



## CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 7/18/25 - 11:00 am – 12:30pm

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Guidelines for BOS Meetings

### 3. Adopt June Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – minutes approved by consensus

### 4. Announcements

- 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](mailto:CTBOSCoC@gmail.com) or call a team member any time!
- Welcome Ernest Saunders, New CT BOS Community Rep
- Welcome (back) Jackie Gardner, New CT HMIS Director, ACT
- Reminder - CT HMIS Office Hours
  - Real time support and guidance is provided on CT HMIS. Nutmeg will provide assistance with any questions or challenges.
  - Office Hours are every Thursday from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM.
  - Please [register](#) to receive the Zoom link.
- Food Resources
  - Mobile pantries are throughout the state. To find one near you: [Foodshare Mobile Pantry Finder](#)
  - CT Summer Meals Program feeds children during the summer. To find a location near you: [SUN meals site finder](#)

### 5. Federal Updates

- FY26 Reconciliation vs. Appropriations Bills
  - Reconciliation Bill was signed into law on 7/4/25. It was not subject to filibuster. It deals with non-discretionary spending and included cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.
  - Appropriations Bill –see President’s [Proposal Released in May](#); [House Bill](#) It is subject to filibuster. It deals with discretionary spending such as HUD budget. It will establish the budget for the 2026 HUD CoC Competition.
- Appropriations Bills
  - It is very early in budget process, but there is some good news including: \$4.158 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants (includes CoC, YHDP, ESG, and HOPWA)
- The Reconciliation Tax Credit -- Good News!
  - Several changes in the Reconciliation Bill will boost the development of the affordable housing units. The Low-income Tax Credit (LIHTC) Allocation received a funding increase for the 9% LIHTC allocation and the 4% LIHTC projects will only need 25% bond financing (instead of 50%).

- Changes to Medicaid – 2026 Reconciliation Law – changes that will negatively impact CoC participants include:
  - Aged 19 to 64 insured through Medicaid Expansion must prove at least 80 hours in 1 month in past 6 months of working, community service, or work training. Exemptions include (not a comprehensive list): caregivers of children aged 13 and below, medically frail, pregnant, persons participating in substance use treatment.
  - States are required to verify enrollee address.
  - Co-pays can be as high as \$35 per service (limited to 5% of family income).
  - Re-determinations of eligibility will be every 6 months (Medicaid Expansion).
  - Restricts eligibility to legal permanent residents and U.S. Citizens. Disqualifies refugees, parolees, asylees, abused spouses/children, and trafficking victims.
  - Limits federal matching payments for Emergency Medicaid for undocumented persons.
  - Limits retroactive Medicaid coverage. Reduces period of coverage for expenses incurred before application date.
- Strategies to help clients retain Medicaid - Recommendations from National Alliance to End Homelessness conference include:
  - Aged/Blind/Disabled population is not subject to work requirements or more frequent eligibility determination, so work to get this population on SSI/SSDI
  - Work with the State on data matching to identify people eligible for exemptions
  - Upload documents to HMIS to prepare for more onerous paperwork requirements.
- Changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that will negatively impact CoC participants include:
  - Changes expand work requirements (20 hours/week). Requirements now include adults aged 55-64. It removes exemptions for People Experiencing Homelessness, Veterans, & Youth Aging out of Foster Care and narrows definition of caregiver exemption to cover only children under 14.
  - Changes now disqualify refugees, parolees, asylees, abused spouses/children and trafficking victims.
  - It reduces how often benefits will be adjusted to keep pace with inflation
  - It will increase state cost sharing, putting pressure on state budgets.
  - A meeting participant asked how to document the 80 hours. **f/u: HI to request DSS to attend a Steering Committee meeting to provide details once that information is known**
- 2025 HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
  - HUD will release a 2025 NOFO. No timeline was provided.
  - The NOFO will focus on: treatment & recovery; reducing unsheltered homelessness; reducing returns to homelessness; increasing earned income
  - Eligible new projects will include street outreach & transitional housing.
  - Currently, there are too many unknowns to release RFP (Request for Proposal) for new projects. BOS has projects from last year that may be able

to move forward in this competition. Decisions on competition for new funds will be made after NOFO is released. If there is an RFP, there will be a tight turnaround. Stay tuned for more information once HUD releases the NOFO.

