



Seattle-King County CoC Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Date/Time

March 6th, 2024; 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Roll Call

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

- Roll Call – 12 members present – 1 member absent
- Quorum is (Met)
- Member joined at 2:15 pm (13 members present)

Land Acknowledgement & Theory of Change (Marvin Futrell & Patricia Sam):

- The King County Continuum of Care Board acknowledges that we work on the unseated traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples, especially the first peoples of Seattle, the Duwamish people. The original stewards of the land, past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish tribe. This acknowledgement only becomes meaningful when combined with accountable relationships and informed action and is the first step in honoring the land that we today sit on and their peoples.



- Theory of Change – If we create a homelessness response system that centers people who have lived experience of homelessness, then we will be able to meet needs and eliminate inequities, in order to end homelessness for all.

Public Comment:

- Elizabeth Maupin – Notices severe weather is on the agenda. She had a conversation with the Red Cross willing to provide support with cots, but the request needs to come through from the municipalities.

Severe Weather Update: Tony Machacha

Severe Weather Response: Sheltering our Unhoused Neighbors

- Mission & Theory of Change – Our mission is to significantly decrease homelessness throughout King County, using equity and social justice principles.
- Role of KCRHA in Severe Weather – To provide an emergency system of services, including opening safe, short-term emergency day and nighttime shelters, and coordinating outreach to unsheltered people.
- Key Partnerships
 - City of Seattle
 - Public Health-Seattle & King County
 - National Weather Service-Seattle Office
 - King County Emergency Ops
 - Harborview Hospital
 - University of Washington
- Stages of Response
 - Monitoring: Daily automated summary 7-day forecast
 - Pre-Activation
 - Activation
 - De-Activation
 - Post Event
 - They receive the report early in the morning for review.
 - Cross check with a 14-day weather system as well as weather.com
 - Once we notice that it meets the threshold (Tier 1,2,3) we get into pre-activation state where we contact our providers that we have contracts with. We get internal & CEO clearance before determining how and what needs to be activated. We do daily monitoring with our partners. The de-activation is announced by the CEO. At the post event we have a debrief with our partners to see what we are doing well/unwell and discuss what can be done better and implement them within the operations manual for future activations.
- Where People Go
 - Existing Emergency shelters with drop-in



- Existing Emergency Shelters with Expanded Capacity
- Stand-Up Severe Weather Shelters
- Stand-Up Warming Centers
- King County Library Locations
- Family Shelter Intake Line
- Tier 1-
 - Daily high temps 45 or below for 3 days
 - Real Feel (wind, rain) conditions predict dangerous situations.
 - 1) Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies
- Tier 2-
 - Daily high temperatures predicted at 40 degrees or below for 3 days.
 - OR daily low temperatures predicted at 35 degrees or below for 3 days.
 - OR snow/rain accumulation greater than 2 inches
 - 1) Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies
 - 2) Opening of Temporary Emergency Shelters
- Tier 3-
 - Daily high temperatures at 35 degrees or below for a single day
 - OR daily low temperatures predicted at 30 degrees or below for a single day.
 - OR snow/rain greater than 4 inches
 - 1) Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies
 - 2) Opening of Temporary Emergency Shelters
 - Expanded transportation, storage, warming centers, hotel stays.
- Tier 2 Activation Response:
 - Activated Shelters in 2024
 - Seattle: Salvation Army SoDo Bay A
 - North KC: Urban League @ St. Dunstan's (Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, Woodinville, & King County)
 - Easy/Sno Valley: Reclaim
 - South & Southeast: City efforts
 - Family Intake Line: Serves entire county
 - Pre-Activation:
 - Alert cities, shelter operators, day centers of upcoming activation
 - Resource distribution and coordination; activate Family Intake Line
 - Activation:
 - Daily emails to community reporting updates or changes. Sharing flyers, websites, and resources.
 - Post Activation:
 - Collecting utilization numbers from severe weather shelters
 - Process reimbursement requests submitted by contracted year-round providers.
 - After Action Debrief



