



MARYLAND  
BALANCE OF STATE  
CONTINUUM OF CARE

**COC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

July 18, 2024

[Meeting Recording](#)

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<b>Board Members Present</b>	Allegany County: Dave Nedved Cecil County: Gwen Parrack Frederick County: Michelle Ott Garrett County: Fred Polce, Shawnee Reynolds Harford County: PJ Craig Southern MD: Florence Brooks, Cynthia Brown, Jacquelyn Culver, Corae Young Washington County: Mark Sewell, Tyrell Wilson MD Department of Education: Patricia Julianelle MD Department of Health (MDH): Priya Arokiaswamy MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): Danielle Meister MD Department of Labor (Labor): Casey Tiefenwerth
<b>Board Members Absent</b>	Allegany County: Margaret Paul Cecil County: Earl Grey Frederick County: Kenneth Oldham Harford County: Robin Tomechko MD Department of Disabilities (MDOD): Vacant MD Department of Human Services (DHS): Vacant MD Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS): Vacant MD Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA): Vacant
<b>Committee Chair Present</b>	Coordinated Entry: Brian Wainwright
<b>CoC Lead Present</b>	Carolyn Curry, Kristen Halsey, Suzanne Korff, Tiffany Little

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**I. Welcome & Call to Order**

Corae Young called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm, quorum was confirmed.

**II. Approval of May 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

Young asked if there were amendments or changes for the proposed minutes, none were made. Yong asked for a motion to approve the minutes, Florence Brooks made the motion. Jacquelyn Culver seconded the motion. The full board voted and all approved.

**III. Committee Reports**

**DHCD Updates:** Danielle Meister provided an overview of the STOP Act; the legislation passed in 2022 and required service providers – including behavioral health, health clinics, homeless services and other human service providers - to have naloxone and/or an opioid reversal drug on site. This

will primarily impact emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, specifically those funded by the state. Additional training will be provided, and MDH will likely support providers.

Meister updated the board on recent DHCD staffing changes and introduced the Homeless Solutions Division new Deputy Director, Ade Adeniji, who started in July. Meister also announced that DHCD received the Youth Homeless Systems Improvement Grant, YHSI, which is intended to help create a statewide plan to prevent and end youth homelessness. DHCD will have 2 roles internally to support the project. YHSI funds will also be available to help develop and support a Youth Action Board and provide stipends to participants.

**Executive Committee:** Young asked Tiffany Little to provide an overview of the Racial and Social Equity Workshop; Little reported that 4 members of the CoC – herself, Young, Brian Wainwright and Suzanne Koff – recently completed the 12-week workshop and were able to work with HUD and TA staff to learn more about equity and opportunities to develop and implement activities across the BoS. The CoC team has created three strategies to bring to the CoC, the first is called ACEs, which stands Advocacy, Competency and education – the goal of which is to provide training and informational opportunities. The second is to work towards improved data to better identify inequities and disparities that may exist within the BoS and better understand system gaps. The third strategy is to produce LHC level equity action plans, with the understanding that the population varies across all BoS counties and create localized plans that will work for each area.

**HMIS Committee:** Mark Sewell introduced the new HMIS System Administrator Team - Brandy Yant, Jessica Jones and John Dawkins. The team has been reaching out to each LHC to make sure projects are set up correctly, this work is important since it impacts our HUD reports. There is also a new sandbox site that is used for training – users can learn the system without messing up the data. New project requests must be submitted by July 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a downtime as the projects are corrected in the system. Upcoming HMIS activities include routine new user training opportunities and new refresher trainings, the HMIS team will be updating and enforcing HMIS policy – for example, if an account has been inactive for 30 days, it will be deactivated; users will be required to contact the staff to regain access. HMIS is now sending a regular newsletter to all end users, please let us know if you are not receiving it.

