**CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**9/22/23 - 11:00 am – 12:30**

1. **Welcome and Chairs Introductions**

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1. **Guidelines for BOS Meetings**
2. **Break-out Rooms**

* Participants joined break-out rooms and provided feedback on the following question:
  + What presentations/speakers would you like to see at BOS Steering Committee meetings to provide information/updates? See link for responses: [SC Meeting Chat](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/khrxcnd950ux1rwxlh703/Meeting-Chat.doc?rlkey=971kl1ftfznbn3y20se9ev9sf&dl=0)

1. **Adopt August Steering Committee Minutes –** Minutes approved by consensus.

1. **Announcements**

* National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE)
  + HUD is developing additional guidance to assist ESG, CoC, and HOPWA recipients adopt the updated standards. HUD has extended the date by which ESG, CoC, and HOPWA recipients must use these standards to inspect housing to October 1, 2024. In the meantime, projects may continue to use Housing Quality Standards (HQS).
* Post Steering Committee Meeting Q & A
  + Anyone who has questions or concerns is invited to stay on at the end of each meeting.
* CCEH – CT CAN End Homelessness
  + [CAN Organizational Structure](https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:e4a48b8e-d635-3788-9aed-9365f75b5561)
  + Amber Freeman, Director of Training, Technical Assistance and Community Impact at CCEH presented on the work of CT CAN End Homelessness.
  + There are five committees as part of the initiative (Organizing Council, Funders, Policy and Advocacy, HMIS, Systems Operations). Meetings are open to all. They are working towards establishing an Interagency Council on Homelessness in CT.
  + For more information, contact Amber: afreeman@cceh.org
* Learning Management System (LMS) Updates
  + Nutmeg presented on the LMS. For more information, see presentation: [Link to LMS Presentation](https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:aa443ce0-1d91-38e3-b841-a1096508eabc)

1. **HUD CoC Competition** 
   * CT BOS submitted 6 new PSH project applications in the 2023 HUD CoC competition. The total new PSH request was $1,664,274 - included 4 new projects and 2 expansion projects. Three of the projects were for enhanced services only and all of the projects are for individuals except for the CRT expansion. DMHAS is the grantee for all of the projects except for CRT.

* CT BOS submitted 4 new RRH project applications in the amount of $1,770,418 with CT Department of Housing as the grantee.
* In addition, BOS submitted three Domestic Violence bonus projects in the amount of $1,840,100 with DOH as the grantee.
  + Final Ranking of projects
    - HUD requires CoCs to rank and post certain information about the project applications being submitted. See link for final ranking list: [BOS CoC Final Ranking of Projects](https://www.ctbos.org/wp-content/uploads/BOS-Project-Listing-FY2023-Posting.pdf)

1. **Vote on Adoption of Changes to Category 4 of the HUD Homeless Definition** 
   * HUD requires CoCs to use a very specific definition of homelessness that includes 4 categories. Congress made changes to the Category 4 – shown in red text below.
   * Category 4 – Any individual or family who:
     + - * is experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing, or attempting to flee,domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual’s or family’s current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized; and
         * Has no other safe residence; and
         * Lacks the resources\* to obtain other safe permanent housing. (\*omits “and support networks”)

* Survivors of human trafficking are included in the definition
  + CoCs can await additional guidance from HUD or proceed to adopt the changes. Ultimately, HUD will require CoC’s to use the updated definition.
  + Meeting participants discussed whether or not to proceed now to adopt the changes.
  + Participants suggested that, because the updated definition may broaden eligibility, CANS would like to understand the impact of the changes on demand for housing before proceeding.
  + A poll was conducted and majority of Steering Committee members indicated that a vote to adopt the changes should be tabled until more information is collected.

1. **UniteCT Workforce Rental Assistance Program**
   * Marina Marmolejo, Director of Housing Innovation, Program Manager, UniteCT at the CT Department of Housing presented on this program. For more information, see: [Link to presentation](https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:ea4c8602-e424-3c0e-9753-75a57a1dacac)
2. **Statewide Outreach Guidelines:** [Statewide Outreach Guidelines](https://www.ctbos.org/wp-content/uploads/CT-Street-Outreach-Standards_05.23.22.pdf)

* These guidelines are currently being used for DOH and DMHAS funded outreach projects.
* An overview of key components of the guidelines was provided.
* The Steering Committee Meeting will vote in October on whether to adopt the guidelines as requirements for CT BOS funded Street Outreach projects.
* Some meeting participants expressed support for adoption so that expectations are aligned across the various funders.

1. **Partner Announcements**

* Updated information was provided after the SC meeting by New Reach regarding their Day 1 Families Fund Project.
  + Day 1 Families Fund Project will be temporarily closed to new funding requests. Since January 2023, over 80 families, including 273 people, were able to attain or maintain stable housing using the Day 1 Funds. This dashboard shows the funds that were used across the state as well as the number of families, and people, that were helped.  <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/newreachqa/viz/Day1FamiliesFundProject/Story1>
* Tania Banks reminded providers that the latest measure, folded into the state budget, would extend Medicaid coverage, known as HUSKY, to children 15 and younger regardless of their immigration status, so long as their families meet the qualifying income limit. Current law allows kids 12 and younger to access the benefit. Tania can attend events to ensure that people understand the broadened eligibility. Contact Tania: tqimaribanks@gmail.com
* [HUSKY pre/post partum info](https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f45bd338-231e-397a-88a4-b551cff222bb)
* [HUSKY benefits for Immigrants](https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:cd8b2e94-21a5-321b-a5b9-e3ab331c1b99)

1. **Other Business**
2. **Steering Committee Meeting Schedule**

* October 20, 2023; 11-12:30
* **November 17, 2023; 11-1:00 – Semi-annual Meeting**
* December 15, 2023; 11-12:30
* January 19, 2024; 11-12:30
* February 16, 2024; 11-12:30
* March 15, 2024; 11-12:30