- Tier 3 Activation Response
 - Activated Shelters in 2024:
 - Seattle: Salvation Army SoDo Bay A
 - North KC: Urban League @ St. Dunstan's
 - Easy/Sno Valley: Reclaim
 - South & Southeast: City efforts
 - Family Intake Line: Serves entire County
 - Pre-Activation:
 - Alert government agencies, cities, providers, community
 - Request expansion of shelters and day center hours
 - Coordination of resources, transportation, logistics
 - Activation:
 - Opening public buildings; Ongoing resource distribution and coordination
 - Daily huddles with core Severe Weather Stakeholders
 - Daily emails to community. Flyers, website, resources
 - Post-Activation:
 - Utilization data from shelters & reporting to boards/media
 - Closing public buildings
 - Feedback & After Action debrief
- By the Numbers
 - Seattle 2022-23 Winter Weather Activation
 - Nov 6-12: 6 nights; 63 people
 - Nov 17-20: 3 nights
 - Nov 28-Dec12: 13 nights; 544 people
 - Dec 14-24: 10 nights; 180 people
 - Feb 13-16: 3 nights; 116 people
 - Feb 21-March 9th; 1,259 people
 - Longest: 16 nights
 - Shortest: 3 nights
 - Average: 8 nights
 - 56 out of 151 nights = 37%
 - (November 1st to March 31st)
- General Public Comms
 - Information about severe weather activation is shared widely:
 - KCRHA Website and Social Media
 - Emails to providers, outreach teams, libraries, and other system partners
- Improving our Response
 - Five-Year Plan Severe Weather Activities:
 - Expand number of Severe Weather Shelter beds
 - Coordinate & Centralize the Severe Weather Response Countywide
 - Expand Outreach During Severe Weather Events
 - Incorporate Severe Weather Funding into Existing Contracts



- Improve Guests Connections to Services During & After Activation
- Potential shift to seasonal shelters
- Shore up funding and reimbursement process
- Explore opportunities to engage community-based volunteers.
- Recognition from NOAA-NWS
 - In 2023, KCRHA received the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence. This award elevated out work to:
 - Inspire others to act and become ready, responsive, and resilient.
 - Create innovative ways to engage their community, their workforce, and/or their social network.
 - Form unique collaborations with NOAA and/or other ambassador organizations to achieve goals they alone could not meet.
 - Embrace building “a Weather-Ready Nation for All” by addressing vulnerable populations’ need.

Questions:

- Board member Dorsol Plants – For this most recent in March there were roughly 33 additional beds available. Wondering if you are tracking turn-a-ways?
 - Tony Machacha – We have the tiers to guide us when we activate. When the temp drops we go to HSD if we need City Hall to cover for high demand.
- Co-Chair Marvin Futrell – What is the budget for Severe Weather Response?
 - Tony Machacha – Last year it all came from the COS \$430,000 and this year we received \$529,647 from COS and the North KC cities and KC pitched in \$109,000.
- Co-Chair Marvin Futrell – If its wet and 50 degrees, people die from exposure however the tier system isn’t incorporating that weather setting.
 - Tony Machacha – We inherited the tier system from the City of Seattle and that consideration was there. HSD told us that we cant keep it activated at all times. We do activate a lot more than HSD did when they held this work. We got feedback from National Weather Service that we do need to edit our Tiers in regard to the real feel factor. We are working to
- Board member Dorsol Plants – Do you have a turn away figure for last year?
 - Tony Machacha- I don’t think so but we will check with our partners and he will get back to you.
- Board member Ruby Romero – What were the innovations that were being praised by National Weather Service Alliance? It is difficult for people to find shelters when it gets moved around.
 - Tony Machacha – She is referring to the sites in Seattle. As far as we can control. We rely on COS to give us the buildings, so we activate better. We are working to be more communicative about open buildings to open for activations. The innovations were that we opened up centers for hot weather for all over in Seattle with needs assessments being done on site. Got partnerships with Seattle and King County and



they were distributing supplies for people in need. We went to meet people where they are using personal cars.

