CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
9/18/26 - 11:00 am – 12:30pm

For more detail on the agenda items below, please see the slides, which start on Page 4.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Guidelines for BOS Meetings**

3. **Approve July Meeting Minutes – minutes approved by consensus**

4. **Announcements**
   - Debrief post-Steering Committee mtg
   - Call for Nominations for BOS SC representative from the Probate, Mental Health or Drug Treatment Court systems – nominations due 10/5
   - PIT Count Date, PIT Trainings & Data Submission Deadlines
   - HMIS Verification of Homelessness Required 10/1/26
   - Updates to HUSKY
     - Participants were interested in how DSS was handling the changes and what advice could they provide. f/u: Cassie will reach out to her DSS colleagues and report back.
   - $300 State Resource available to Replace Lost SNAP benefits
   - Access Free NEW Beds: https://www.ctbeds.org
   - National Alliance to End Homelessness Transitional Housing Survey
   - Semi-annual Meeting Announcement – 11/19 (11-1) at State Community College Middlesex, Chapman Hall

5. **Data Strategy Board Updates**
   - Vote on HMIS Vendor
     - **Motion: Approve the RFP process used to identify an HMIS system for the CT Balance of State Continuum of Care and designate the HMIS system (Bitfocus) selected through that process, consistent with the DSB Governance Charter. Motion passes by consensus.**
   - Updated HMIS P&P
   - AI Policy
   - AI Policy Checklist

6. **Federal Updates & CoC Competition**
   - Lawsuit and NOFO Updates
   - FY27 Federal Budget Update
     - It was noted that CCEH have a meeting with Senator Murphy and Representative DeLauro and will advocate for HUD to automatically renew funding if funding can't get out by 12/1. CCEH is also going to send out advocacy template once NAEH sends out theirs.

- OMB's proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200)
- Proposed enhanced financial reporting for grants subject to special conditions.

7. **2026 Renewal Evaluation Results Presentation**
   - Spending
   - BOS Survey Results
   - DMHAS Survey Results

8. **Break-outs**
   - What results stood out to you most?
     - The impact of housing affordability on spend-down - difficulty of placing people means can't spend down as fast.
     - We also discussed the reduced % of people feeling safe in facilities, and reduced % of people who felt they could resolve their crisis
     - The need for employment or community services for everyone on Medicaid and hoping guidance on documenting that would be forthcoming.
     - The declining service satisfaction score likely tied to inability of providers to meet the ever-growing needs of the high acuity participants. (Lack of sufficient resources)
     - Need more transparency on where the underspending is.
   - Are there any supports CT BOS could provide to improve spending performance or participant satisfaction?
     - Suggestion was made to include very small dosage recorded trainings (ex. 10 minutes) on how to work some of the areas into case management. Sometimes, those nuanced elements get lost in the focus on getting people housed, or keeping people housed (or covering for other staff vacancies).
     - Could we ever figure out a way to use money across programs via bi-directional referrals to make sure we spend down between contracts?
     - The questions about giving input and filing complaints are worded in a difficult way.
   - Any best practices providers want to share?

9. **Partner Announcements & Other Business**
   - Reminder - SOAR is available in every CAN – help apply for SSI/SSDI. Link to SOAR information
   - It was noted that while there is often a CAN waitlist for SOAR, it moves quickly.
   - CHFA noted that there is a study underway conducted by the Urban Institute on supportive housing statewide
   - Flex funds should be available by 10/1

10. **Steering Committee Meeting Schedule**
    - Sept 18, 2026; 11-12:30
    - Oct 16, 2026; 11-12:30
    - Nov 19, 2026; 11-1:00 –Semi-annual Meeting
    - Dec 18, 2026; 11-12:30
    - Jan 15, 2027; 11-12:30

- Feb 19, 2027; 11-12:30
- March 19, 2027; 11-12:30
- April 16, 2027; 11-12:30
- May 21, 2027; 11-1:00 – tentatively scheduled Semi-annual Meeting
- June 11, 2027; 11-12:30

CT Balance of State (CT BOS) Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee Meeting

