



CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 3/21/25 - 11:00 am – 12:30pm

1. **Welcome**
2. **Guidelines for BOS Meetings**
3. **Adopt Feb Steering Committee Meeting 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 or call a team member any time!
 - New HMIS Lead
 - Congratulations to Advancing CT Together (ACT). Based on results of a RFP process, ACT has been selected as the new Statewide HMIS Lead. Nutmeg Consulting will continue to manage HMIS technical operations, including staffing the Help Desk.
 - Upcoming BOS CoC Trainings
 - Grants Management: 4/22; 10am-12pm
Target Audience includes senior staff and supervisors responsible for CoC grant management at both agencies that receive CoC funds directly from HUD and those that receive CoC funds through a contract with a recipient agency; [Zoom Link for Training](#); Meeting ID: 890 6252 6081; Passcode: 321551
 - Housing Requirements Training: Part 2: 4/1; 10am - 12pm
Target audience: Continuum of Care grantee staff, including supervisors overseeing housing activities and Housing Coordinators as well as others in leadership positions and Case Managers; [Zoom Link for Trainings](#); Meeting ID: 851 7878 020; Passcode: 855813
 - Quality Improvement Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Trainings
 - Corporation for Supporting Housing (CSH) and Housing Innovations are conducting all-day PSH trainings for CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) funded projects in each of the seven Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) in April and May. See: [Registration Information](#)
 - Statewide CT Department of Housing (DOH) and DMHAS Monitoring and Training
 - Based on results of a RFP process, ACT has been selected as the lead agency for this project. CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) and Housing Innovations will be working in collaboration with ACT to carry out the activities. One goal of the project is to lessen the monitoring burden on agencies by consolidating monitoring visits.
 - My Dog Is My Home

- My Dog Is My Home's mission is to increase access to shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness with companion animals.
- My Dog Is My Home is holding a conference later this month. Conference 2025: Why Pets? Why Now? The Urgency of Inclusion: link to conference info: [My Dog Is My Home Conference](#).
- VITA Resources
 - Free tax preparation assistance is available! VITA assists households with income below \$68,000. VITA sites offer professional tax assistance by U.S. Internal Revenue Services (IRS) certified tax preparers. Call 211 or use link to access providers: [VITA Service Providers](#)
- Social Security Administration (SSA) Updates
 - Social Security is strengthening identity (ID) proofing requirements. On March 31, 2025, SSA will transition to stronger ID proofing procedures for benefit claims & direct deposit changes. People who do not already have a “my Social Security” account can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/. Those who don't use “my Social Security” account (which requires online identity proofing), will need to visit a local Social Security office to prove their identity in person. Those without “my Social Security” services may start their claim for benefits on the telephone but then need to go in-person. Call 1-800-772-1213 to schedule an in-person appointment
 - In response to a question regarding the impact of SSA staffing cuts and office closures, a representative from DMHAS reported that no CT SSA offices are currently slated for closure.
 - SSA is expediting direct deposit to one day. SSA will expedite processing all direct deposit change requests – both in person and online – to one business day (was 30 days)
 - For more info: [SSA Info on Strong ID Proofing and Expedited Direct Deposits](#)
- List of Acronyms
 - CT BOS is committed to ensuring that meetings and materials are clear and accessible to all. This includes avoiding use of unexplained acronyms. Please also see: [Link to Supportive Housing Acronyms](#).
- Reminder – Update Contacts in Zengine
 - It is important that CT BOS has the correct contacts for each funded agency in Zengine, which is the CT BOS project management database.
 - To confirm/update your information:
 - Log into Zengine
 - Review your profile ensuring it is up to date
 - Make any updates necessary to contact profile information, ensuring the following:
 - Any staff turnover is reflected in the agency primary, secondary and third contacts, plus executive director
 - e-snaps user information is up to date and the agency has at least 2 people who are trained in use of e-snaps
 - Property management information is entered and up to date
 - All titles are accurate
 - Be sure to **click "Save"** so that your review and/or any changes are

logged. Please note that clicking Save is required regardless of changes made to ensure your review is recorded in Zengine

