

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

June 16, 2023



Agenda

- Welcome and Chairs Introductions
- Guidelines for BOS Meetings
- Adopt May Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP) Updates
- Project Renewal Evaluation - votes
- Mobile Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Presentation MAT
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Updates to Code of Conduct
- Other Business



CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP) Consultants.



- 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 Conflict of Interest Policy



Reminders

- Input is welcome!
- Please unmute or use chat.
- To provide anonymous input, please send a message to a member of the CT BOS support team:
 - Lauren Pareti
 - Liz Isaacs

Approve CT BOS May 2023 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



CT BOS May 2023 SC mtg minutes

Announcements



CT BOS Steering Committee Community Representatives – beginning 7/1/23

CT BOS Youth Community Representatives:

Joel Danso Aboagye & Tanya Casillo

CT BOS Community Representatives:

- Tania Banks
- Heather Craven
- Aleena Durant
- Melissa Dzierlatka
- Michael Moore
- Sonia Soto

Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Representatives



- Greater Hartford: Rebekah Lyas & Amanda Gordon
- Eastern: Fenty Lee & Kim Jakowski
- Middlesex/Meriden/Wallingford (MMW): Manssour Hahn & Deanna Bencivengo
- Western: Samantha Arruda & Nancy Cannavo
- New Haven: Nikki Barnofski & Cathleen Meaden
- Central: Christine Thebarger & Caitlin Rose
- [Link to CAN Rep Contact Info](#)



Reminder: CT BOS Attendance Policy

- Attendance will be recorded at all Steering and committee meetings.
- Members are expected to have at least an 80% attendance rate at all Steering Committee meetings.



Action Required Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) Review!

- GIW lists all HUD CoC renewal projects
- Please review the GIW to ensure that your project information is correct
- Send any GIW changes to ctboscoc@gmail.com no later than 6/20

Monthly Steering Committee (SC) Debrief Suspended



- There were very few participants at the March and April debrief meetings.
- These will be suspended until/unless there is renewed interest.

CT BOS Equal Access Training – 7/18/23 1-3pm

Training will cover:

- CT BOS LGBTQIA+ Policy
- HUD's Equal Access Rules
- Sample agency level Anti-Discrimination Policy
- CT CAN policy on separating families

Equal Access Training: 7/18/23 1-3pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 823 0737 1561

Passcode: 860300

Call-in: 646-931-3860

[CT BOS LGBTQIA Policy](#)



Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwinding

*Preparing for the end of the
COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*

June 2023

Medicaid/HUSKY Impact Timeline



- Medicaid Continuous Enrollment provision ended
- Households that were previously extended will have to complete a full eligibility evaluation (renewal) at a pre-determined time over the course of the 12-month unwinding period (staggered renewal dates)



- COVID-19 limited benefits coverage ended
 - First round of outreach to population in Oct 2022; received additional notice on May 1, 2023
 - Encouraged to explore eligibility for other coverage

Pathways for HUSKY Renewal

Passive Renewal

Computerized process that checks for renewal

Passive renewal
attempted on ~3/4/23
whose renewal is due
4/30/23

Renewal
completed;
household
advised to
report any
changes

45 days to
complete
renewal

**if passive renewal not
successful**

Manual Renewal

Clients have to manually renew

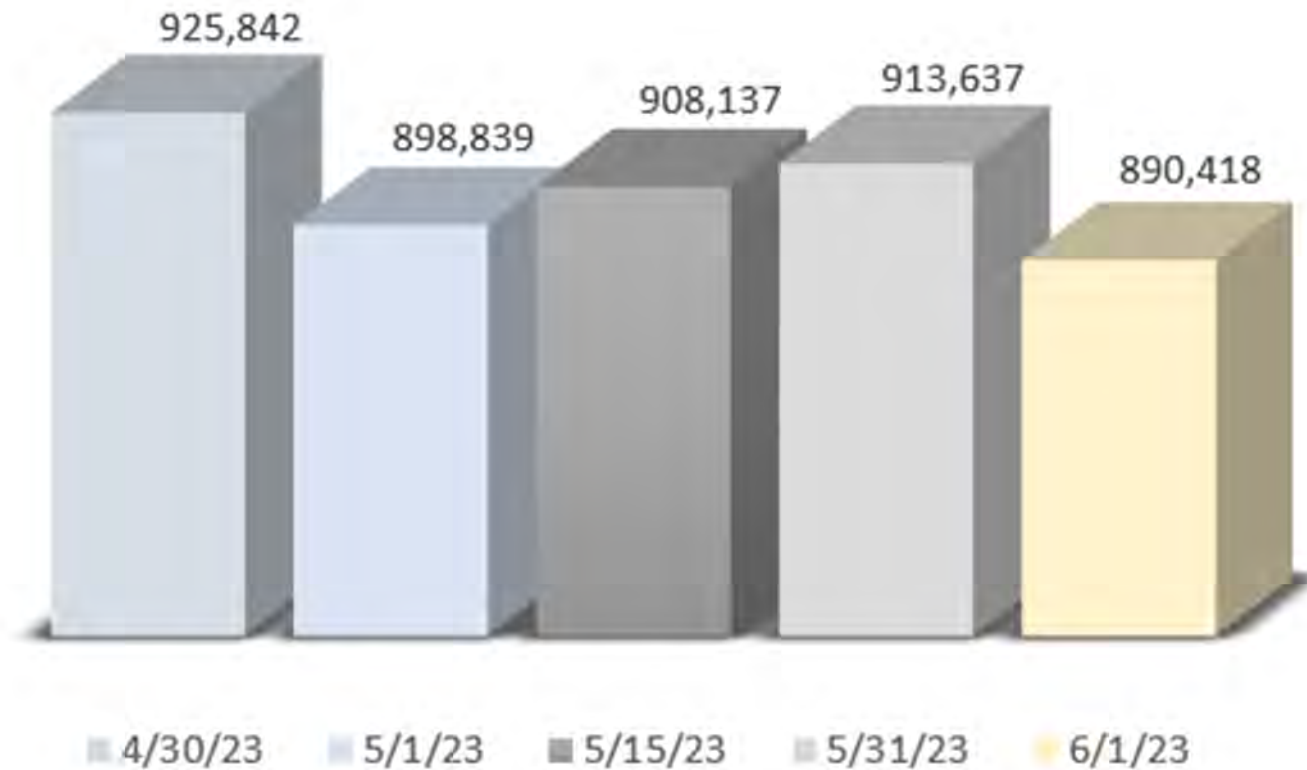
Renewal notices
will be sent out by
the 15th of every
month to
members who
need to renew by
end of following
month