- Member of the public Elizabeth Maupin - What percentage of the unhoused population would your tier 2 shelters serve? How do people in need get in touch with you in case of Tier three? 208 is the only bus that serves Reclaim and it runs infrequently. How do you get people across East King County to that site? What is the actual cost for severe weather shelter services?
- Member of the public Jade - Can the money/resources that are used to forcibly displace people, especially during severe weather, be reallocated to fund the new seasonal shelter project instead?
- Board Member Kristina Sawyckj – A former 14-year FEMA employee highlighted the issues with shelter access and misreporting of turn-aways to the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA), citing personal experiences and systemic problems. She notes that cities are inappropriately directing residents lacking heating to shelters and advocates for a committee to address needs exacerbated by extreme weather and climate change. Efforts in Pierce and Snohomish counties are mentioned as examples of community response, but she stresses the challenges of inadequate funding and staffing. The urgency of these issues is underscored by six winter deaths, pointing to the need for improved coordination and resources to support vulnerable populations.
- Member of the public Okesha Brandon – The discussion highlights the recurring issue of severe weather preparedness, emphasizing the importance of proactive shelter policies and readiness for extreme weather. It suggests learning from successful strategies in other cities and critiquing the relevance of current questions being asked, underlining the community's willingness to help through volunteering and the need for shelters to be operational and accessible in advance of weather events.
- Board Member Tamara Bauman – Thinks we should stand up a severe weather and climate change committee. We will need more infrastructure and support. Motions to stand that up and has Kristina as Chair.
 - Co-Chair Zsa Zsa Floyd - Seconds the motion
 - Board Member Ruby Romero – Do we need a scope of work?
 - Alan Guttirez – We are more aligned and committed to requesting more funding for our severe weather response. We cannot mobilize more until we have more funding to expand our response. Acknowledges Tony, Beth and the Emergency Services Team and Subregional Planning teams have been doing everything they can to stretch the funds we are given. We are requesting more funding. Encourages Ruby and others to reach out to Tony and KCRHA staff to uplift this workgroup. Need to strategize and think about timing as we are also working to stand up the Crosscutting Policy Workgroup.
- Board Member Dorsol Plants – Is not against the idea of the committee. He may be willing to serve on it. Is not entirely clear what the committee's primary objective will be. We are in the process of standing up other committees. Worried that if he's asked to vote on this committee now that he may not have all the information needed. Asks to table this.



- Alan Guttirez- KCRHA has really centralized and improved our current staffing for our severe weather response. We did inherit a system, but we have made large improvements. After every single response, there is a debriefing that occurs where all teams come together to update the playbook to account for new and emerging factors. This work has not been stagnant at all. We improve our playbook after every activation. Stresses the capacity differential between tier 2 and tier 3 is very significant. Tier 3 is where we have access to use city buildings. They were able to expand beyond what has most recently been possible during these activations. We can use our weekly co-chairs meeting to discuss severe weather. Shouts out to our Severe Weather team for all of the great work they have done.
- Board Member Sherry Tillman – Works at Mary’s Place. It is a difficult time because they want to serve all the families that come in. She is uplifting the work done by Tony and his team. They have been on top of supporting and providing funds as needed.
- Board Member Tamara Bauman – Wants to amend her motion to stand up the committee to a later date when staffs capacity is more open.

Questions:

- Member of the public Jade - Is this an opportunity to build a partnership with local mutual aid and other community organizations that provide on the ground emergency services? With the creation of critically needed committees but strain of people power, is this an opportunity for the Board to reach out to the CoC membership to get more active?? My understanding is there's about 150 members, lots of folks to help on committees!
- Member of the public Michelle Eastman - How many beds overall are available overall for severe weather response? I heard something like 30 beds is that accurate?

System Performance Committee (SPC) Update: Ruby Romero

- SPC meets on the third Wednesday of every month 2-4pm. Most recent meeting was February 24th, 2024. Voted to approve the 2024 HMIS workplan. HMIS user report out that has 142 organizations and over 1400 active users with over 10,000 logins per month and just over 700 programs . SPC is working to develop new metrics other than just the required HUD metrics. Exploring how to measure important aspects like program efficiency, efficacy, and employer retention.
- Co-Chair Tamara Bauman has also been the driving force into the full frame initiatives wellbeing blueprint. We discussed feasible methods, and we are working to understand how the HUD metrics work within our system. Lia from CE provided an in-depth look into the nomination process for individuals.
- Next meeting is March 20th 2024 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM with an update on the metric. They are hiring on the committee. You can find the application on the KCRHA website under the CoC board page. Hoping to fill those few seats. Please apply!



