



# Seattle-King County CoC Board Special 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 21, 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     | 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

**Public Comment:** No public comments were made during the meeting or submitted in writing.

**Meeting Topic: Policy on Advancing Recovery and Prohibiting Illicit Drug Enablement - Jeff Simms, KCRHA, Chief Program Officer**

Jeff Simms presented the proposed Policy on Advancing Recovery and Prohibiting Illicit Drug Enablement. He provided background on recent litigation challenging HUD's CoC NOFO and explained that adoption of the policy could provide 10 bonus points on the CoC and Youth Homelessness NOFO applications. The Youth Homelessness NOFO application was submitted August 10, with results expected in September.

Jeff explained that the proposed policy primarily codifies existing federal requirements and is not expected to create substantial changes to current program operations or contract administration. KCRHA consulted with legal counsel, providers, Public Health, King County, and the City of Seattle during development of the policy. Revisions were made to clarify applicability, remove provisions outside the cited federal statute, and address potentially outdated guidance.

**Board Discussion**



Board members discussed the policy's implications for drug use, possession, harm reduction, contract enforcement, and remedies. Jeff clarified that the policy does not establish a sobriety requirement for program participants or prohibit harm-reduction services such as overdose reversal supplies. Existing federal requirements would continue to apply regardless of whether the policy is adopted.

Several members raised concerns about the clarity and tone of the policy, particularly the potential for the language to be interpreted as broadly prohibiting harm-reduction activities or drug use by program participants. Kristina Sawycky expressed concern that the policy could be perceived as punitive and recommended additional review to ensure it aligns with trauma-informed and CoC standards.

Kelsey Beckmeyer explained that the central consideration for the Board was whether the potential 10 bonus points justified adopting the policy in its current form. She noted that significant changes could affect the policy's alignment with HUD's stated requirements and eligibility for the bonus points.

Jeff reiterated that the primary purpose of adopting the policy in writing was to satisfy HUD's requirements and improve the CoC's competitive score; existing federal requirements would remain in place regardless of the Board's decision.

**Chair Romero called for a motion from the Board.**

- Motion: CoC Board moves to approve the CoC policy on Advancing Recovery and Prohibiting Illicit Drug Enablement – Michael Pickett
- Second: John Urquhart
- The motion carried with 12 affirmative votes

| Name                | Vote             |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Tamara Bauman       | Y                |
| Amaiya Leonor       | Y                |
| Elizabeth Maupin    | Y                |
| Ruby Tuesday Romero | N                |
| Kristina Sawycky    | N                |
| Victor Loo          | Y                |
| Amy Thomas          | Y                |
| Valerie Sasson      | Absent - Excused |
| Rocco DeVito        | Y                |
| Jen Carl            | Absent           |
| John Urquhart       | Y                |



|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Mercy Wainaina     | Y       |
| Jack Harlan        | N       |
| Michael Pickett    | Y       |
| Patrick Arney      | Y       |
| Tina Browne        | Y       |
| Nichole Alexander  | Y       |
| Devin Konick-Seese | Abstain |

## **Meeting Topic: Continuum of Care (CoC) FY26 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Update - Kelsey Beckmeyer, KCRHA, CoC Manager & Jeff Simms, KCRHA, Chief Program Officer**

Kelsey Beckmeyer provided an update on the FY2026 CoC NOFO, Youth Homelessness NOFO, the consolidated application, and current CoC performance activities.

### **FY2026 CoC NOFO**

- The FY2026 CoC NOFO remains blocked by court action. HUD is appealing the decision, with a decision from the First Circuit Court of Appeals anticipated by August 28.
- KCRHA is closely monitoring the litigation and will be prepared to respond to any changes in the NOFO process.
- Renewing and new applicants have been notified that the competition is currently paused. KCRHA will provide additional information as the process develops.
- KCRHA received **49 new project applications**, compared with a maximum of 17 in prior years, reflecting significant interest in CoC funding.
- Kelsey noted that the future availability of funding new projects remains uncertain if the NOFO is not reissued and Congress relies on automatic renewals.

Kelsey also noted that, regardless of the outcome of the litigation, HUD may conduct a formal notice-and-comment process related to transitional housing, supportive services, and treatment-focused approaches.

### **Youth Homelessness NOFO**

The Youth Homelessness NOFO was not affected by the court action. KCRHA submitted its application on August 10 and expects results in September. The recently approved policy may support the application during HUD's merit review.



## **Consolidated Application and Performance Measures**

KCRHA continues work on the consolidated application, which HUD released August 6. The application includes new questions regarding treatment and recovery services. Staff are documenting existing efforts within the continuum and identifying areas for improvement.

KCRHA is also reviewing CoC system performance measures, including data related to system performance, the Point-in-Time Count, and the Housing Inventory Count, to identify areas where the CoC may receive full, partial, or no points in future HUD competitions.

A presentation on CoC performance is planned for September, with opportunities for the Board to identify areas requiring additional analysis and targeted action.

## **Cross-System Collaboration**

Kelsey noted that some factors contributing to homelessness, particularly inflow and first-time homelessness, extend beyond the homelessness response system. KCRHA will consider opportunities to engage cross-system partners and advocacy organizations in addressing these broader factors.

In response to a question from Elizabeth Maupin, Jeff Sims noted that future Board discussions regarding performance priorities will help identify which systems and partners should be engaged and the most effective approaches for collaboration. Kelsey also noted the continued partnership with the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness.

## **NOFO Workgroup**

The NOFO workgroup will continue meeting while the outcome of the litigation and future funding process remains uncertain. The workgroup will continue coordinating with partners and documenting the work occurring throughout the continuum.

## **New Project Applications**

In response to a question regarding the 49 new applications, Kelsey reported that many applications focused on supportive services, particularly employment services, and appeared to serve individuals with less acute service needs. She noted that employment-focused services are currently less represented among CoC-funded projects.

Jeff added that KCRHA's local competition was intentionally structured to reflect community priorities identified through prior public input and collaborative planning efforts, while also responding to the funding priorities outlined by HUD.

## **Board Discussion**



Board members discussed the relationship between the new applications, Point-in-Time Count data, employment needs, and the service needs of single adults experiencing homelessness. Members noted the importance of aligning future funding opportunities with identified community needs while responding to federal funding priorities.

**CoC Board Meeting Adjourned by Rocco DeVito**

## **Next Regular Meeting**

**September 2, 2026; 2:00 – 4:00 pm PT**

