

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

March 15, 2024



Agenda

- Welcome and Chairs Introductions
- Group Agreements for meetings
- Adopt February Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- Steering Committee Co-Chair Nominees and Election Process
- HUD CoC Competition News
- Break-out Discussions
- CT Department of Housing Consolidated Plan Presentation
 - Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development
- Vote - CT BOS Grievance Policy Changes
- Partner Announcements
- Other Business



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





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:
 - Liz Isaacs
 - Lauren Pareti

Approve CT BOS February 2024 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



CT BOS SC Feb 2024 Meeting Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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!



2024 Renewal Evaluation Updates

- Score Change Requests were due 3/12.
- Results from Score Change Requests will be in RED later this month.
- Grievance Committee meets 4/2.
- Grievance results will be in RED by mid April.
- Watch for email announcements with more details.



2024 New Project RFP for HUD CoC Funds

Due Date – March 20, 2024 by 5pm



[Bidders' Conference Recording](#)

[Bidders' Conference Slides](#)

[BOS RFP webpage](#)
(scoring sheet, FAQs, instructions & more!)

To receive BOS e-mails with info on new project RFP and more: [Link to Sign up for BOS E-mails](#)



Supportive Housing Training Catalog

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TRAINING CATALOG SPRING 2024

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



- VITA provides free tax preparation services to low-to-moderate-income individuals
- IRS-trained volunteers are certified to prepare simple tax returns
- Volunteers screen customers for special tax credits, such as the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** and the **Retirement Savings Contribution Credit (Saver's Credit)**
- CRT: [Link to CRT VITA info](#)
- ACT: [Link to CAHS-ACT VITA Info](#)
- [Link to find VITA near you](#)



My Dog Is My Home Co-Sheltering Virtual Conference – 3/26-3/28

- Conference aims to create a virtual space for people transform pathways to housing for people and animals together.
- Learn about the powerful movement to support the human-animal bond in homeless services.

[Link to Conference Info](#)



CT BOS Semi-Annual Meeting

May 17, 2024

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Spread the word!

Nominations for Steering Committee Co-Chair



- CT BOS Steering Committee has 4 Co-Chairs.
- Current Chairs represent: CT Department of Housing (DOH), CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and Advancing CT Together (ACT).
- There is one open position to serve until December 2025.
- Two candidates will introduce themselves today.
- Votes are due by 3/22 on Survey Monkey:
 - [Link to Survey Monkey.](#)
- All Steering Committee members can vote!



Stephanie Lazarus

- Bachelors -Human Service
- Masters -Public Administration
- Reliance Health, 2012-Present
- Windham No Freeze Project-Board Member, 2018-Present
- CT Fellow, CSH 2021-Present
 - Coordinated regular meetings with BOS Steering Committee and provided trainings to the CoC.
 - Met with 211 and provided feedback from persons with lived experience.
 - Shared best practices on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with BOS



Tania Banks

- Has been doing community work for the past 15 years
- Has both lives experience and technical experience
- Can both train and do boots on the ground work smoothly
- Dedicated to making a change in the homeless community
- This would give me the opportunity to make the change and make sure everyone voice is heard at all time

Biennial CoC Application & Increase in Services Funding for Renewals

- CoC Application to be submitted to HUD every **two years instead of annually!**
- HUD noted application this year and NO application in 2025
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for supportive services funding for CoC renewal projects
- Stay tuned for more information from HUD!



2023 CoC Application Score Results



*Total BOS CoC Application
Score: 175.5/200
Median Score: 151/200
Highest Score: 185.5/200*

- Coordination and Engagement–Structure and Participation: 5/5 (100%)
- Coordination and Engagement–Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations: 67/80 (84%)
- Project Review and Ranking Process: 26/27 (96%)
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation: 9/9 (100%)
- Point in Time Homeless Count: 5/5 (100%)
- System Performance: 49.5/60 (83%)
- Coordination with Housing and Healthcare: 14/14 (100%)



Break-out Rooms

- Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
- Discussion Question for today:
 - *What suggestions do you have for how we can improve the process for the 2024 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Competition?*
 - Please try to focus on things we can control, not on things HUD would need to change.
 - Please share suggestions in the chat or email to ctboscoc@gmail.com

Reminders: To join a group, accept the invitation. Any issues, return to the main session for assistance.

2024-2025 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development



[Link to Action Plan](#)

Funding sources included in plan:

- Emergency Solutions Grant
- National Housing Trust Fund
- HOME Investment Partnership
- Small Cities Community Development Block Grant
- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

Submit comments to:

Michael C. Santoro
Director, Office of Policy, Research and Housing Support, DOH
michael.santoro@ct.gov

Grievance Policy Changes - *Vote (non-conflicted voters only)*



Grievance Committee proposes the following addition to the Grievance Policy:

- *Grievance Policy for Providers and Steering Committee Members - Limitations on Grievances*

Proposed Addition to Policy:

- “The Grievance Committee will not consider Grievances from projects that could not meet certain performance benchmarks (e.g., occupancy or spending) because of an insufficient number of people experiencing homelessness who are eligible for the project.
- Such projects are encouraged to seek referrals from another CT BOS CAN or work with their CAN and HUD field office to alter the target pop and/or reduce size of project.”
- CT BOS Proposed Grievance Policy Addition



Who Can Vote?

- Community Reps: Melissa Dzierlatka, Tania Banks, Aleena Durant, Sonia Soto, Heather Craven, Tayna Castillo, Jane Ryan, Theresa Miles
- CT Department of Labor: Robert Bongiolatti or Heriberto Cajigas
- CT Department of Social Services: Cassandra Norfleet-Johnson or Theresa Rivera
- CT Department of Education: Louis Tallerita
- CT Department of Correction: Joy Zavarella
- CT Department of Children and Families: Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez or William Seals
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Maureen Pasko or Jen Moriarty
- Partnership for Strong Communities: Danielle Hubley or Carline Charmelus



Partner Announcements

Other Business?



Upcoming BOS SC Meetings

- April 19, 2024; 11-12:30
- **May 17, 2024; 11-1:00 – SEMI-ANNUAL MTG**
- June 21, 2024; 11-12:30
- July 19, 2024; 11-12:30
- August 16, 2024; 11-12:30
- September 20, 2024; 11-12:30
- October 18, 2024; 11-12:30
- November 15, 2024; 11-12:30
- December 20, 2024; 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

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