Seattle-King County CoC Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Theory of Change

If we create a homelessness response system that centers people with lived experience of homelessness, then we will be able to respond to needs and eliminate inequities, in order to end homelessness for all.

Land Acknowledgment

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.

Date & Time

August 5, 2026; 2:00 – 4:00 pm PT

Roll Call

Name	Present
Tamara Bauman	P
Amaiya Leonor	P
Elizabeth Maupin	P
Ruby Tuesday Romero	P
Kristina Sawyckyj	P
Victor Loo	P

Amy Thomas	P
Valerie Sasson	Absent - Excused
Rocco DeVito	P
Jen Carl	Absent
John Urquhart	P
Mercy Wainaina (why nye nah)	P
Jack Harlan	P
Michael Pickett	P
Patrick Arney	P
Tina Browne	P
Nichole Alexander	P
Devin Konick-Seese	P

- Roll Call –16 members present – 2 absent.
- Quorum Met – Yes

Meeting Minutes Review:

- Motion: To Approve July 2026 Meeting Minutes – Michael Pickett
- Second: Rocco DeVito
- The motion was approved by voice vote

Public Comment:

Dorsol Plants - Hello, for the record, my name is Dorothy Planta, UT, his pronouns, and I am a resident of South King County. I am speaking today to say I am glad to hear that the Charter did not pass at the recent convening. However, I would encourage the board to very strongly look at that draft. There are a number of things that need to be changed that are not small. The Board spoke about the theory of change at the beginning of this meeting. However, I would encourage you to look at the charter draft through the lens of the theory of change. You'll notice that almost everything that ensured lived and living experience representation on the board has been removed. It is still recommended; however, it has been removed from the charter. Additionally, the requirement that at least one of the co-chairs be a person with lived and living experience has also been removed from the draft charter.

This is, in my opinion, a huge deviation from not only the commitment by the COC board, but by the commitment by KCRHA to fulfill the theory of change.

And I would not encourage limiting the voices of lived and living experience under the current environment. And lastly, I would conclude by saying that HUD did not require KCRHA to remove the lived experience seats, or to move them to recommended position. That was a KCRHA decision that I believe was made independent of the COC board. Thank you.

Meeting Topic: Amend Agenda

Chair Romero called for an amendment to the agenda to add an Executive Session.

- Motion: Amend the agenda to move into Executive Session – John Urquhart
- Second: Michael Pickett
- The motion carried with 15 affirmative votes

The board moved into executive session at 2:19pm to discuss matters relating to RCW 42.30.110(1)(a)(i)

Name	Response
Tamara Bauman	Y
Amaiya Leonor	Y
Elizabeth Maupin	Y
Ruby Tuesday Romero	Y
Kristina Sawyckyj	-
Victor Loo	Y
Amy Thomas	Y
Valerie Sasson	-
Rocco DeVito	Y
Jen Carl	-
John Urquhart	Y
Mercy Wainaina (why nye nah)	Y
Jack Harlan	Y
Michael Pickett	Y
Patrick Arney	Y
Tina Browne	Y
Nichole Alexander	Y
Devin Konick-Seese	Y

Meeting Topic: **Resolution on the Youth NOFO Application and Priority List – Jeff Simms**

The Board received an overview of the FY 2026 HUD Youth Homelessness funding opportunities, including the Youth System Improvement (YSI) grant and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) competition. Staff explained that the Board's action was needed to authorize submission of the applications due to the August 10 federal deadline and the extensive preparation required for HUD's eSnaps system.

Jeff Simms described the proposed YSI application, which would fund systems improvement and infrastructure activities rather than direct services. Proposed activities include strengthening partnerships across youth-serving systems, improving coordination with schools, juvenile justice, and other agencies, enhancing coordinated entry and data integration, supporting the youth by-name list, and increasing youth engagement through the Youth Action Board (YAB). Staff noted that the proposed YSI application had been reviewed and approved by the YAB.

Jeff then presented the results of the local YHDP competition. HUD authorized the community to apply for up to $8 million in new youth homelessness projects; however, seven eligible project applications totaling approximately $5.4 million were submitted due to the limited application timeline. Applications included support services, transitional housing, and HMIS/data system enhancements. Projects were reviewed and ranked through the established local review process, including reviewers with lived experience of homelessness, and the recommended priority list was approved by the YAB on July 30.

Board members clarified that the YHDP competition was for new projects only and did not include renewals, which would be considered separately through the Continuum of Care (CoC) funding process. Staff also provided an update on the recently reconstituted Youth Action Board and its participation in reviewing the funding recommendations.

Jeff reported that one otherwise fundable project from Love Taps could not be submitted because the organization did not have the required SAM.gov registration by the federal deadline. As a result, the project was removed from the final submission list despite receiving a qualifying review score. Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the eligibility requirements and application process.