Preview of CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 2023 Debrief: Alan Guttirez

- All of the existing projects applied for were funded. We did have one agency relinquish their grant and they did not reapply for their funds. Additionally, we had one more bonus project stood up called Roy Street as a joint component project. There are over 400 CoC's in the United States. Every year HUD recalculates the fair market rents. When they go up then our CoC grant awards go up. There was a significant increase of over \$7 million. This is great for providers as the cost-of-living increases will be covered. We are in a high-cost rental market where there is continued stress on folks to keep up with the cost as the process rise. All projects were preserved. One bonus project funded. Transparently, you all know that one of Alan's values is to be transparent. Last year for the FY 2023 CoC NOFO Application that we did experience a significant reduction in the points that our CoC was awarded. We have our work cut out for us to ensure that we are paying attention to what we can learn from our FY2023 NOFO application debrief. Looking at what we can do to reverse the loss of points. There was a reduction in a little over 40 points to our score.
- Alan Guttirez is sharing the CoC application debrief. There are 200 points available. This year we received 134.5 points. Last year we received 177.5 points. 43-point reduction. Alan is excited to be here to discuss how important it is to focus on system performance and tackle issues that arise.
- HUD doesn't give us a debrief on everything. We don't have a point-by-point breakdown. They highlight where we lost a bunch of points. Housing first 10/10 points. Received full points for housing first and outreach sections. We received 0 points on RRH bed increase availability. One time funding for single housing. There is immediate negative impact in scoring rubric. Partnerships with Public Health lost points. Also lost points in our rank and review process. Usually get full points but we wanted to leave room to apply for bonus funds. We lost three points but if we didn't go with this trade off, we wouldn't have Roy. St got stood up. Lost 12 points at length of time homeless. Want to focus in System Performance. We are very interested in how much time people spend when they get homeless after the referral to housing. We lost some points in exits.
- The biggest area of point loss was in System Performance. KCRHA looks forward to collaborating with the CoC membership and CoC board and people with living and lived experience who know best about how we can improve performance.

Questions:

- Board Member Martha Sassorossi - When we look at the holistic funding picture for FY23 we made 2 million for reallocation and then we got one new project for a million. She reads a loss.
 - Alan will circle back in our next meeting.
- Board Member Tamara Bauman – The length of stay is dependent on the community conditions. We don't talk about the structural root causes. Is HUD ever going to pay attention to that piece? They have to invest in their workers who are doing the on the



groundwork and support advocacy. There are ways that we can improve if they realized that living in Seattle KC is a lot different living than the Midwest. She asks that they listen to their communities.

- From the chat from board member Tamara Bauman - We need to also prioritize how to address the oppressive social and economic conditions that drive up the cost of housing and treat it as a commodity as opposed to a human right¹⁰¹
- Board Member Dorsol Plants – Is there an opportunity for us to identify other CoCs that scored better than us in the areas that we lost points that are similar in size and cost of living that we can learn from?
 - Alan Guttirez – Loves this question and wishes that the results were posted for the public.
 - Susan Starrett – CSH – System Performance measures are measured against yourself. We submit it every year. In HUD scores application it is how you performed in the continuum against yourself last year. The system performance measures are nationwide, but the change is the community and how you perform against yourself.
 - To Dorsol's point. There is someone out there that does an analysis when the data is put out. She will put it in the chat, and we will make sure it goes out to the board as well.
 - Alan Guttirez – If we find that person, we will invite them to a CoC meeting.
- Member of the public Jade - Did you say that HUD is increasing the number of units specific for the Rapid Rehousing program?? or is it that the program getting more funding to increase applicants?
 - Alan Guttirez – HUD as part of the FY2023 CoC NOFO application had 9 total points available to CoC's that increased their total RRH slots compared to the prior year.
- Board Member Kristina Sawyckjy – There were 8/9 bonus projects that were not funded.

CoC Convening Workgroup: Alan Guttirez

- Our next convening will be in person. Hope to move from 2 convenings a year to 3 yearly convenings. We will be sending out the invitations via email to the membership. We will also let members and the public know during our CoC meetings as well.

Next Steps & Adjourn

- Next meeting: Wednesday, April 6th, 2024; 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM