

**Philadelphia Continuum of Care (CoC) Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, May 8, 2017, 9:30 – 11 am**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present Committee Members**

Cheryl Pope – APM  
Tina Pagotto – Bethesda Project  
Mark Jones, Michael Lewis– CATCH, Inc.  
Michelle Lopez – CCP  
Aimee Della Porta – Covenant House PA  
Sandra Guillory – Depaul USA  
Vanessa Tercero – Dignity Housing  
Lisa-Jane Erwin, Margaret Triandafyllis – Free  
Library of Philadelphia  
Terrine Anthony, S. Sok Sarom – FRP  
Stephanie Puccia – Hahnemann Hospital  
Janet Kroll – Homeless Assistance Fund, Inc.  
Carla Williams – Horizon House, Inc.  
Mary Ellen Graham – My Place Germantown

Brenda Dawson – PathWays PA  
John Lambert – Pathways to Housing PA  
Nicole White – PCRC/TURN  
Rachel Falkove – PIHN  
Rachel Yoder – Project HOME  
David Dunbeck – PHMC  
Richard McMillen – Sunday Breakfast  
Khari McKie – Valley Youth House  
Kathy Salerno – Veterans Multi-Service Center  
Robert Emberger – Whosoever Gospel Mission  
Doris Spears – Youth Build Charter School  
Nitah Dunham – Youth Service Inc  
David Ross, Francine Williams – CTS/YTC

**Absent Committee Members**

ACHIEVEability  
ACF/RHY  
The Attic Youth Center  
Broad Street Ministry  
Catholic Social Services  
Center City District  
Center for H.O.P.E.  
Department of Human Services  
Drueding Center  
Eddie's House  
Episcopal Community Services  
Families Forward Philadelphia  
Gaudenzia  
HELP Philadelphia  
Homeless Advocacy Project  
Jefferson Health Care  
JEVS Human Services

Juvenile Law Center  
Lutheran Settlement House  
People's Emergency Center  
Philadelphia FIGHT  
Potter's House Mission  
Raise of Hope  
Resources for Human Development  
The Salvation Army  
School District of Philadelphia  
The SHARE Food Program, Inc.  
The Sheller Family Foundation  
Utility Emergency Services Fund  
The Village of Arts and Humanities  
West Chester University  
Women Against Abuse  
Women of Excellence  
Women's Community Revitalization Project

**Present Office of Homeless Services (OHS) Staff:**

Roberta Cancellier  
Michele Mangan  
Leah Staub

David Holloman  
Jessica Sones  
Lauren Whitleigh

**Background Materials:** The following background materials were sent to Committee members on Tuesday, May 2, 2017: the meeting agenda; March 20th Meeting Minutes; the material that OHS

submitted to the Division of Housing & Community Development for the 5-year parts of the proposed FY18-FY22 HUD Consolidated Plan; OHS Director Liz Hersh's written testimony for the OHS Budget Hearing at City Council on May 2. The email also contained a link to the final *Assessment of Fair Housing* (AFH) that the City submitted to HUD in December, which was approved in February, noting the Fair Housing Goals and Priorities section.

**Materials Distributed at Meeting:** Meeting agenda; printed copies of powerpoint slides on HUD's definition of High Performing Communities, the Philadelphia 2017 Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count; a different presentation of the Point-in-Time Count data. Copies of the Health and Human Services Cabinet's *Together We Thrive* plan and the application to join the Young Adult Leadership Committee were also available.

**Materials to be Distributed with Minutes:** The powerpoint presentation used during the meeting.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Rachel Yoder (Advisory Committee Chair) began the meeting at 9:32 am with a welcome, introductions, and a brief review of the purpose of having community meetings. The group broke up into small groups for community meetings.

**Approval of March 20th Meeting Minutes:** The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Youth System Update:** Jessica Sones, OHS Youth System Coordinator, provided several updates.