September 18, 2026

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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Guidelines for BOS Meetings
- Adopt July Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- Data Strategy Board –Updates & Vote
- Federal Updates & CoC Competition
- 2026 Renewal Evaluation Results Presentation
- Break-Out Discussions
- Partner Announcements
- Other Business
- Meeting Schedule

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BOS Co-Chairs

Alice Minervino
Steve DiLella
John Merz
Stephanie Lazarus

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CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

- Be present and listen actively
- Choose courage over comfort
- Participate to the fullest of your ability
- Take space, make space
- Assume good intent, but also acknowledge impact
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Use "I" statements
- Recognize emotional tax, extra labor, and burden that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Latino/a/x, LGBTQ+, persons with Behavioral Health issues, DV survivors, Veterans and people with lived expertise/experience of homelessness face in some conversations
- Honor the Conflicts of Interest Policy

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Approve July Meeting Minutes

Draft July 2026 BOS Steering Committee Minutes

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Reminder: Post Steering Committee Debrief

- Anyone who has questions or comments about Steering Committee business can stay on at the end of the monthly zoom meeting.
- As always, questions/comments can also be sent CTBOSCoC@gmail.com or call a team member any time!

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Call for Nominations for One Seat as BOS SC Representative

- Managing Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and/or other civil commitment processes or
- From specialty courts (e.g., Mental Health Court, Drug Court, Care Court.)
- Please send nominations by 10/5 to ctboscoc@gmail.com

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PIT Count Date Data Submission Deadlines

CT Point-in-time Page – Updates & Training Registrations

2027 PIT Frequently Asked Questions

October 6, 2026	**HIC (Housing Inventory Count) Training**
October 21, 2026	**HIC Confirmation Due Date**
January 6, 2027	**PIT Training**
January 26, 2027	**PIT Count Date**
February 2, 2027	**PIT Data Entry and Confirmation Due Date**

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HMIS Verification of Homelessness

Required effective 10/1/26 verification of homelessness must be documented using HMIS

CT HMIS Project: Homeless Verification Views Training

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Prepare HUSKY D Participants for 2027

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

80 hours work requirement per month

- Most HUSKY D members ages 19–64 must work or participate in community engagement activities to keep coverage.

What counts

A job • Job training or education
Volunteering or community service • Any combination

Some members are exempt!

Exemptions may apply because of disability, age, caregiving responsibilities, or other circumstances.

How partners can help!

Direct members to the HUSKY Pre Screener, help them update contact information, and clarify what activities count.

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$300 in State-funded Food Assistance Available!

- Department of Social Services partnered with Community Action Agencies (CAA) to distribute one-time $300 grocery card to those who have lost their SNAP benefits due to federal work rules eligibility changes.
- Individuals who have lost their SNAP benefits because of these changes should reach out directly to their local CAA
- Deadline is 11/30/26

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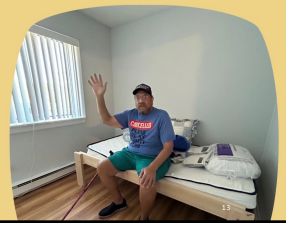
CT BEDS

Access Free NEW BEDS!

https://www.ctbeds.org



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NAEH: Transitional Housing Landscape & Field Needs Survey

- Survey seeks to understand:
  - How Transitional Housing (TH) is currently being used by service providers and communities.
  - What is working well and what challenges exist with TH in local homeless response systems.
  - Perspectives on the potential future role of TH, including concerns, opportunities, and community needs.
  - What guidance, resources, technical assistance, or peer learning would be most helpful.
- Responses are anonymous

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CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence Training: Recognizing Domestic Violence & Supporting Survivors

Training Description

- CCADV will provide this training on two different dates
  - 10/8 & 10/22 from 1pm-3pm
  - Meeting Link
- This interactive foundational training introduces participants to domestic violence, coercive control, and the patterns and tactics used to maintain power and control in abusive relationships
- Training will describe the many forms of abuse and highlight the impact of violence on survivors and children exposed to domestic violence
- Participants will learn how best to support survivors and connect them with available resources in Connecticut

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Semi-Annual Meeting Announcement

CT State Community College Middlesex – Chapman Hall

- **Thursday**
- November 19, 2026
- 11:00 am -1:00 pm
- Parking available
- 100 Training Hill Rd, Middletown, CT 06457

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Data Strategy Board Updates

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BOS CoC Vote - HMIS Software Selection

Data Strategy Board completed a comprehensive RFP and evaluated statewide HMIS vendor proposals

The DSB governance charter requires official BOS CoC approval of the process and its results

MOTION
Approve the RFP process used to identify an HMIS system for the CT Balance of State Continuum of Care and designate the HMIS system (Bitfocus) selected through that process, consistent with the DSB Governance Charter.