Individuals over income
for continued HUSKY
coverage may move to
Transitional Medical
Assistance (TMA),
Covered CT, HUSKY B, or a
Qualified Health Plan
(QHP)

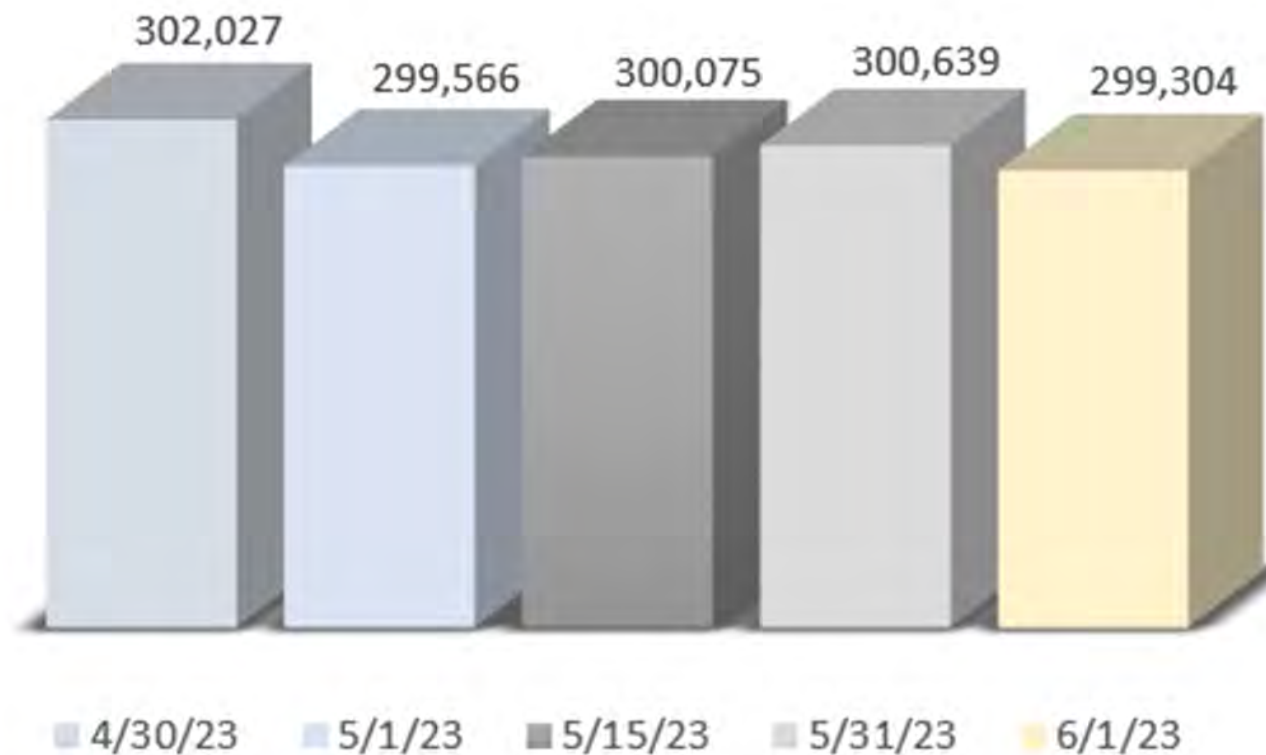
Integration with Access
Health CT will allow them
to know which coverage
they are eligible for

This staggered approach will allow DSS to control the flow of renewals and operational load throughout the 12 months after the PHE ends. It will also help to even workloads in future years.

HUSKY A, B, D Enrollment April – June 2023

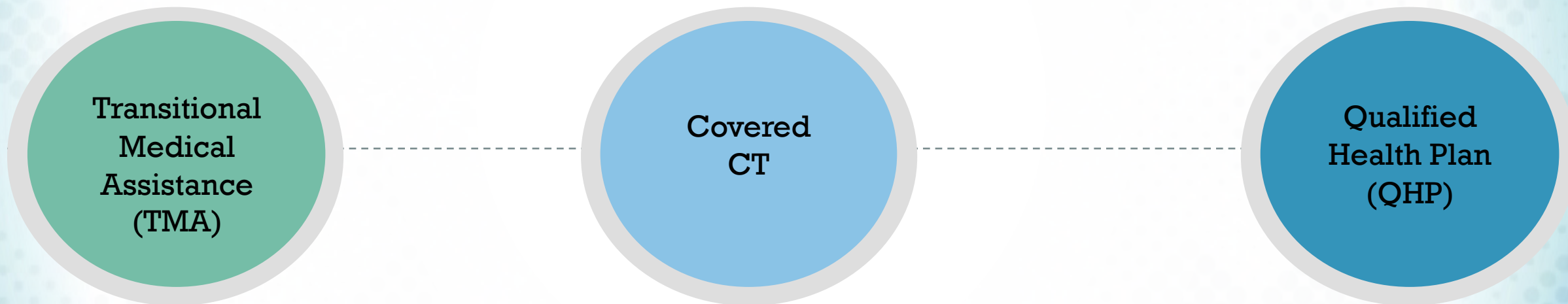


HUSKY C & MSP Enrollment April – June 2023



Other Coverage Options (*TMA, Covered CT, QHPs*)

Households who are no longer eligible for HUSKY due to increased income will be evaluated for the following programs, as appropriate:



Consumers receive real-time eligibility determinations for all forms of coverage via Access Health CT

How Can You Help?