- OHS received official notice that Philadelphia was not selected to receive one of the ten Youth Housing Demonstration Project (YHDP) grant awards. Despite not being awarded a grant, Philadelphia had a great score. The debrief received from HUD suggests that the application primarily lost points around HMIS participation and coordinated entry, which are areas where we are already focusing energy.
- The Young Adult Leadership Committee is recruiting new members, ages 16-24 with experience with homelessness. Applications are due June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The 100-Day Challenge Youth Team/Coalition has changed its name to Philly Homes 4 Youth, a name that came from the team and was approved by the YALC. A smaller group of system leaders is working on strategic planning during May and June, and the full Coalition will reconvene in July.

**2016-2017 Winter Initiative:** David Holloman, OHS Director of External Affairs, reported on the Winter Initiative, a collaboration between OHS and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) that operated from the end of November through March 31. This year's Winter Initiative applied a smaller respite model that had been used with success during the DNC and also tracked participation in HMIS. David spoke of significant numbers of new persons being encountered on the street and the targeted efforts to address the reach of the opioid crisis. This year, capacity increased by 12%, from 300 to 378 beds and about 40-50 chronically homeless individuals were placed in Permanent Supportive Housing from Winter Initiative beds. David highlighted work with Bethesda Project to master lease a house and offer units to women experiencing long-term homelessness. Now permanently housed in Bethesda Serenity, these women had each slept on Winter Initiative beds each year for over a decade and had previously gone back to the streets every spring.

**Updated Standards for City Emergency Housing:** Roberta Cancellier, OHS Deputy for Housing Services, reported that OHS is revising its Emergency Housing Standards for the first time since 2010, with grounding in the principles of Housing First, Housing Focus, and Prioritized, Person-Centered, Strength-Based services. All City Emergency Housing providers were provided a copy of the draft standards on May 3. OHS is collecting provider feedback via online survey tool. The revised standards will be complete before July 1, as they will become effective in the new fiscal year.

Roberta reviewed some of revisions with which OHS will operationalize these principles. Discussion followed about the role of savings, about the challenges of navigating the transition to the Housing First approach, and about Housing First itself. Mary Ellen Graham of My Place Germantown noted that a CoC workgroup is trying to find best practices for helping participants who would be ready to leave PSH but find themselves financially stuck. Leah Staub, CoC Board Program Manager, reminded PSH providers that the workgroup has sent out a [survey](#) and needs responses. Non-EH providers expressed interest in seeing the new EH standards to have a better picture of the programs from which their new participants may be referred.

**VI-SPDAT pilot in Family Emergency Housing:** Lauren Whitleigh, OHS Director of CoC Planning, reported that 9 family EH sites completed 180 VI-SPDATS in the month of March.

- **49%** scored between **0-3** (no housing intervention recommended)
- **38%** scored between **4-8** (assessment for TH or RRH recommended)
- **13%** scored **9+** (assessment for PSH recommended)

Because assessments were done on paper and not in HMIS, OHS will need to do a deeper analysis of the completed assessments to identify the reasons people scored the way they did.

**OHS Update:** Lauren Whitleigh reported that OHS has a new Director of HMIS, Gbolade (Okestra) Soneyin, and a new Director of Emergency and Temporary Housing, Fred Gigliotti. Okestra will be reviving our CoC Data Committee. Hiring for two positions is still in process: Deputy Director for Planning, Policy, and Performance Management and Training and Technical Assistance Specialist. A new opportunity, Program Manager – Evaluation, was recently posted.

**Advisory Committee Invitations:** Leah Staub will send out invitations to join the Advisory Committee during the month of June and requested suggestions for whom to invite to be sent to [leah.staub@phila.gov](mailto:leah.staub@phila.gov).

**Future Meetings:** The next Advisory Committee meeting will focus on giving input on our CoC's project ranking strategy, once we have seen the HUD CoC funding NOFA. The meeting will be scheduled once the NOFA is released.