HMIS Software Recommendation LTR

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Connecticut Homeless Management Information System Policies and Procedures Manual updated: 8/27/26

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New HMIS AI Policy

Never enter client data into an unsecured AI tool

What counts as client data

- Names and identifying details, including demographics
- Case notes, histories, assessments & narrative descriptions
- Service records, program enrollment & outcomes
- Any HMIS-derived info—or combined details that could identify someone

Your responsibilities

- Use only agency-approved tools and practices
- Follow agency procedures and complete required training
- Verify AI-generated content before using it
- Report suspected violations promptly

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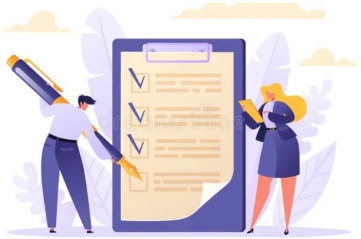

HMIS & AI: Participating Agency Self-Reflection Checklist

Designed to help understand how AI is being used & identify potential privacy, confidentiality, security, and compliance risks

Checklist includes:

- Understanding Our AI Use
- AI and Client Data
- AI Security and Oversight
- Personal Accounts and Devices
- Leadership Assessment

HMIS & AI Participating Agency Checklist

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Federal Updates & CoC Competition

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CoC Competition Updates

- On 8/7, the federal district court in Rhode Island vacated HUD's FY 2026 CoC NOFO
- HUD appealed the ruling to the First Circuit
- On 9/16, Court issued a stay on lower court decision
- **HUD may proceed with the current NOFO**
- Underlying appeal is still pending - this is not a final ruling on the merits
- HUD has not yet communicated about the NOFO – deadlines, etc

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FY27 Federal Budget Update

FY 2027 Federal Budget - funds the 2027 Competition (grants starting in CY2028)

- On 9/1 the House **passed the Senate version of a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government through 12/11/26.**
- Delays through 12/11/26 the OMB proposed rule expanding federal agencies' authority to suspend or terminate awards and increasing grant recipient responsibilities for subrecipient oversight.
- Lawmakers to negotiate FY2027 appropriations bills in November & December providing another chance to safeguard CoC funding!
- Advocates are expected to resume calls for Congress to provide guardrails that could possibly mitigate some of the current NOFO provisions
- FY2027 Appropriations Advocacy Activation Toolkit

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HUD Seeks Public Comment on CoC Incentive Activities

- On 8/7, the U.S. District Court (RI) held that HUD could not issue its FY 2026 CoC Competition w/out going through notice & comment to establish a set-aside for:
  - Transitional housing and "supportive services only" projects
- HUD released request for public comment on 9/11
- Addresses the research behind supportive services only, transitional housing, sober housing, law enforcement engagement
- Comments due by 10/13/26
- Respond if you can. Even a short paragraph. NAEH providing guidance.

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Proposed revisions to OMB Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200)

- Expands federal oversight and federal agencies' authority to suspend or terminate certain awards.
- Increases grant recipient responsibilities for subrecipient oversight
- Was intended to take effect on 10/1/26
- Senate Continuing Resolution prohibits implementation through 12/11/26 (CR is not yet law).

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HUD proposed enhanced financial reporting

- Applies to grants subject to related special conditions
- Affected recipients submit records through a new portal—generally quarterly (invoices, proof of payment, and certain subaward agreements or contracts)
- Records would support expenditures made by recipients, subrecipients, and contractors.
- Would not automatically apply to every CoC grant
- HUD estimates that up to 30,000 HUD grantees could be affected.