Here are some steps you can take to support the PHE unwinding:

1. **Share this information** with individuals who receive DSS benefits.
2. **Share materials** on social media, keep up to date and see communications tools for partners on the [Unwinding Toolkit](#)
3. **Help HUSKY members stay updated:** ask people who receive benefits from DSS to update their contact information with us if they have any changes. Direct them to the [Update Us So We Can Update You](#) webpage.
4. **Ask us questions:** Help us help you by requesting information.

Questions?

HUD NSPIRE Standards to Replace HQS

(HQS: Housing Quality Standards; NSPIRE: National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate)

NSPIRE will be required for all HUD programs – new requirements take effect 10/1/23

NSPIRE is rolling out first to public housing then to housing choice vouchers

HUD recently released information on NSPIRE training for the HOPWA program.

HUD has not released details regarding roll-out to the CoC program.

NSPIRE Overview



- Goal is a simpler process focused on health & safety not appearance
- Fewer standards than HQS
- Includes inspection of individual units, inside public areas, & outside of the structure
- Self-inspection required annually – using electronic submission that enables photo uploads
- Third-party inspection required every 1-3 years depending on self-inspection outcomes

Do providers want to have a demo of CaseWorthy Client Portal?



Features include:

- Direct access for clients to their data.
- Clients can upload documents from a phone.
- Clients can correct information - with controls on what can be corrected (e.g., phone number).
- Clients can view referral status.
- Clients can sign forms.
- Automated text/email reminders for appointments.



ENGAGING PWLE

CLIP Learning Collaborative: Session One
06.16.23

Group Agreements

- 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) and people with lived experience face in some conversations
- Anything else?

INTRODUCTIONS

My name is Ebony and I would like the steering committee to think on how to establish continued case management once the consumer is housed. Having the consumer connected with case management can get the consumer engaged in services that will assist in a better way of life. Having consumers work on trainings and activities that will help them in their search for employment. These are the things I'd like to see worked on.



Theresa is a PSH resident of Westport with over 5 years of lived experience. Her current iteration is as a freelance writer and editor, and she's originally from NYC. She has a passion for helping others who are unhoused and overall affordable housing policy.



My name is Raven Johnson I live in New London CT. I have homeless experience not just here but also in a different state. My experience of getting housed while being homeless was completely different in both states. Here, I was able to be placed in a homeless shelter with my kids because of the space available after getting connected with 2-1-1. After that, I was placed in transitional housing where I was connected with numerous services that helped me and my family. I have enjoyed learning about what goes on during the steering committee meetings. Approving funding is needed in order to help the homeless and get people placed in housing. I love that we who have homeless expertise are able to provide insight from our own experiences in order to help with the decision-making of issues or topics brought forth in the meetings.



Aleena Durant is a first-generation graduate, a Youth leader, a social activist, and an outstanding mother. In 2012, Capital Workforce Partners Workforce Star presented her with the Youth Career Seeker Award, was also the recipient of the Marie Kirkley-Bey Youth Employment and Achievement Award. Involved with the Self Defense Brigade since 2018, Aleena has been developing a grass root, independent organization for Empowerment and Development, whose purpose is to be a support network for civic engagement, mental health awareness, and inner body positivity. She is currently attending Goodwin College in hopes of obtaining her associate degree in business administration.



Hi, my name is Tracy Samuels, and I am someone who has experienced homelessness. I want to help those experiencing homelessness now by pointing them in the right direction so they don't go through the same struggles that I had.



My name is Nick Galella and I represent Fairfield County for CLIP. I am passionate about identifying problems with the current supportive housing system and establishing creative solutions geared towards a more equitable future for all.



This is not an actual picture of Nick! 😊

Icebreaker?

How do you like to be engaged?



Expectations

- **To Feel Appreciated**
- **To Be Valued**
- **Reminder to Practice Active Listening**



DI·VER·SI·TY

All the ways in which people differ.



EQ·UI·TY

Fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people. One's identity cannot predict the outcome.



IN·CLU·SION

A variety of people have power, a voice, and decision-making authority.



Intentional Collaboration

“People with lived experience are often put on committees for our expertise and to bring reality to the group, but how often are we really listened to? Most committees are comprised of people with no experience of the homeless situation. Lived expertise is needed to help steer policy and decision-making in the appropriate direction.”

(<https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LEAC-7principles-final.pdf>)

CLIP! What is Happening Now?

- CLIP Cohort I members are voting on projects, serving on advisories, informing consumer surveys, and participating on panels! CLIP members are collaborating with other participants to bring change, equity, and representation to everyone.
- Are there other ways for CLIP II to be more involved and invested in the Steering Committees' processes and procedures?

Accountability & Transparency

Having PWLE involved in all stages of the housing system, ensures transparency and accountability when it comes to securing funding and the delivery of services.



Where We Want to Go...

- We are excited about the vote to remove the restriction on Community Representatives from gaining employment by an agency receiving CoC funds.
- The CoC will benefit from having PWLE at every level of the housing process, from intake at an agency, to voting on NOFO's. Our voice and contributions are necessary to advance the housing system here in Connecticut.
- Advocacy! We know that advocating is the next step in the advancement of PWLE's. We look forward to working toward this goal.