**Coordinated Entry Committee:** Wainwright reported that the Coordinated Entry Phase 1 process is nearly complete after much work, we are expecting to be fully compliant by September 30<sup>th</sup>. BoS staff will be developing Phase 2 of Coordinated Entry in the fall. Staff will be looking at ways to reduce system inflow, better coordination of the front doors to service, implement diversion and landlord engagement training, and developing data metrics to measure performance of the system. The BoS also wants to ensure that the Coordinated Entry Committee membership is representative of those working with CE daily. Wainwright then reviewed the first data metrics from the LHCs who have launched CE to get a better understanding of how this system has been operating and to begin a baseline for performance.

**MD Interagency Council on Homelessness:** Suzanne Korff reported that the ICH has paused forming new workgroups to develop a new action plan in coordination with other State Agency partners. There is much work already happening and the group needs a clear plan to move forward. New statewide projects that can be incorporated into the ICH workplan include a Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator program to expand the Medicaid Waiver program, there is a new grant to focus on home modifications for the aging population, allowing them to remain in

their homes, the YHSI grant to develop the statewide response to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Meister reported that DHCD is updating the State Housing Needs Assessment, something done every 10 years, and will evaluate the need for more supportive housing to serve vulnerable populations. DHCD will be leading the new Office of Landlord and Tenant Affairs, one project will be to develop a new MD Tenant Bill of Rights.

#### **IV. CoC Lead Report**

Carolyn Curry reported that the CoC Funding Competition is expected to open at any time and the CoC needs to update all policy to prepare. HUD has made changes to the competition, the NOFO will now be on a two-year cycle, renewing projects will now be receiving an FMR increase and a COLA increase for SSO and HMIS line items. The 2025 NOFO off year will be an opportunity for the CoC to focus on strategy to address performance, needs and gaps.

Curry presented CoC level data for the board to review and identify strategies to prioritize new project applications if there is CoC Bonus funding available. Based on the available data, review of vulnerable population and the current bed inventory, the Board opted to prioritize PSH and Joint TH-RRH new project applications for funding.

The Board discussed methods to address geographic equity in new project funding, to ensure all counties have an equal opportunity to receive new dollars. The board determined new project applications in an LHC that did not receive new project funding in the most recent funding competition would receive preference points in the application. The board also reinforced the need to monitor performance for renewing projects to ensure that limited resources can be reallocated to new projects.

Curry then presented the updated CoC Competition Rating and Ranking Policy and the Reallocation Policy. Young called for a motion to approve the policies pending incorporating the geographic equity options. Wainwright made the motion to approve, Gwen Parrack seconded the motion. The board voted and all approved. The vote also authorized the CoC to modify the policies as needed based on language in the upcoming NOFO.

Korff reported that the CoC is currently working to compete the YHDP funding application which will be due in August, the biggest priority now is developing the structure for the Youth Action Board. HUD defines a YAB of having at least 4 members, 24 years and younger, with lived experience. There is an existing YAB in Frederick County that will be engaged to create a BoS-wide committee. The stipend policy will ensure that participants are paid for their time and provided supports as needed.

Korff also provided an overview of the Data Warehouse project, data sharing agreements have been sent to CoCs across the state, which is an agreement with the CoCs, DHCD and the University of MD for system performance evaluation and future client matching to outside service providers.

#### **V. Local Homelessness Coalition Reports / Peer Support & Resource Sharing**

Since the meeting went long, LHC reports were not given during the meeting.

**VI. State Agency Updates**

Since the meeting went long, State Agency reports were not given during the meeting.

**VII. Future Board Meeting Agenda Items**

Young asked if there are ideas or requests for future board meeting agenda items, Parrack requested a survey of how LHCs are handling extreme heat planning with the homeless population.

**VIII. Public Comment**

Young asked for any public comment, none was made.

**IX. Adjournment:**

Young called for a motion to adjourn, Dave Nedved made the motion, Parrack seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.

**Vote Summary**

- May Meeting Minutes Approved
- FY2024 CoC Competition Policies Approved

**Upcoming BoS CoC Board Meetings**

September 19, 2024: 1-3pm   November 21, 2024: 1-3pm   January 16, 2025: 1-3pm