**2017 CoC Program Funding Competition:** Lauren Whitleigh reminded committee members of the local and HUD timelines for 2017 CoC Program funds. Local renewal applications were due April 13<sup>th</sup>; scores were due to OHS May 11<sup>th</sup>. OHS will release a New Project RFP in May and will distribute renewal project scores to all renewal projects early June. The CoC's HUD Program Registration was due May 1<sup>st</sup> and the FY 2017 Grant Inventory Worksheet of all eligible renewal projects was due May 4<sup>th</sup>. HUD plans to release the 2017 NOFA in May/June with applications due in August/September.

Lauren reported that HUD has redesigned its Awards and Allocation Page:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/pa-500/>. Highlights of this year's CoC Program Registration

included the addition of a new Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing Component project type, new opportunities for reallocated projects, a new Grant Inventory Worksheet process, and (less applicable locally) an emphasis on smaller CoCs merging to address funding challenges and create efficiencies. Lauren also noted the criteria for HUD to designate a CoC as a High Performing Community and compared measures of Philadelphia’s performance to those standards.

**Philadelphia 2017 Housing Inventory & Point-in-Time Counts:** Michele Mangan, OHS Director of Performance Management presented the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data submitted to HUD on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The following tables present the data as she described it.

Philadelphia 2017 Housing Inventory Count								
	# units for households with children	#beds for households with children	# beds for households without children	# beds for households with only children	# beds dedicated to chronically homeless	2017 Total Beds	2016 Total Beds	Difference
EH - Current & New	465	1,559	2,064	29	-	3,652	3,768	-116
EH - Underdevelopment	0	0	25	20	-	45	20	+25
<b>TH - Current &amp; New</b>								
TH - Current & New	392	1,110	477	0	-	1,587	1,905	-318
TH - Underdevelopment	0	0	0	0	-	0	8	-8
<b>SH - Current &amp; New</b>								
SH - Current & New	0	0	85	0	-	85	85	0
SH - Underdevelopment	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
<b>PSH &amp; PH - Current &amp; New</b>								
PSH & PH - Current & New	999	3,486	2,693	0	1,497	6,179	6,046	+133
<b>PSH &amp; PH - Underdevelopment</b>								
PSH & PH - Underdevelopment	300	900	250	0	105	1,150	1,110	+40
<b>Total - Current &amp; New</b>								
Total - Current & New	1,856	6,155	5,319	29	1,497	11,503	11,804	-301
<b>Total - Underdevelopment</b>								
Total - Underdevelopment	300	900	275	20	105	1,195	1,138	+57

	2017	2016	Difference
RRH PIT Count	1,179	759	+420

The number of EH beds has decreased primarily because a large privately-funded program was removed, as it is now focused on serving as a support for persons newly in recovery. All 45 EH beds under development are for youth, 20 for youth under age 18 and 25 for youth ages 18-24. Most of the decrease in TH can be attributed to program conversion from TH to RRH, though there is also a TH program for Veterans that has closed due to loss of funding. Michele clarified that for the HIC, the safe haven category only includes HUD-funded programs, so the safe havens run by DBHIDS are included in

the EH numbers. Committee members inquired about the numbers for PH under development and the status of the Blueprint program. PHA is behind in its Blueprint commitment and OHS is working to innovate around adding available PH. The Supportive Housing Clearinghouse just kicked off a new program with PHA on May 3. If necessary, most funding sources allow extension of RRH to 24 months if necessary. Households can also apply to PHA while using RRH resources.