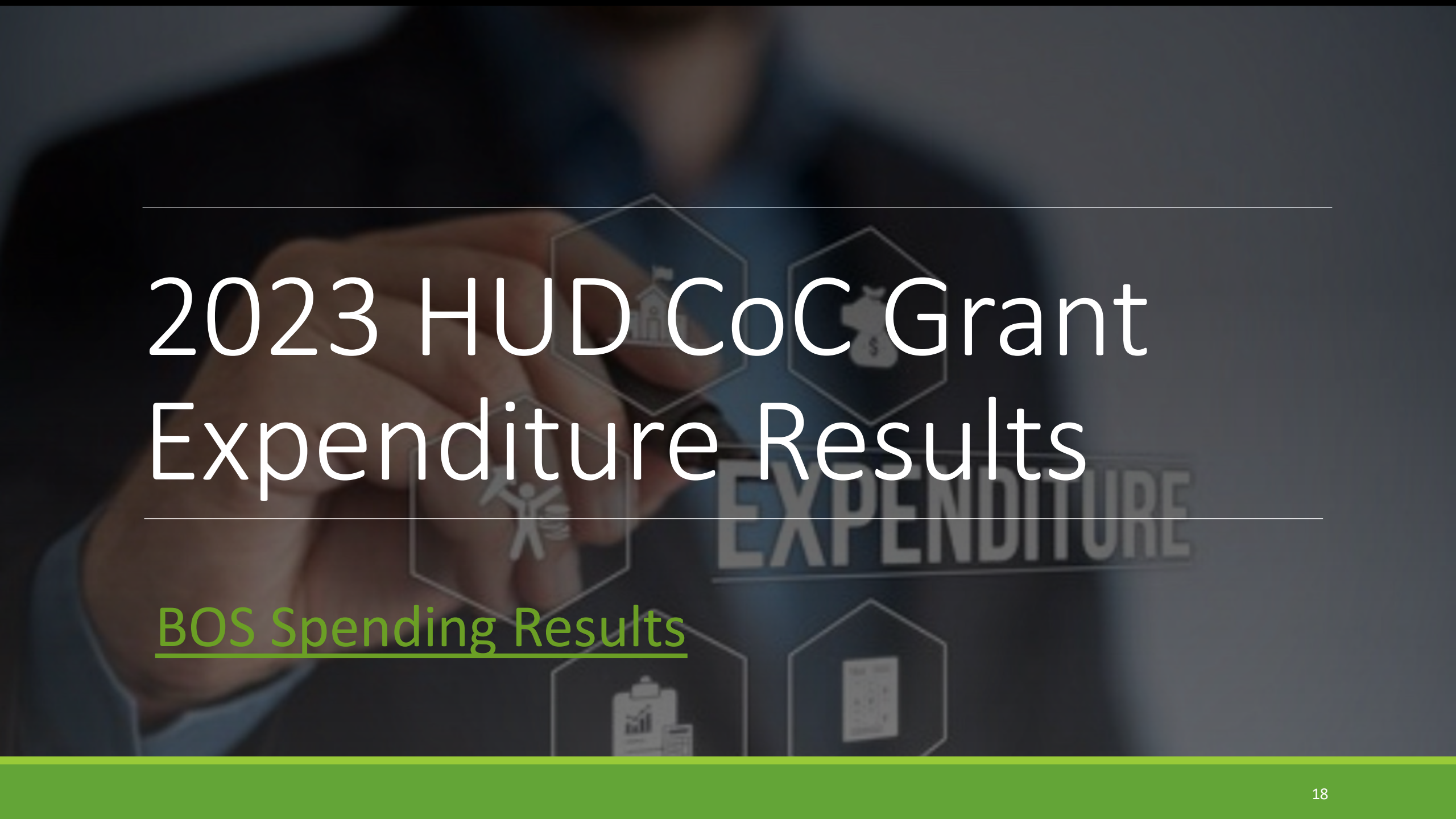
QUESTIONS??