- Preparing for Renewal Application Process
  - Please make sure that your E-SNAPS [applicant profile is up to date](#).
  - There is a NEW indirect cost form in applicant profile. **Applicant must indicate whether you are applying an indirect cost rate.** If yes, applicant chooses 15% de minimis or a negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA). If applicant is using a NICRA, applicant must complete the associated chart. If your agency has a NICRA, it must be applied to each federal grant.
  - See the following resources for more information:
    - [Indirect Costs, Administrative Costs & Matching Funds - slides](#)
    - Recording: <https://youtu.be/YwjZYf7vMyc>
  - There is a new e-snaps security measure, which makes users inactive after 90 days. To ensure you are not locked out, **log into e-snaps at least every 90 days**. If you do get locked out, contact the esnaps helpdesk: [e-snaps@hud.gov](mailto:e-snaps@hud.gov)
- Advocacy
  - Check out the National Low-income Housing Coalition's (NLIHC) Advocacy toolkit, [Opposing Cuts to Affordable Housing](#).
  - NLIHC advocates for: full funding for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) & Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs); increased funding for public housing; \$4.922 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG); \$20 million for the Eviction Protection Grant Program (EPGP) and at least \$1.3 billion for HUD's Tribal housing programs and \$150 million Tribes with the greatest needs.
  - Advocates are encouraged to call congressional members. [NLIHC's Take Action page](#) provides guidance on how to make the calls. Share stories of those impacted. See: [Learn about how to tell compelling stories](#). And, advocate for HUD to [honor 2-year NOFO](#).

## 6. CoC Policy Proposal

- During the work BOS conducted to reduce documentation burdens for providers and project participants, it was recommended to help expedite the application process for TH, the income requirement detailed below be removed. During monitoring HI consistently sees that only very low income people are accessing CoC projects. This requirement currently creates an unnecessary administrative burden.

**Motion: To eliminate the following statement regarding the income requirement for Transitional Housing Projects: "Projects may serve only participants with income below 30% of area median income (AMI)." (CAN Policies). Motion passes by consensus.**

## 7. Data Strategy Board (DSB) Updates

- The committee has been recruiting to fill vacant seats and all are filled except 1. The current DSB committee members are listed in the slides for this meeting.
- Because the discussions are quite technical, DSB Committee Meetings will be open to members only. There will be minutes and contact info will be posted to the HMIS website and anyone can provide feedback and suggest agenda items.

- DSB will roll out sub-committees so that there will be a chance for others to participate.
- DSB will also report out to the CT BOS Steering Committee regularly to ensure transparency and opportunity for stakeholder feedback.

## 8. CT BOS CoC 2024 Participant Survey Results

- Link to CT BOS report: [CT BOS Participant Survey Report](#)
- Overall, CT BOS survey responses were positive: 93% of respondents noted that their services were being met always or most of the time and 82% of respondents said that their quality of life had improved somewhat or greatly.
- Respondents noted that they needed assistance with employment, housing searches and transportation. Survey respondents noted that they needed assistance with “other” services. BOS did not do an analysis on comments specifying other needed services in 2025, but in the past an analysis showed that many of the comments were things like “everything is good” or “nothing at this time” HI will look at comments in 2025 to determine what if any additional analysis for 2026 might be useful.
- There was discussion regarding how difficult it is for participants to gain employment and access employment assistance. It was noted that the Job Centers are not using trauma-informed care in their work. In addition, it was noted that it is very hard for participants to obtain an ID which is needed to gain employment. Department of Labor (DOL) noted that they are working on providing training to Center staff on Disability Awareness and supportive services to clients, which include helping students with costs of getting IDs. Rob Bongiolatti, DOL Steering Committee Rep, noted that he is interested in improving access and better coordination to serve our population. He is open to answering questions and being contacted at: [robert.bongiolatti@ct.gov](mailto:robert.bongiolatti@ct.gov)
- Link to DMHAS Survey Report: [DMHAS Survey Report](#)
- DMHAS survey responses were overall positive. 97% of respondents noted that they agreed or strongly agreed that they liked the services that they received, and 94% agreed or strongly agreed that the staff in their program believes that they can grow, change, and recover.

## 9. Break Out Groups

- Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
- **Discussion for today:**
  - What results were most meaningful to you?
    - Responses included concern over lack of funding for transportation, childcare and application fees for housing searches.
    - The importance of the relationship between the participant and case manager on how participants can succeed in growing.
  - What things could or should be done to achieve even greater participant satisfaction?
    - There was discussion around the prevalence of undiagnosed learning disabilities that prevent people from being job ready and the way the DOL

training programs often require participants to produce a high school diploma or to take a math and a reading test and score at a certain level to access the program.

- There were conversations around ways to increase participation by leading with results from previous surveys and providing results back to clients so they know their voices are heard.

#### **10. Partner Announcements & Other Business**

- Clarification was made that the CT BOS participant surveys are not due yet. There will be an e-mail sent out with the due date, which will likely be late fall.

#### **11. Steering Committee Meeting Schedule**

- August 15, 2025; 11-12:30
- September 19, 2025; 11-12:30
- October 17, 2025; 11-12:30
- November 21, 2025; 11-12:30
- December 19, 2025; 11-12:30
- January 16, 2026; 11-12:30
- February 20, 2026; 11-12:30
- March 30, 2026; 11-12:30
- April 17, 2026; 11-12:30
- May 15, 2026; 11-12:30
- June 12, 2026; 11-12:30