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More about special conditions…

- Per Uniform Guidance (2 CFR § 200.208), federal agencies may impose special conditions based on a risk assessment
- Factors HUD may consider include:
  - ✓ A recipient's history of compliance with federal awards
  - ✓ Whether the recipient has demonstrated the ability to meet performance expectations
  - ✓ Financial management capacity
  - ✓ Information from government-wide responsibility databases and other available risk information

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BOS Spending & Participant Survey Results

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BOS Expenditure Rate 2024-2026

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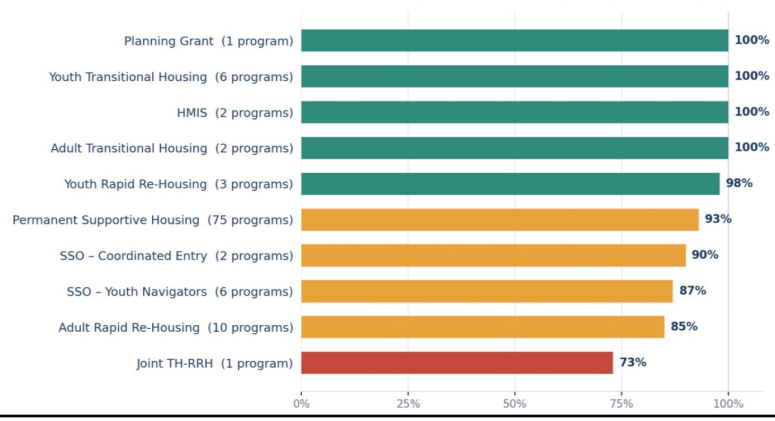
BOS Spending by Program Type



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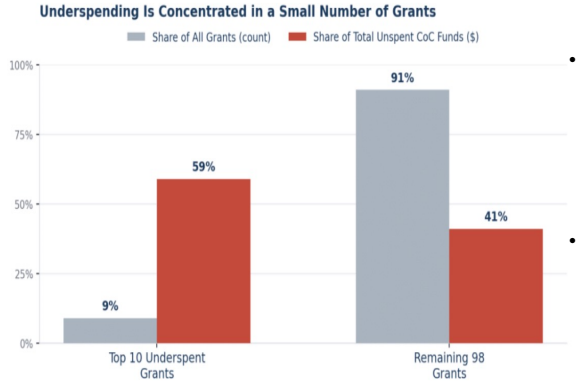
BOS Underspending



- The 10 grants with the largest unspent balances (about 9% of all grants) hold 59% of total unspent CoC funds.
- The 2 single largest unspent balances alone account for 31% of all unspent CoC funds CoC-wide

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CT BOS & DMHAS Participant Survey Results

TOTAL RESPONDENTS (2026)	DMHAS SATISFACTION	BOS-WIDE SATISFACTION	SURVEY PARTICIPATION GROWTH
2,112	**95%**	**93%**	**+28%**
499 DMHAS + 1,613 CT BOS	"I like the services I receive here"	Services needs being met	2025 to 2026 (1,655 → 2,112 respondents)

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CT BOS Participant Survey Responses

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BOS Responses Over Last Three Years

Survey Item (% Positive Response)	2024	2025	2026	3-Yr Trend
Services needs are being met (Always/Most of the time)	92%	93%	93%	▲ +1 pts
Quality of life improved (Greatly/Somewhat)	94%	94%	94%	— flat
Can make decisions without facing retaliation	92%	92%	92%	— flat
Treated with dignity and respect by staff	84%	87%	87%	▲ +3 pts
Feel safe in the program / facility	81%	81%	78%	▼ -3 pts
Facility is clean and well maintained	78%	78%	80%	▲ +2 pts
Confident personal information is kept secure	98%	99%	99%	▲ +1 pts
Received information on how to file a complaint	54%	68%	66%	▲ +12 pts
Had a chance to give input into the program	68%	69%	76%	▲ +8 pts
Complaint handled in a timely manner (of filers)	81%	86%	85%	▲ +4 pts
Complaint process easy to access (of filers)	81%	79%	79%	▼ -2 pts
Received requested referral (of those who asked)	72%	72%	75%	▲ +3 pts