THANK
You! 😊

CT BOS Renewal Project Evaluation

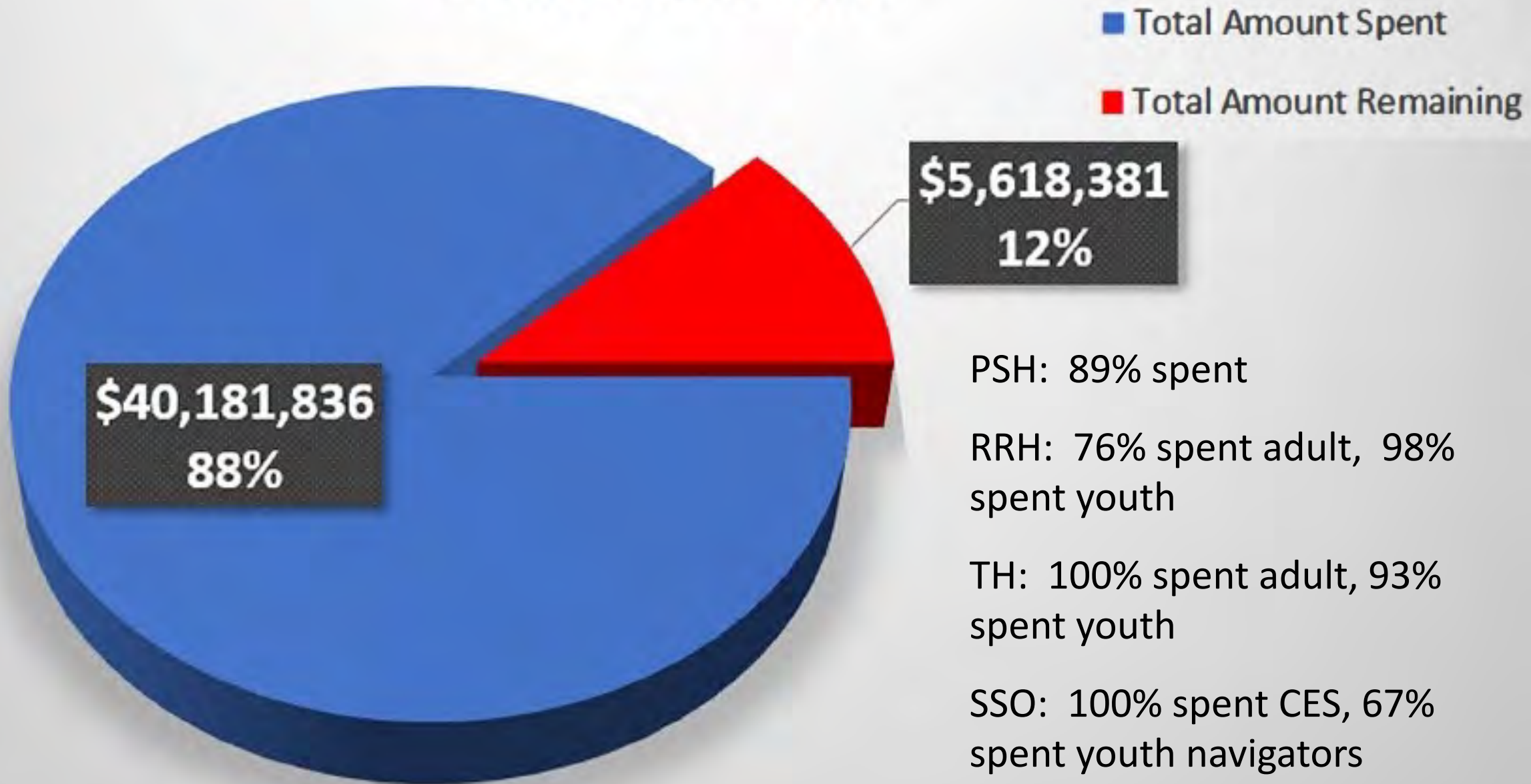




2023 HUD CoC Grant Expenditure Results

BOS Spending Results

104 HUD Grants





Breakout Rooms

- Introduce yourself, your role and how long you have been attending BOS meetings
- Discussion prompt:
 - What can the CoC do to help agencies improve spending rates on CoC grants?
- *Please identify at least one person to add a few of your group's ideas to the chat box when you return from the breakout session.*



Renewal Evaluation Results

Vote Today:
Distribute
scores?

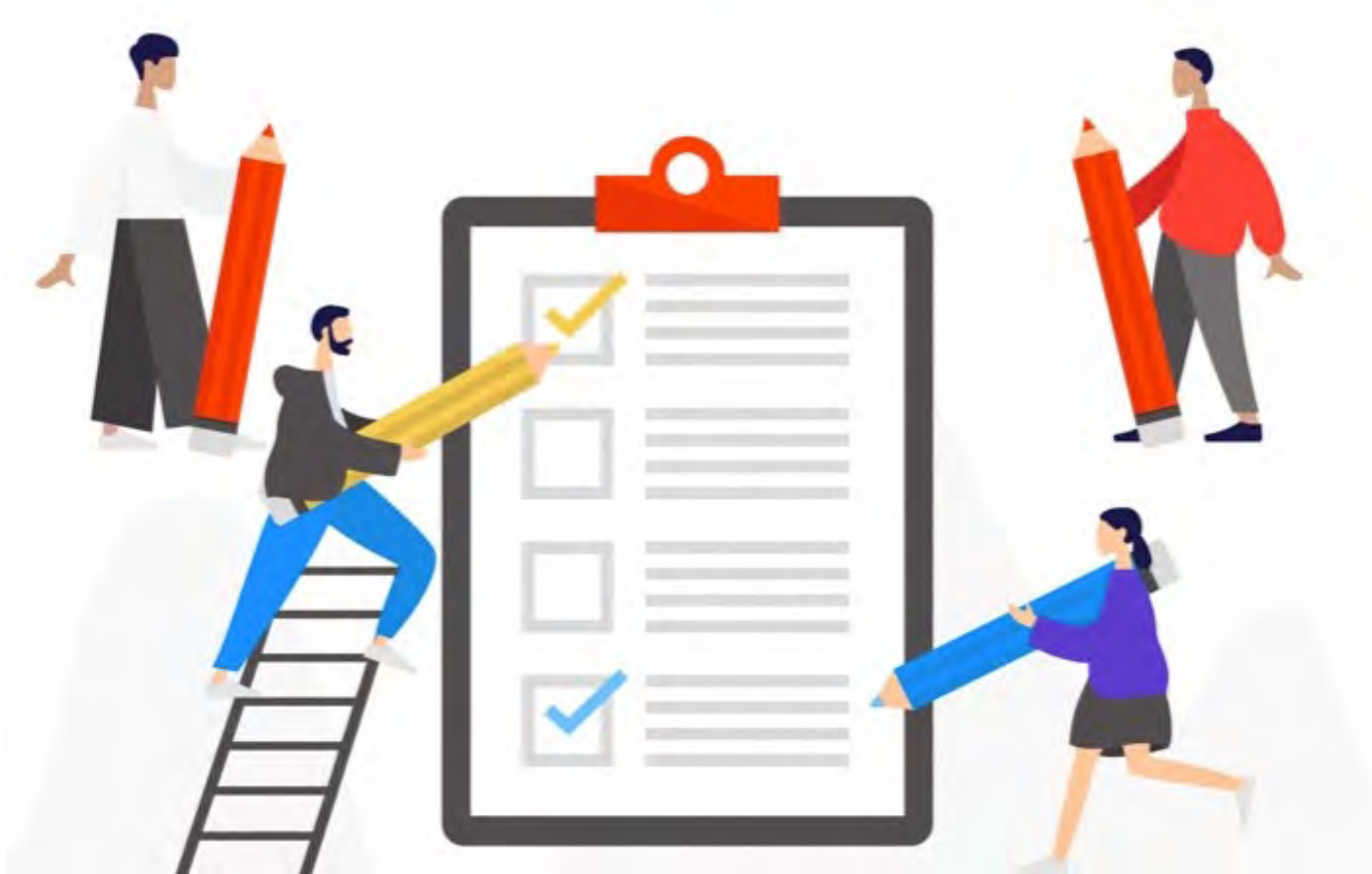
Options:

- with agency names
- without agency names
- not at all



Who can vote?

