January 2022 Semi-annual meeting.

**11. SC Meeting Schedule for 2020**

(generally 3rd Friday of each month)

* February 19, 2021; 11-12
* March 19, 2021; 11-12
* April 16, 2021; 11-12
* May 21, 2021; 11-12
* June 18, 2021; 11-12
* **12. COVID-19 Office Hours** - 2/5/21