



Seattle-King County CoC Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Date/Time

September 6th, 2023; 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Roll Call

Name	Present
Patricia Barnes-Sam	x
Tamara Bauman	x
Kenyatta CarrollHillman	
Leeze Castro	x
Zsa Zsa Floyd	x
Marvin Futrell	x
Kristi Hamilton	Sabbatical
Antoinette Lambert	
Dorsol Plants	x
Ruby Romero	x
Martha Sassorossi	x
Kristina Sawyckyj	x
Sherry Tillman	
Galena White	x

- Roll Call – 8 members present – 4 members absent
 - Quorum is met
- [2:10] - Board member joined
 - 9 members present – 3 members absent
 - Quorum is met

Land Acknowledgement (Dorsol Plants)

Item 1- Reviewing the Meeting Minutes (Marvin Futrell)

- **Motion:** Voting to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
- **Vote:** Approved

Name	Vote
Patricia Barnes-Sam	x

Tamara Bauman	x
Kenyatta CarrollHillman	
Leeze Castro	x
Zsa Zsa Floyd	x
Marvin Futrell	x
Kristi Hamilton	
Antoinette Lambert	
Dorsol Plants	x
Ruby Romero	x
Martha Sassorossi	x
Kristina Sawyckyj	
Sherry Tillman	
Galena White	x

- Martha – Asks for a few edits to be made:
 - VAWA for emergency transfers
 - May be up to 3-4 awards due to a voluntary reallocation of funds
 - Local application rating and ranking
- Patricia -
 - The group nominated to hold an additional vote for the second chair. Zsa Zsa was voted in.
 - Marvin will be in 6 months longer and then we will vote at the convening, or we can call a special meeting beforehand to do a vote to change leadership

Item 2- Affirm KCRHA as HMIS Leader (Marvin Futrell)

- **Motion:** Affirm KCRHA as HMIS Leader
- **Vote:** Approved

Name	Vote
Patricia Barnes-Sam	x
Tamara Bauman	x
Kenyatta CarrollHillman	
Leeze Castro	x
Zsa Zsa Floyd	x
Marvin Futrell	x
Kristi Hamilton	
Antoinette Lambert	
Dorsol Plants	Abstain
Ruby Romero	x
Martha Sassorossi	x
Kristina Sawyckyj	
Sherry Tillman	

- This was voted upon in March of 2022, but the System Performance Committee Matrix best practices had to be sure we had all of the pieces recommended by HUD. That document was missing so we are doing a revote to reestablish to make sure we are in full compliance.
 - Janelle can go over the details with the board later if wanted.

Item 3- Coordinated Entry Update- Alex Ebrahimi

- Alex is the System Performance manager at the KCRHA
- Coordinated Entry Eligibility
 - Coordinated Entry serves people experiencing homelessness who are:
 - Living and sleeping outside
 - Sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation
 - Staying in a shelter
 - Fleeing/attempting to flee DV situations
 - Young adults (including young families) who are imminently at risk of homelessness within 14 days
- Access
 - Regional Access Points (RAPs) are an entry point the Coordinated Entry System. These entry points are centers where people experiencing homelessness can get help finding housing and other resources. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness may call ahead to schedule an appointment:
 - Bellevue- Catholic Community Services
 - Federal Way – Multi-Service Center
 - Renton – YWCA
 - Seattle – Central – Catholic Community Services
 - Seattle – North – Solid Ground
 - Additionally, there are Community Based Assessors employed at dozens of homeless service provider agencies across King County.
- Coordinated Entry Referral Pathways Daily Windows of Opportunity for Housing Nominations:
 - **Partnership for Zero** – 8:30am to 10:30am
 - **Families** – 10:30am to 12:30pm
 - **Single Adults** – 12:00pm to 3:00pm
 - **Young Adults** – 3:00pm to 5:00pm
 - **American Indian – Alaska Native Case Conferencing** – Weekly matching and bi-weekly meetings
 - **Mobility Transfers** – Processed within 1 business day for Safety, 3 business days otherwise
 - **Trueblood Case Conferencing** – As units become available
 - **Veterans Case Conferencing** – Weekly matching and meetings
- Transition Period