- Community Reps: Melissa Dzierlatka, Natalie Mazzone, Teth Pickens, Diamond Lovett, Richard Coleman, Lisa Scott, Angel Cotto
- CT Department of Labor
- CT Department of Social Services
- CT Department of Education
- CT Department of Correction
- CT Department of Children and Families
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Partnership for Strong Communities



Proposed 2024 Renewal Evaluation Criteria

- Vote today!

[CT BOS Renewal Evaluation Scoring Adults](#)
[CT BOS Renewal Evaluation Scoring Youth](#)

CT BOS Unchanged Renewal Evaluation Criteria



- Occupancy (based on quarterly unit utilization): 90%
- YDHP Crisis TH & Youth PSH: Occupancy (based on quarterly unit utilization): 90%
- Adult Programs & Youth TH: All adult participants with NON-CASH benefits excluding health insurance: 95%, DV 76%
- Youth PSH, RRH & TH, YHDP Crisis TH, RRH: Percentage of adult participants who increased EARNED INCOME from entry to exit/follow-up: PSH 20%, TH 20%
- Adult DV TH: LOS is 2 years or less: 100%
- Youth TH: LOS is 1 year or less; 90%
- YHDP Crisis TH: LOS is 60 days or less: 55%

CT BOS Unchanged Renewal Evaluation Criteria (2)



- PSH: Percentage of participants who remain in PSH or exited to permanent housing: 95%
- RRH and TH: Percentage of leavers who exited to Permanent Housing: Adults RRH & TH, Youth TH 95%; YHDP Crisis TH 60%
- Youth/YHDP RRH, RRH Div/Re, YHDP Crisis TH: Percentage of leavers who exited to homeless shelter, unsheltered or unknown: less than 5%
- Consumer Surveys - Response Rate: 35%
- Lateness Penalty: 5 points deducted for each late item
- Contacts Penalty: 2 points deducted for not updating/confirming Zengine Contacts

CT BOS Unchanged Renewal Evaluation Criteria (tracked not scored) (3)



- PSH & RRH Only: New Participants Enrolled to Housed within 30 days: PSH – 85%, RRH 50%
- Adults Projects and RRH Div/RE: Percentage of adult participants who increased EARNED INCOME from entry to exit/follow-up: PSH – 25%, 25% RRH, Div/RE – 25%, TH-40%
- Adult RRH: LOS for participants is 6 months or less: 40%
- Youth/YHDP RRH & RRH Div/RE: LOS for participants is 9 months or less: 40%
- Rate of Return to Homelessness Among Latinx, Black, Asian, Native, Multiple Race Groups as compared to White/Non-Latinx group : Rate of returns among BIPOC people is equal to or less than White/Non-Latinx people
- PSH annual service cost/hh: New projects & projects with budget increases only

CT BOS 2024 Renewal Evaluation Criteria Proposed Changes - Spending (Youth and Adult)



Proposed 2024 Spending Criteria:

- Projects over \$2M: leave <\$75K;
- Projects between \$250K & \$2M: spend 90% & leave < \$50k unspent;
- Projects under \$250K: spend 90%

CT BOS 2024 Criteria Proposed Benchmark Changes

Adult Projects – Add Criteria:

- Track (not score): Percentage of adult participants who increased any cash income from entry to exit/follow-up

Youth Projects – Adjust Benchmarks:

- Percentage of adult participants who increased earned income from exit/follow-up – Increase benchmark from 20% to 25% (Avg performance in 2023: 28%)
- RRH: Percentage of leavers who exited to permanent housing – lower benchmark from 95% to 85% (Avg performance in 2023: 82%)



CT BOS 2024 Criteria Proposed – Youth Navigators



- Youth Navigator projects have not previously been evaluated
- Proposal to track (not score)
 - Occupancy – Benchmark at least 90% (based on Quarterly Count of Households)
 - Spending - Benchmark same as all other projects (see slide # 40)
 - Participant Surveys – Benchmark at least 35% (same as all other projects)



CT BOS 2024
Participant
Survey
Available!