Vote:

- Motion: The CoC Board authorizes KCRHA's submission of: A Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) application The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) project list as approved by the YAB

By approving this resolution, the CoC Board authorizes KCRHA to submit these materials to HUD for the Youth Homelessness funding opportunity. – Rocco Devito

- Second: Amaiya Leonor
- The motion passed with 16 affirmative votes

Name	Response
Tamara Bauman	Y
Amaiya Leonor	Y
Elizabeth Maupin	Y
Ruby Tuesday Romero	Y
Kristina Sawyckyj	Y
Victor Loo	Y
Amy Thomas	Y
Valerie Sasson	-
Rocco DeVito	Y
Jen Carl	-
John Urquhart	Y
Mercy Wainaina (why nye nah)	Y
Jack Harlan	Y
Michael Pickett	Y
Patrick Arney	Y
Tina Browne	Y
Nichole Alexander	Y
Devin Konick-Seese	Y

Meeting Topic: **CoC Board Co-Chair Election – Ruby Tuesday Romero**

The Board discussed the upcoming election to fill the vacant Co-Chair position. The current Co-Chair outlined the responsibilities of the role, including agenda planning, regular coordination meetings with staff, facilitating Board meetings, and representing the Board at meetings with the Governing Committee and other stakeholders. The anticipated time commitment was estimated at approximately four to five additional hours per week, depending on Board activities.

The Board considered whether to elect an interim Co-Chair through the end of the current term or to elect a permanent Co-Chair to provide continuity and allow for an overlap between incoming and continuing Co-Chairs. Members noted that staggering Co-Chair terms could improve leadership transition and continuity.

The Charter Revision Workgroup liaison clarified that the current Board charter does not contain provisions requiring an interim Co-Chair appointment and permits the Board to elect a permanent Co-Chair. The liaison further explained that the charter allows a current Co-Chair to seek a one-year renewal but does not otherwise restrict the Board from filling the vacant position through a regular election. Board members acknowledged the clarification and agreed that the Board could proceed with the election of a permanent Co-Chair in accordance with the current charter.

Co-Chair Election Process

The Board discussed the process of filling the vacant Co-Chair position and determined that additional time would be beneficial to allow Board members, including newer members, to learn more about the nominees before electing a permanent Co-Chair. A motion to elect a permanent Co-Chair was amended, by unanimous consent, to instead provide for the election of a **Chair Pro Tem** to serve through the Board's meetings until **September 2, 2026**, at which time the Board will conduct the election for permanent Co-Chairs.

Following clarification of the amended motion, nominations for Chair Pro Tem were opened. **Rocco DeVito** self-nominated, received the required support, and no additional nominations were made. By voice vote, the Board unanimously elected **Rocco DeVito** to serve as **Chair Pro Tem** through the September 2, 2026, Board meeting.

The Board also agreed that a future agenda item would provide an opportunity for nominees to introduce themselves and discuss their interest in serving as Co-Chair prior to the September election. Staff clarified that the Chair Pro Tem appointment would provide continuity while allowing sufficient time for member discussion before selecting the Board's permanent Co-Chairs.

Meeting Topic: **Point In Time Count Update - Daniel Ramos III**

Daniel Ramos III presented the results of the 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for King County, noting that the PIT Count is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirement for Continuum of Care funding. The presentation summarized the count methodology, key findings, and housing inventory trends.

Daniel explained that King County has used HUD-approved respondent-driven sampling, in partnership with the University of Washington, to estimate the unsheltered population since 2022. The methodology combines survey data from people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with shelter utilization data from HMIS and participating providers to produce a one-day snapshot of homelessness.

Key findings included:

- An estimated 18,365 individuals experienced homelessness in King County in 2026, representing a 9% increase since 2024, although the rate of growth slowed compared with the previous reporting period.
- The proportion of individuals who were sheltered declined as shelter capacity decreased, while unsheltered homelessness increased.
- Homelessness continued to disproportionately affect Black, African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Indigenous, and Asian populations relative to their representation in the county population.
- Daniel noted that changes to HUD's race and ethnicity reporting categories limited direct comparisons with prior years.

The Board also received an overview of homeless system flow data, family homelessness trends, and self-reported health and disability information collected through HMIS. Staff emphasized that the PIT Count provides a snapshot of homelessness on a single night and should not be interpreted as the total number of individuals served throughout the year.

Daniel reported that while overall housing resources have increased over time, largely due to growth in permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter capacity declined between 2025 and 2026, resulting in fewer available shelter beds. Staff explained that changes in inventory reflect policy decisions and funding investments rather than automatic increases in capacity.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the definition of a shelter bed, HMIS collection of participant vulnerability data, and the respondent-driven sampling methodology. Daniel explained that shelter beds include a range of temporary accommodations, that participant vulnerabilities are self-reported and updated throughout program participation, and that the respondent-driven sampling methodology has been reviewed and approved by both the University of Washington and HUD and has been used in King County for multiple PIT Counts.

Workgroup and Committee Updates:

System Performance Committee (SPC) – July Meeting Minutes shared via email

Next SPC Meeting – August 19, 2026 – 2-4pm

Coordinated Entry Committee (CEC) – The CEC did not meet in July

Next CEC Meeting – August 27, 2026– 10-11:30am

CoC Board Meeting Adjourned by Co-Chair Ruby Tuesday Romero

Next Special Meeting

August 10, 2026: 10:00 – 12:00 pm PT

Next Regular Meeting

September 2, 2026; 2:00 – 4:00 pm PT