CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
10/17/25

1. **Welcome**

2. **Guidelines for BOS Meetings**

3. **Adopt September Steering Committee Meeting Minutes** -approved by consensus

4. **Announcements**
   - Debrief post-Steering Committee mtg
     o 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.
   - CT BOS Semi-Annual Meeting Reminder
     o The Semi-Annual meeting will be held at CT State Community College Middlesex, Chapman Hall 808 on November 21, 2025 from 11am-1pm. There will be a zoom option for the meeting. Lunch will be served.
   - Elections for Steering Committee Chairs and Public Health Representative and Registration Deadlines for Coordinated Access Network (CANs) and Agencies' Representatives
     o If there are contested elections, CT BOS will hold elections via survey monkey for two BOS Steering Committee Chairs and a Public Health Representative. Nominations are due by 12/1/25 to ctboscoc@gmail.com.
     o Appointments and Registration for CANs and agencies are due 12/1/25. See links: Not-for-Profit & Gov't Agency Reps & Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Reps.
     o CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) will provide a Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP) slate for eight Community Representatives (CRs) at a future Steering Committee Meeting.
   - Housing Inventory Count (HIC)/Point-in-time (PIT) Deadlines and Training Materials
     o The deadline to confirm or request changes for HIC in the PIT Database is 10/24/25. All programs with beds should confirm or send in a request change EXCEPT Rapid Rehousing (RRH) projects.
     o For more information on HIC and PIT see the following links: PIT Database Log-in Page & PIT Training Page.
   - 2026 Point-in-time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PIT) Methodology
     o There are no major changes to the methodology this year. The only change is that there will be data collected on persons living in cars. Link to the methodology: 2026 PIT Methodology
   - Environmental Review (ER) Updates
     o All CoC projects require Environmental Review (ER). Most CT BOS projects are covered by a Nationwide ER.
     o The following types of projects are covered under the Nationwide

[Environmental Review](#) completed by HUD and do not need to complete their own review:

- Projects where participants choose their own units & the projects don't involve rehabilitation/repair beyond routine maintenance; Tenant-based Rental Assistance; Tenant-based Leasing; Planning; HMIS; Supportive Services Only (Coordinated Entry, Street Outreach, & Youth Navigator). Nationwide ER covers FY23-FY27.
- See the [linked document](#) for additional information including details on routine maintenance. This should reduce the administrative burden for many projects through FY2027.
- DMHAS typically hires a consultant to complete ERs for DMHAS CoC Project-Based and Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance Projects.

- National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) Update
  - HUD extended the date to comply with NSPIRE for Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs to 10/1/26. See [full Notice](#) and more info on NSPIRE: [National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE)](#).
  - Providers should use [Housing Quality Standards (HQS)](#) until implementing NSPIRE. Providers trained in NSPIRE may use it prior to the compliance deadline.

- Update on electronic Social Security payments
  - Effective 9/30/25 there are no more paper checks.
  - You can manage direct deposit and benefit details via _my_ [Social Security](#) account. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients can call 1-800-772-1213 for help.
  - There is a Direct Express Card which is a prepaid debit card option for those without a bank account. To enroll, call 1-800-333-1795 or visit www.usdirectexpress.com.

- 2026 CT BOS Renewal Evaluation Process
  - Each year, CT BOS evaluates over 110 renewal evaluation projects using the Renewal Evaluation Database (RED).
  - Following are the upcoming deadlines for renewal evaluation:
    - 11/14/25: Providers to confirm renewal evaluation project list
    - 12/9/25: Renewal Evaluation Launch Webinar (10-11:30 a.m.)
    - [Zoom Meeting Link](#); Meeting ID: 85073606809; Passcode: 757386 & RED opens!
    - 1/14/26: CT BOS participant surveys are due to CT BOS
  - For CT BOS Criteria, see: [CT BOS 2026 Renewal Evaluation Criteria](#) & [CT BOS Street Outreach Renewal Evaluation Criteria](#)
  - Please note that SNOFO Street Outreach projects will be evaluated outside of RED. Data are being collected from Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and SAGE to inform benchmarks, and SNOFO outreach projects will not be scored.
  - It was suggested that the renewal evaluation process be put on hold until the NOFO is released. It was noted that some of the current administration's priorities are captured in the BOS renewal evaluation criteria, which are largely aligned with HUD's Systems Performance Metrics. Additionally, there

is uncertainty about when/if the NOFO will be released. Others spoke on keeping the process the same as usual.