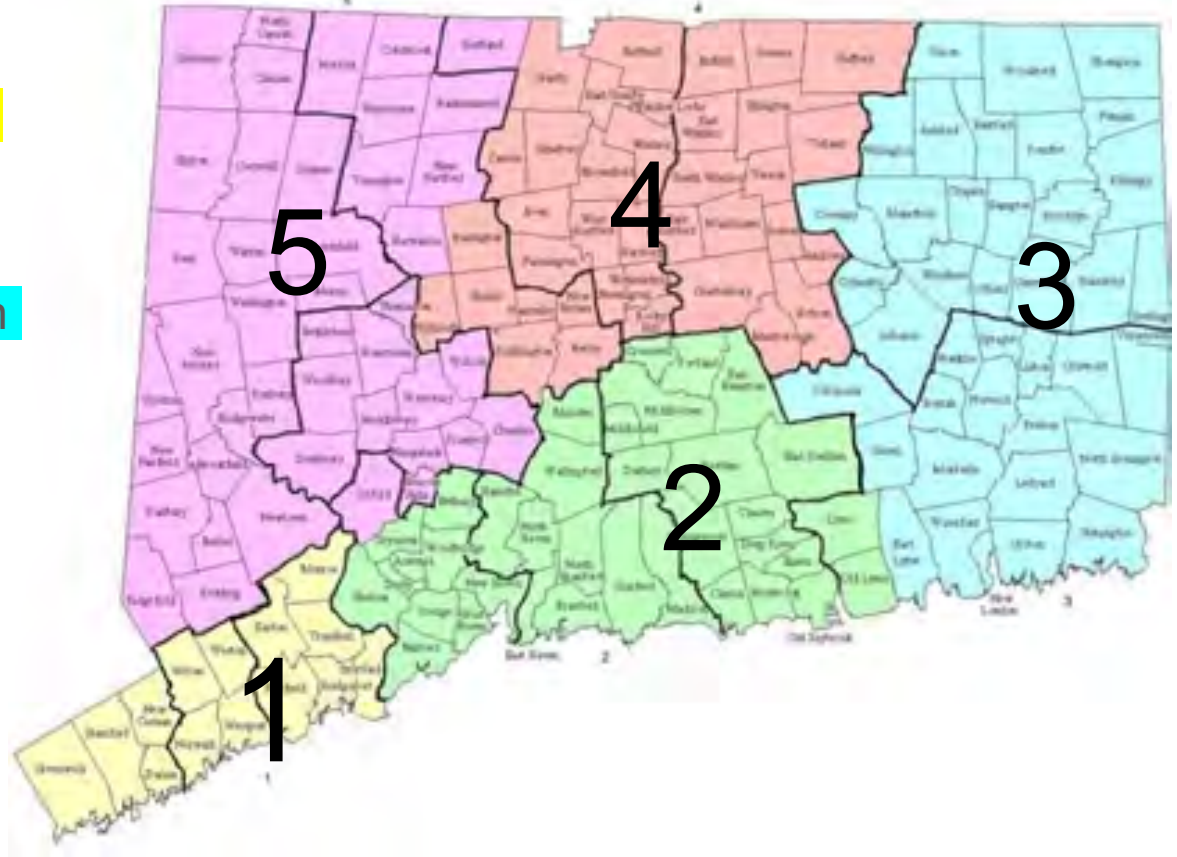
[CT BOS 2024 Participant Survey &
CT BOS 2024 Participant Survey Spanish](#)

Mobile Medication for Addiction Treatment

A resource in YOUR Coordinated Access Network

Mobile MAT Vans by DMHAS Region

- Region 1 – Liberation Programs
- Region 2 – Bridges
- Region 3 – Perception Programs
- Region 4 – CT Harm Reduction Alliance
- Region 5 – McCall Center



Mobile MAT Van Contacts



- Region 1 – Liberation Programs
 - Liz Evans liz.evans@liberationprograms.org
- Region 2 – Bridges
 - Tara Kerner tkerner@bridgesmilford.org, Christopher Cavaliere ccavaliere@bridgesmilford.org, Debra Gannon dGannon@bridgesmilford.org
- Region 3 – Perception Programs
 - Kelsey Daniels - Kelsey.Daniels@perceptionprograms.org
- Region 4 – CT Harm Reduction Alliance
 - Courtney Dollar cdollar@ct-hra.org
- Region 5 – McCall Center
 - Jillian Yard Jillian.Yard@mccallbhn.org

Mobile Outreach and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)



About Us – Our Mission

The CTHRA – now housing the Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Alliance (GHHRC) and Sex Workers and Allies Network (SWAN) programs – is **dedicated to promoting the dignity and wellbeing of individuals and communities impacted by drug use, homelessness, and sex work**. Through advocacy, training and service, CTHRA aims to ensure the availability, adequacy, accessibility, and acceptability of services and resources that remediate the adverse consequences of drug use.

Our services reach
approximately

40%

of Connecticut and
continues to grow.



About Us – Our Services

- Shelter/housing referrals
- Educate on substance use/abuse/Opioid Use Disorders
- Provide treatment referrals/transportation
- Syringe exchange
- Condoms/safe sex kits/lubricants
 - Specialty condoms “Magnum”, Rough Ryder, Non-lubricated Flavors
- Safe consumption kits/ supplies
- Wound care and safe injection techniques/supplies
- HIV/HCV screenings
- COVID-19 and Mpox vaccinations/education
- Narcan/Naloxone
- Overdose prevention training
- Assistance obtaining identification
- Syringe Outreach Response Team (SORT)
- Homeless outreach (GHO Team and Transit HOP)
- Housing-focused case management

Outreach in

Hartford County
New Haven County
Middlesex County
Litchfield County
& More

500 sandwiches

were distributed weekly
since March 2020
(start of the pandemic)

We also provide **fresh
produce/vegetables** to
our participants.

Syringes Fentanyl test strips Crack pipes Narcan
People who use drugs
Overdose prevention
What people think Harm Reduction is only about
Abstinence
Condoms

What Harm Reduction is truly about
@cthra.org

Racial equity
Social justice
Empowering voices
Unconditional love
Removing stigma
Wound & vein care
Saving lives
Access to healthcare

Access to housing
Community
Multiple pathways to recovery
Positive change
Drug use education
Ending the war on drugs
Human to human interaction

Mobile Outreach and MAT

- Mobile community outreach combined with medical services necessary to start an individual on medication for opioid use disorder and referrals to other resources for the treatment of substance use disorders.
- Meeting people where they are utilizing a harm reduction, person-centered, trauma-informed approach.
- Regular engagement to build trust and rapport - being able to provide options when they are ready for treatment.



Mobile Outreach and MAT

- Two Harm Reduction Ambassadors and a part-time Harm Reduction Nurse engage with individuals on the RV to provide harm reduction supplies, naloxone and overdose response training, wound care, vaccines, HIV/HCV testing, education on safer consumption, and referrals.



Mobile Outreach and MAT

- Treatment On Demand model - ability to transport participant to treatment referral when needed.
- Partnership with CT Addiction Medicine to be able to quickly refer for MAT options (Suboxone/buprenorphine and Vivitrol/naltrexone).
- Partnership with Health Care Resource Center in Hartford (Methadone).
- Working with the Root Center to be able to offer intakes from mobile RV via iPad (Methadone).
- Partnership with Cornell Scott-Hill Health and Trinity in New Haven.