- Zengine Resources: [How to create a profile](#); [Changing Zengine Contacts](#); [Zengine Training slides](#)

5. CCEH Update on Legislative Happenings

- Katherine Whitney from CCEH presented an update of CT CAN End Homelessness legislative advocacy.
- Following are the bills that they are tracking:
 - [H.B. 6893](#) includes \$33.5 million in funding for the Homeless Response System and will save lives by preventing homelessness, responding to crisis, and ensuring housing stability for all.
 - [H.B. 6894](#) codifies the CT Interagency Council on Homelessness, which will drive coordinated solutions to prevent and solve homelessness.
 - [H.B. 7033](#) would correct the harm done by the [Supreme Court in Johnson v. Grants Pass](#), which allows state and municipalities to arrest, ticket, or fine people sheltering in public spaces while unhoused, even when there is no other option.
 - [H.B. 5002](#) would require a report by the Commissioner of Housing on how to better support persons experiencing homelessness.
 - [H.B. 6348](#) would expand the protection of Just Cause eviction to all tenants in buildings with five or more units, beyond just older or disabled adults.
- CT CAN End Homelessness held the first End Homelessness caucus with over 20 state lawmakers. This was a bi-partisan group, and a press conference was held. The group will continue to meet to discuss how the homeless system can work better and how to end homelessness in CT.

6. Federal Updates

- Contract Renewals/Grant Agreements
 - HUD reported that there were errors in the initial contract language sent out to providers. This caused a delay in processing grants for 2024 CoC awards (projects start as early as Jan 2025). Initial contracts (the ones HUD pulled back) required compliance with various Executive Orders:
 - Forbidding the promotion of gender ideology or DEI
 - Prohibit promoting or funding elective abortions
 - Certain providers must use verification system to prevent undocumented individuals from getting Federal public benefits. Providers should note that preliminary contract language retains exceptions provided by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWOA).
 - Grant funds may not be used to support “Sanctuary” policies to shield undocumented individuals from deportation
 - HUD will not enforce provisions of the Grant Agreement that use a Housing First model
 - It is anticipated that contracts will be sent out next week and will prioritize grants based on grant start dates.

- Congress passed and President signed a year-long continuing resolution (CR), to extend funding for federal government through September 2025.
 - Funds CoC renewals that start as early as January 2026. There is no additional funding for CoC program. HUD can and will repurpose CoC Builds funds (awards never announced) for renewals. There is an expected shortfall for HUD's homeless assistance grants estimated at \$168 million nationally (approximately 4% of total 2024 award).
- [3/14 Executive Order](#) instructs US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to reduce functions and staff to the minimum required by law.
 - By 3/21/25, USICH must determine which of its functions are required by law. USICH is responsible for coordinating the federal response to homelessness between departments and agencies.

7. Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants Presentation

- Jonah Kavanaugh, OVC Staff Attorney, Project Rescue, Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants: www.cirict.org presented to the group.

8. Immigration Status Requirements

- Information about compliance with federal immigration law and Executive Orders was presented to the group. These have been distributed to BOS CoC funded projects.

9. Consumer Leadership Involvement Project Updates

- CLIP members presented to the group.
- The mission of CLIP is to provide education to Persons with Lived Experience (PWLE), make a contribution on how the homeless system works and create opportunities for PWLE to give input and make a difference.
- CLIP members have given input on scoring tool for new projects, helped create the new street outreach survey, attended DMHAS trainings and provided feedback on those trainings, participated in fundraisers, presented at CT Affordable Housing Conference, had positions on local Fair Rent Commissions, and shared information with the BOS SC.

10. Break Out Groups - tabled

11. RRH Operations Guide Updates - tabled

12. PSH Requirements & Operations Guide Updates - tabled

13. Partner Announcements

- Nutmeg announced a [new FAQ](#) on Understanding Different Measures of Homelessness used by the CT Homelessness Response System.

14. Other Business

15. Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

- April 11, 2025; 11-12:30

- May 16, 2025; 11-1:00 – Semi-Annual Meeting
- June 20, 2025; 11-12:30
- July 18, 2025; 11-12:30
- 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