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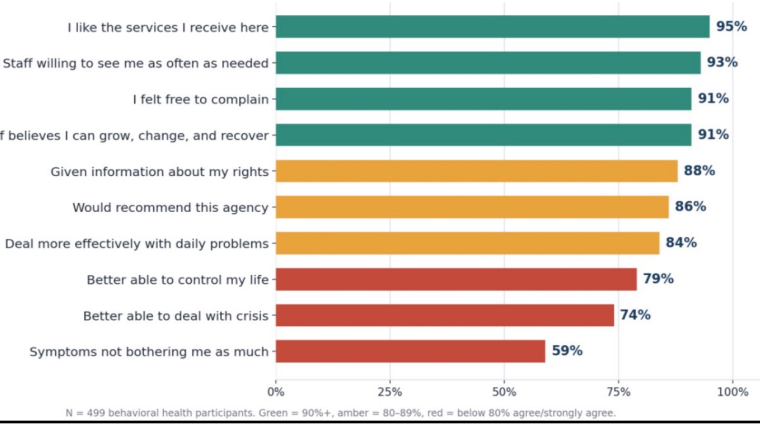
DMHAS Participant Survey Responses



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DMHAS Responses Over Last Three Years

Survey Item (% Agree or Strongly Agree)	2024	2025	2026	3-Yr Trend
I like the services I receive here	96%	97%	95%	▼ -1 pts
Staff willing to see me as often as needed	94%	95%	93%	▼ -1 pts
Staff believes I can grow, change, and recover	93%	94%	91%	▼ -2 pts
I felt free to complain	93%	92%	91%	▼ -2 pts
Given information about my rights	—	—	88%	n/a
Would recommend this agency to a friend or family	95%	93%	86%	▼ -9 pts
Deal more effectively with daily problems	85%	88%	84%	▼ -1 pts
Better able to control my life	88%	89%	79%	▼ -9 pts
Better able to deal with crisis	87%	85%	74%	▼ -13 pts
Getting along better with family	—	—	65%	n/a
Better in social situations	—	—	70%	n/a
Symptoms not bothering me as much	—	—	59%	n/a

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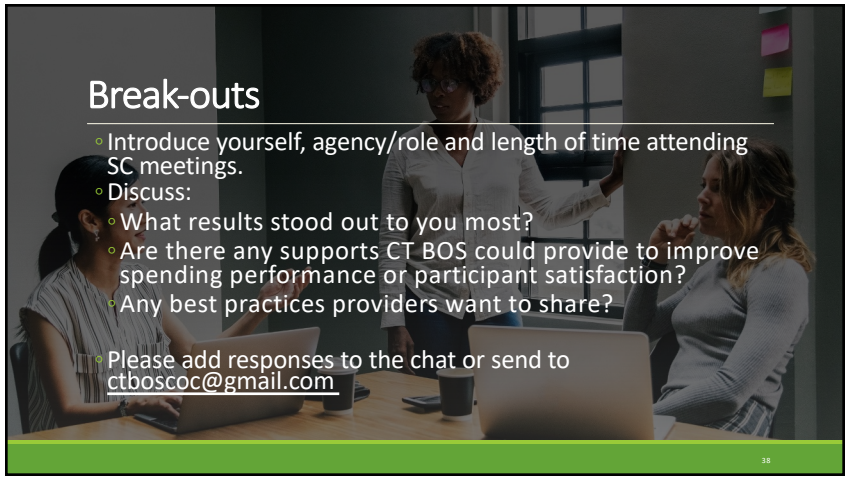

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Partner Announcements

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Other Business?

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Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings

Meetings are from 11:00-12:30 unless otherwise noted

- Oct 16, 2026
- Nov 19, 2026*
- Dec 18, 2026
- January 15, 2027
- February 19, 2027
- March 19, 2027
- April 16, 2027
- May 21, 2027
- June 11, 2027

Zoom Info for all SC meetings:

- Meeting link
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number: 646-876-9923

*Semi-annual Meeting scheduled in person 11am-1pm

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CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)

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