Harm Reduction Outreach

- Outreach and harm reduction services from mobile vans respond to hot spots, participants can flag-down.
- Greater Hartford, Bristol, New Britain, Route 9 Shoreline (Chester, Durham, East Hampton, Middletown), Enfield, Greater New Haven.
- Partner sites with Rovers for harm reduction outreach.



Mobile 1 Treatment On Demand

MOBILE 1
GHHRC

**QUESTIONS?
DIRECT
SERVICES.**

Mobil-1 RV:: 860-883-9587
Mobil-1 MV:: 860-778-6325
Mobil-1 MV2:: 860-913-6877

“We Get It”

- Substance Use / Abuse
- Referrals / Transportation
- Health Screenings
- Shelter Referrals
- Syringe Exchange
- Free Narcan® / Naloxone
- & Much More

W W W . G H H R C . O R G

Where to find us!

OUR LOCATIONS:

28 Grand St, Hartford CT 06106

557 Albany Ave, Hartford CT 06112

269 Peck St, New Haven CT 06513

645 Grand Ave, New Haven CT 06511

Hartford: 860-263-8720

New Haven: 203-935-5702

www.CT-HRA.org

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@CTHRA_Org



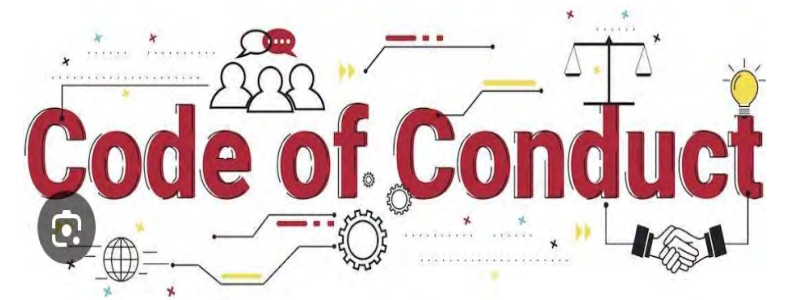
CT BOS Proposed Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct helps to ensure high standards for:

- Service/housing quality
- Ethical decision-making
- Professional behavior
- Equity, inclusion & belonging for diverse stakeholders

Process:

- Discuss at today's meeting
- Submit edits by 6/30/23
- Vote at 7/21/23 BOS Steering Committee meeting



CT BOS Code of Conduct

Foster trust in each other, with the people we serve, and with our community partners.

- Treat each other, the people we serve, and our partners with respect, dignity and courtesy and in a way that honors differences.
- Maintain the highest standards of privacy and confidentiality
- Prohibit violence and threats of violence, verbal and physical harassment, unwelcomed gestures and contact, bullying, shaming, personal insults, and intimidation.



CT BOS Code of Conduct (2)

Foster diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging

- Examine unconscious biases & create an inclusive culture that welcomes diverse voices.
- Committed to meaningful participation by people with lived experience of homelessness
- Do not discriminate based on age, ancestry, national origin, language spoken, race, color, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, medical condition, veteran status, sex, religion, political affiliation or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws and regulations



CT BOS Code of Conduct (3)

Make decisions with integrity

- Due diligence to gather and consider relevant information; learn from people with a range of perspectives.
- Prohibit behavior during meetings that is disruptive to effectively relaying information and reaching well-reasoned group decisions.
- Honor competitive bidding process and conflicts of interest policy to help ensure high quality programs operated at fair prices
- Do not offer or accept gifts, gratuities, hospitality, travel or personal rewards intended to influence CT BOS CoC's decisions or activities.
- Prohibit corruption and fraud



CT BOS Code of Conduct (4)

Be accountable to delivering high quality housing and services

- Evaluate the outcomes of the projects we fund and embrace continuous learning and improvement
- Collaborate with and learn from diverse stakeholders and invite challenges to our thinking, adjustments to our policies and practices, and improvements to program models.

CT BOS Code of Conduct (5)

Ask questions and raise concerns when something doesn't seem right

- Read, understand, and comply with policies, laws and regulations.
- Speak up when we see possible violations, and thoroughly and promptly investigate and respond to concerns.
- Prohibit retaliation for asking questions, raising concerns or refusing to do something that violates this Code of Conduct



CT BOS Conflict of Interest



CT BOS Conflict of Interest (COI) Form – due 6/30/23

- COI result when a person has competing commitments, obligations, duties or goals.
- COI can result in real or perceived lack of independence or impartiality.
- Examples: you or your spouse work for a CoC funded agency, you get services from a CoC funded agency, you sit on the Board of a CoC funded agency
- All Steering Committee members are required to submit the COI disclosure each year to ctboscoc@gmail.com
- Failure to submit will result in suspension of your ability to vote
- [2023 CT BOS COI form](#)



CT BOS COI Policy



- Conflicts of interest, and even the appearance of a conflict of interest, must be avoided.
- Disclose any conflict or appearance of conflict.
- Don't vote or make motions on any item that would create a conflict or appearance of conflict.
- Don't participate in or influence discussions or resulting decisions concerning the award of a grant or other financial benefits to an organization that you represent.
- Don't lobby or seek info from any other member if it would create a conflict or the appearance of a conflict.

Other Business?



Upcoming Meetings

SC Meeting Schedule

- July 21, 2023; 11-12:30
- August 18, 2023; 11-12:30
- September 22, 2023; 11-12:30
- October 20, 2023; 11-12:30
- November 17, 2023; 11-12:30
- December 15, 2023; 11-12:30



Zoom Info for all SC meetings:

- [Meeting link](#)
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number: 646-876-9923

CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)



CT BOS CoC

ctboscoc@gmail.com

Shannon Quinn-Sheeran

shannon@housinginnovations.us

Suzanne Wagner

swagner@housinginnovations.us

Myles Wensek

mylesw@housinginnovations.us

Lauren Pareti

lpareti@housinginnovations.us

Liz Isaacs

lisaacs@housinginnovations.us