- CT BOS RFP For Young Adult Projects
  - o CT BOS is seeking operator/s for 5 existing youth homeless projects (due to the closure of current provider).
  - o Programs include: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - Greater New Haven; Rapid Rehousing (RRH) - Greater New Haven; Transitional Crisis Housing (TH) - Statewide (preference for Greater New Haven, then Northwest); Youth Navigators (Supportive Services Only-YN) - Greater New Haven.
  - o Eligible Applicants include: Nonprofit organizations, local governments, instrumentalities of government, and Public Housing Authorities with experience operating housing/supportive service programs.
  - o Questions were due by October 7, 2025. Answers were posted. Proposals are due on October 21, 2025. Contract start date is December 1, 2025.
  - o The full RFQP, budget template, and appendix are available here.
- Homeless Verification Training in HMIS
  - o There will be a training on how to use the new homeless verification features in HMIS. The training will be held on 10/22/25 from 3-4pm. See: Link to register. The training will teach participants how to update and view entries. The training will also address how to use: the Homeless Verification form; the Snapshot feature; enrollment data, Current Living Situation (CLS) records, and bed nights to complete the verification process. (NOTE: Subsequent to the Steering Committee meeting, this training was postponed)
- CT Housing and Homeless Training Academy
  - o The CT Housing & Homeless Training Academy is a collaboration of Advancing CT Together, CT Coalition to End Homelessness, Housing Innovations, Nutmeg Consulting, and solutions4community. This project is a collaboration between the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the CT Department of Housing. An online learning platform has been established to provide a wide array of professional development resources for individuals working within the housing and homeless services sector. Training modules will cover topics such as case management, de-escalation, and motivational interviewing. The initiative is intended to reduce training silos by funding source
  - o The project is being initiated with a soft launch for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) staff. The first training available will be the on PSH Assessment and Acuity. Additional trainings will be rolled for other types of projects. Training content will include: self-paced webinars, instructor led webinars, and live in-person training. All participants can get a certificate by completing a quiz. Instructor led webinars will be recorded.
  - o The initiative replaces the DMHAS Supportive Housing Training Catalogue previously managed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

5. **CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and other Federal Updates**
   - Politico Article: Trump admin looks at deep cuts to homeless housing program
     - o The Article notes that Permanent Housing (PSH & RRH) will be limited to 30% of funds. It reports that there is an anticipated reduction from $3.3 billion for

permanent housing to around $1.1 billion nationally. Work and/or service requirements for participants are also likely.

- Preliminary CoC NOFO highlights National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)
  - Tier 1 funds will be 30% to 50% of renewal funding. This puts 50% to 70% of renewal funding at risk. High scoring CoCs are likely to gain significant new project funds.
  - Scoring will prioritize: treatment first programs; service requirements; jurisdictional implementation and enforcement of camping bans and jurisdictional compliance and support of immigration enforcement.
- Other Anticipated HUD Policy Priorities – Based on CoC Builds NOFO
  - The recently released CoC Builds NOFO included the priorities below. While we do not know if these will be included moving ahead, we anticipate they may be included in upcoming NOFOs.
  - These priorities include: disallowing harm reduction approaches; reducing returns to homelessness (fewer than 10% in 24 months); disallowing racial preferences; disallowing promotion of sex as a chosen or mutable characteristic; standards to address individuals who are a danger to self or others; and mapping locations of sex offenders experiencing homelessness.
- TH/Interim Housing RFP
  - BOS is seeking proposals for new TH/Interim Housing for individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness.
  - Eligible participants include HUD definition of homelessness under Category 1, Category 2, or Category 4. The priority target populations are persons: experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 62 and older who require medical respite services.
  - Projects can serve participants for up to 24 months. The goal of the projects is to provide safe accommodation and intensive services while assisting participants to stabilize and transition to permanent housing.
  - Applications are due 11/7/25.
  - For more information see: TH/Interim Housing RFP & TH/Interim Housing Budget Template
  - It was noted that providers may need more time to secure sites and develop a program before they can respond to the RFP. It was also noted that the NOFO could be released at any time, and the window for CoCs to submit applications could be very brief (e.g., 1 of 2 weeks). Timing for the local RFP is intended to help ensure CT BOS is ready to submit quickly if needed. **f/u: HI to set up a Zoom meeting with providers to brainstorm projects and provide guidance.**