- April 17 to May 26, 2023
 - Align with HUD guidance to close External Fills on May 29
 - Snapshot the Priority Pool on April 14 and continue to house those previously prioritized
 - Orient emergency service providers to the new process
 - Solicit feedback and iterate
- Sticking Points
 - Chronic Homelessness verification is a significant documentation challenges
 - Lack of middle-path options for those with low to medium needs who cannot afford the housing market
 - Inconsistent knowledge base about housing resources in our community
- Sharing Knowledge
 - Create a battery of training for:
 - Housing project type and the nuances of the portfolio within those types
 - Chronic Homelessness documentation
 - Document qualitative data on Unsuccessful Referrals in HMIS
 - Monthly onboarding for CE process
- System Administration Opportunities
 - Mobility Request Homelessness Waiver update
 - Prioritization future COPRI
 - Effective partnership with PHAs to reduce housing placement timeline in PBV PSH
 - Develop sustainable, trauma informed process for multiple referrals to a single opening
 - Redesign Regional Access Points (RAP) from a person-centered design framework
 - Integrate all shelter placements in the CES

Questions:

- Marvin Futrell raised a question from the chat, asking about the status of individuals staying in hotels paid for by service providers. Alex Ebrahimi confirmed that if someone is staying in a hotel funded by a service provider, they are considered "literally homeless."

Concerns about Calling CCS: Another query from the chat highlighted concerns about people being directed to voicemail and not receiving callbacks when they reach out to CCS. Kelsey Beckmeyer provided a detailed response, explaining:

- CCS, as one of the regional access point providers, receives a high volume of calls – between 500 to 800 a month.
 - Due to staffing limitations, they can't answer every call, so many are diverted to voicemail.
 - Each call is screened, and they prioritize and respond to those they can handle.
 - The system isn't perfect, and they are continually assessing what resources and support they might need.
 - The challenge lies in handling the enormous volume of calls with limited staff and resources.
 - Kelsey emphasized the need for continuous effort to address the issue since there isn't an immediate surge in funding available for the purpose.

Mobility Transfers for Safety:

- Question raised about the definition of a "business day" regarding safety transfers. Concern about the delay in help over weekends or late at night.
- Alex Ebrahimi clarified that the system responds within 24 business hours, and while they prioritize immediate safety risks, other measures might be needed for imminent risks.
- Dorsol Plants emphasized the scarcity of DV shelter options and the urgent need in the community.
- Alex acknowledged the deficit and the challenges faced by the community.

Challenges with Housing Process:

- Patricia Barnes-Sam shared her experiences trying to help people navigate the system. She witnessed barriers at service centers and has found it hard to get responses or assistance. She stressed the urgency of the situation as many face issues like police harassment and asked about alternatives or improvements to the current system.
- Marvin Futrell acknowledged her concerns and assured her that they would try to follow up on these issues.

Data Solutions & Qualitative Information:

- Ruby Tuesday highlighted the need for better data solutions, emphasizing the importance of first-person narratives and experiences. She also shared her personal challenges accessing services due to strict language or criteria, and suggested the need for clearer, more inclusive language and better understanding by service providers.

Throughout the Q&A, there was a general theme of addressing systemic challenges in assisting the homeless and those in dangerous situations, emphasizing the urgent need for improvements and clearer communication.

- Sherry Tillman expressed concerns about the current system, particularly with regard to accountability, and ensuring families get the resources they need quickly. Appears to emphasize the importance of timely response and resource allocation to those in need.
 - Alex Ebrahimi Acknowledged the problems in the current system, attributing many of them to a scarcity of housing resources in the community.
 - Stressed the need for innovation and improving efficiency, admitting there have always been challenges related to coordinated entry.
 - Emphasized that most of the problems would be mitigated if there were enough housing resources to meet community demand.
 - Promised to work hard to reduce these issues and invited community engagement to help solve them.
 - Brought up the challenge of racial equity and highlighted the need for community providers to have an understanding of this to ensure a fair system.
 - Mentioned the possibility of having a town hall to gather input on potential solutions and improvements.
 - Discussed the importance of having a clear system in place to support those experiencing homelessness through every step of their journey. This involves not just electronic or verbal communication but direct action on the ground.

To summarize, the Q&A section revolved around concerns with the current system's effectiveness, a scarcity of resources, the importance of equity, and the potential need for a more hands-on approach to assist those navigating the housing system.