<b>Philadelphia Point-in-Time Count</b>													
<b>All Households/All Persons</b>													
	Night of January 25, 2017						Night of January 27, 2016					Difference	
	EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total		EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total	# change	% increase/decrease
# Households	2,343	771	84	943	4,141		2,626	893	77	696	4,292	-151	-4%
# Persons	3,275	1,378	84	956	5,693		3,656	1,674	77	705	6,112	-419	-7%
<b>Households with Dependent Children</b>													
	Night of January 25, 2017						Night of January 27, 2016					Difference	
	EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total		EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total	# change	% increase/decrease
# Households	478	346	0	1	825		462	423	0	0	885	-60	-7%
# Persons	1,400	948	0	4	2,352		1,482	1,200	0	0	2,682	-330	-12%
<b>Households without Dependent Children</b>													
	Night of January 25, 2017						Night of January 27, 2016					Difference	
	EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total		EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total	# change	% increase/decrease
# Households	1,843	425	84	938	3,290		2,144	469	77	696	3,386	-96	-3%
# Persons	1,853	430	84	948	3,315		2,154	471	77	705	3,407	-92	-3%
<b>Households with ONLY Children (under 18 years of age)</b>													
	Night of January 25, 2017						Night of January 27, 2016					Difference	
	EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total		EH	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total	# change	% increase/decrease
# Households	22	0	0	4	26		20	1	0	0	21	+5	+24%
# Persons	22	0	0	4	26		20	3	0	0	23	+3	+13%

Michele highlighted notable changes in the PIT count from 2016 to 2017, primarily related to the increased unsheltered numbers. In 2017, Philadelphia counted its first unsheltered family, with two parents under age 24 and two children. Encountered at 5 am, they reported being kicked out of their family member's house the previous night and walking around until they could seek help in the morning. When Outreach arrived, the family was no longer present.

Roberta Cancellier and David Holloman noted that this year's count was conducted at a different time than previous years (5-8 am) and that the night was temperate, both of which may affect comparisons with previous years. However, OHS is taking the increased unsheltered number seriously and working to find more ways to address the needs of those living on the streets. Some of these efforts include

expansion of the respite model of smaller facilities that enhanced the success rates for bringing people into shelter during the DNC and the Winter Initiative, creating a process for Street Outreach to bring people directly to shelters instead of to centralized intake, and growing the availability of and services available through day programs.

Leah Staub noted that though national numbers for 2017 will not be available for some time, unsheltered homelessness increased nationwide from 2015 to 2016 and has increased 18.5% in the 50 largest city CoCs since the low point in 2014, which was also the low point for Philadelphia. Some of this can be attributed to improving methodologies and better counting, but Philadelphia is not alone in seeing more people living on the streets. Among the few 2017 PIT counts that were released by large cities in advance of the HUD deadline, a number of unsheltered counts increased between 15-40%.

<b>Philadelphia Point-in-Time Count – Subpopulations</b>												
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>												
										Difference		
	EH	SH	Unsheltered	Total		EH	SH	Unsheltered	Total		# change	% increase/ decrease
# Individuals	319	84	474	877		295	77	402	774		+103	+13%
# Persons in Families	21	0	0	21		79	0	0	79		-58	-73%

<b>Philadelphia Point-in-Time Count – Subpopulations</b>									
	Night of January 25, 2017					Night of January 27, 2016			
	Sheltered (EH+TH+SH)	Unsheltered	Total	Percent		Sheltered (EH+TH+SH)	Unsheltered	Total	Percent
Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)	189	82	271	7%		237	25	262	6%
Parenting Youth (18-24)	240	2	242	6%		290	0	290	7%
Severely Mentally Ill	1,091	503	1,594	39%		1,387	375	1,762	41%
Chronic Substance Abuse	1,103	476	1,579	38%		1,487	364	1,851	43%
Veterans	204	40	244	6%		276	17	293	7%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	108	51	159	4%		103	66	169	4%
Victims of Domestic Violence (includes families and singles)	479	180	659	16%		469	179	648	15%

The number of unsheltered youth counted in Philadelphia in 2017 represented a marked increase from 2016, again due in part to significant methodological improvements. The Youth Count was preceded by research on the hot spots for youth experiencing homelessness and was conducted by youth themselves. Perhaps for this reason, for the first time, four unsheltered youth reported their age as under 18.

Discussion included consideration of the additional pressure on the system created by the delay in Blueprint unit availability, which has reduced flow and the ability to move on.

David Ross of Connection Training Services announced that the new Youth Transition Center at 5738 Thomas Ave will be opening shortly, providing vocational training, employment readiness programs, job placement assistance, and other services to runaway and homeless youth.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.