6. **Break Out Groups**
   - Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
   - **Discussion for today:**
     - What concerns do you have about the NOFO? What support do you need?
     - Feedback received is summarized below:

- There are concerns about quick turnaround and being able to be strategic in such a short turnaround, will we just trust HI to create a strong application and figure things out after.
- Which agencies are going to be willing to sign the contracts once they come out?
- There are issues that can be solved with semantics and others that come with high liability and potential for enforcement.
- There is a need to engage landlords. It was mentioned that there is a group working on this, and it needs to be prioritized.
- There was discussion around the RFP and the desire to be flexible with projects to best position the CoC to retain or get bonus dollars. There are so many unknowns, having a universe of possibilities vs clear cut proposals might help position us better to flexibly respond if/when the NOFO drops.
- There is a need for more strategic planning on what state supports could kick in, if Permanent Housing (PH) did all move to Transitional Housing (TH), and how service provision could change to address those shifts.
- There was a request for more supports, grace with deadlines, and TA/Guidance on converting from PH to TH.
- It was reported that staff are scared and clients are hearing the "rumors." How can we bring clarity to them?
  - Participants were encouraged to share additional suggestions by email to ctboscoc@gmail.com

7. **System Performance Measures (SPM) Updates**
   - Rose Kelly, Nutmeg presented on SPMs: SPM Updates
   - Due to Caseworthy Reporting issue, data presented are missing Sept 2025. ACT has escalated the issue to high priority with Caseworthy and has been in touch with their leadership.

8. **Community Health Center (CHS) Updates on Vaccine Guidance**
   - Dr. Marwan Haddad presented on vaccine updates: CHC Vaccine Updates

9. **Data Strategy Board (DSB) Updates**
   - DSB Retreat
     - DSB held a retreat last week and shared the following high-level updates of discussions and decisions: the group voted to authorize data collection related to people living in vehicles for the Point-in-Time Count; The Document Subcommittee is working on updates to policies & procedures, the privacy policy, and the HMIS release of information; their next priority will be the data quality management plan; DSB reviewed DSB Membership and will be adding representation from United Way 211 (statewide); an RFP for an HMIS software vendor to potentially replace CaseWorthy will be released in a few weeks.
     - DSB noted feedback on the need to improve communication with CANs and on working to strengthen those communication channels.
   - Financial Sustainability
     - DSB discussed ways to increase resources to support the system, including

potential costs of migrating to a new HMIS software.

- o Potential revenue sources for future funding might include revisiting ESG dollars from municipalities, foundations, reallocation of unspent CoC funds to support HMIS, and revisiting scalable user fees.
- o The funding subcommittee will further explore ways to increase funding streams.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPI)
  - o The KPI subcommittee was created to review input from the CANs on creating consistent, clearly defined KPIs for the system and has discussed use of cthmis.com for public facing dashboards.

10. Partner Announcements & Other Business

- CT CAN End Homelessness is doing a lot of education with legislators and state officials around the potential cuts in the upcoming HUD CoC NOFO. The group presented to the End Homelessness Caucus and has been meeting with Attorney General's office. They will be sharing advocacy information shortly to let people know the impact of the potential cuts. It was noted that there may be a need for state stop-gap funding for the CoC renewals that have not yet received funding.

11. Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

- Semi-Annual: November 21, 2025; 11-1:00
- 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