Item 4- FY23 NOFO Update – Kelsey Beckmeyer

- Today's Objective
 - Updates on Rating and Ranking
 - Updates on the Consolidated Application
 - Questions and Answers
 - Review and recommendation of additional money to reallocate
 - Vote on reallocation
- FY23 CoC Rating and Ranking

- All applications submitted on August 28th
 - 56 Renewals (3 are not rated – HMIS, Coordinated Entry, and Coordinated Entry-DV)
 - 7 Bonus Project Applications
- 12 Raters are currently in the process of review
 - 8 raters with lived experience
- Will hold community meeting September 13th
 - The link is up on the website, and they will send it out in an email to get community members involved.
- FY23 Consolidated Application
 - Working with a consultant for technical writing support
 - Assisting with areas where we did not score full points in FY22
 - Identifying application sections for external partner support
 - Plan to send question sets out for input over the next week
- NOFO Workgroup is happening tomorrow morning

Question:

- When will the group need to meet to hold a vote? - Marvin Futrell
 - The board votes on the process of the NOFO – Kelsey Beckmeyer
- Additional Reallocation Recommendation:
 - CoC Reallocation Policy:
 - Funding for projects may be reallocated in the following ways:
 - Funding (in whole or part) from one project into a new project by a different provider or subrecipient
 - Funding (in whole or part) from one project into many new projects
- Additional Reallocation Recommendation:
 - Low Income Housing Institute:
 - Relinquishing \$105,000 from one grant
 - Recommendation: Add to the available CoC Bonus dollars to increase the total to \$6,143,143

Question:

- Kristina Sawyyckyj questioned why King County returned the shelter plus care vouchers, expressing concern about the unmet community needs and seeking a clear answer.
- Martha Sassorossi explained:
 - They've consistently returned unspent rental assistance while meeting service targets.
 - The underspend arises because actual rent paid is significantly less than awarded amounts, causing a spending gap.
 - Their aim is to use the funds in the community instead of returning them to Hud.
 - Partnering with Plymouth helps in administering the Rental Assistance funds. Despite some staffing issues, they still meet their service commitments.

- Alan Guttirez explained: HUD funds rental assistant programs with the idea that tenants cannot pay any rent. So, this leads to savings when folx can pay rent. They are able to maximize projects in the community by giving back that underspend.

- **Motion:** To Reallocate the \$105,000 to add it to the \$6,143,143
- **Vote:** Approved

Name	Vote
Patricia Barnes-Sam	x
Tamara Bauman	x
Kenyatta CarrollHillman	x
Leeze Castro	x
Zsa Zsa Floyd	x
Marvin Futrell	x
Kristi Hamilton	
Antoinette Lambert	
Dorsol Plants	x
Ruby Romero	x
Martha Sassorossi	x
Kristina Sawyckyj	x
Sherry Tillman	x
Galena White	x

CoC Annual Meeting Workgroup – Kelsey Beckmeyer

- Want to meet early September through the end of November to plan, execute and follow up with a second convening from 2023. Board members, KCRHA staff, & CoC members. We are voting to establish that workgroup. CoC limits the number of members to 12 and the aim is to develop and create/lead the convening. It would be either in person or hybrid.
 - Create a timeline leading up to the convening
 - Get invitations created and sent out
 - Building an agenda
 - Following up
- Tamara Bauman- Has presenters she wants to bring in to shape culture. Full Frame Initiative & NAMI Seattle. Tamara is volunteering to participate in the work group

Motion: To start a CoC Convening Workgroup

Vote: Approved

Name	Vote
Patricia Barnes-Sam	x
Tamara Bauman	x
Kenyatta CarrollHillman	x
Leeze Castro	x
Zsa Zsa Floyd	x
Marvin Futrell	x
Kristi Hamilton	
Antoinette Lambert	
Dorsol Plants	x
Ruby Romero	x
Martha Sassorossi	x
Kristina Sawyckyj	x
Sherry Tillman	x
Galena White	x

CoC Board Project Timeline & Discussion – Mia Bryant & Kelsey Beckmeyer

- We are holding off until the next meeting due to time constraints.

Next Steps & Adjourn

- Monday's at 3pm we have the Co-Chair meeting. The cap is 6 but please let us know if you would like to join.
- Town Hall Sign Up Sheet: September 15th
 - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4add278761064de8b316bbf3b4616788>