Steering Committee – Strategy Oversight Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 1:00 PM
Strategy Oversight Agenda

1. Meeting Introduction
   - Call to order
   - Roll call

2. Meeting Business:
   - March 2023 Minutes
   - CoC Practice Standards Overview
   - 2023.Resolution 3: Adoption of CoC Practice Standards

3. System Updates:
   - FY22 NOFO Awards
   - YHDP Update
   - Steering Committee Vacancies
   - Advocacy
   - Encampment Decommissioning & Navigation Center Update

4. Meeting Wrap-Up:
   - Public Comment Guidelines Reminder & Public Comment
   - Next Meeting: Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 3 PM – Business Meeting
   - Meeting Adjourn
## Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Representation</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbie Robinson, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Harris County Public Health</td>
<td>At Large Position</td>
<td>Term 1: Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Martin Negron OR Samantha Maggiani</td>
<td>Harris County Community Services Department</td>
<td>Fixed Position</td>
<td>Oct. 2021 – in perpetuity Sec.: Mar. 2022 - 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Borrego</td>
<td>Fort Bend County Community Development</td>
<td>Fixed Position</td>
<td>Jan. 2021 – in perpetuity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Quijano</td>
<td>Harris County Housing Authority</td>
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<td>Aug. 2022 – in perpetuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Northern Sr.</td>
<td>Houston Housing Authority</td>
<td>Fixed Position</td>
<td>May 2022 – in perpetuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Ansley</td>
<td>Montgomery County Community Development</td>
<td>Fixed Position</td>
<td>June 2021 – in perpetuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Rogers OR Kristine Singleton</td>
<td>Pasadena Community Development</td>
<td>Fixed Position</td>
<td>Dec. 2021 – in perpetuity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Watkins</td>
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<td>Robert “Bob” Eury</td>
<td>Local Non-Gov. Funder</td>
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<td>Robert Birdow Jr.</td>
<td>Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center (VA)</td>
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<td>Kendall “Kenny” Easley</td>
<td>Collective Action 4 Youth (CA4Y) / YYA Lived Experience &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td>Youth &amp; Young Adult Consumer Representative</td>
<td>Term 1: Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Dread</td>
<td>Lived Experience &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td>Consumer Representative</td>
<td>Term 2: Nov. 2022 – Oct. 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Wright</td>
<td>Lived Experience &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td>Consumer Representative</td>
<td>Term 1: Nov. 2022 – Oct. 2024</td>
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Meeting Minutes

0. Meeting Materials
☐ Meeting presentation.

1. Meeting Introduction
☐ Call to order
☐ Roll call
• Pg. 3 of the meeting packet.

2. Meeting Business:
☐ January 2023 Minutes
• Pg. 5-8 of the meeting packet.
• David Northern Sr. motioned to approve the January meeting minutes, second by Barbie Robinson - All members were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. System Updates:
☐ Thank you for participating in the PIT Count
• Pg. 9 of the meeting packet.
☐ SNOFO Updates
• Pg. 10-11 of the meeting packet.
☐ Open Seats on the Steering Committee
• Pg. 12-15 of the meeting packet.
☐ Navigation Center Update
• Pg. 16-21 of the meeting packet.
☐ Chartres Encampment Closing
• Pg. 22-28 of the meeting packet.

4. Meeting Wrap-Up:
☐ Public Comment Guidelines Reminder & Public Comment
• Pg. 29 of the meeting packet.
☐ Next Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 1:00pm – Strategy Oversight Meeting
☐ Meeting Adjourn
• Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Dr. Martin and second by Gregory Dread.
## Attendance

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<td>Harris County Community Services Department</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Harris County Community Services Department</td>
<td>Fixed Position</td>
<td>Interim – On behalf of Dr. Martin Negron</td>
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CoC Practice Standards

Matt White, Housing Innovations
Practice Standards Goals

1. **Outcome Goal:** Establish baseline performance expectations for delivery of essential services in TWH CoC

2. **Performance Goal:** Alignment of service delivery practice across multiple providers and programs

3. **Process Goal:** Research, evaluate, iterate, building consensus among TWH stakeholders and partners
TWH Program Components Types Covered

- Coordinated Access Assessors
- Outreach
- Diversion/Problem-Solving
- Navigation
- Case Management (RRH and PSH)
CoC Standards Development Process

Compilation of national policy guidance and evidence-based best practices
- HUD, NAEH, USICH

Coalition for the Homeless Synthesis
- Align draft standards with system performance objectives

Component-specific working groups
- Outreach, CA Assessors, Navigators, Case Managers

Input sessions
- Direct service staff, program managers, CEOs, persons with lived experience
Guiding Principles for All Standards

- Homelessness is the result of system failures
- All clients can be housed
- Individual choice must be honored
- Solutions require collaboration; no one entity is exclusively responsible
- Strategically combine engagement and choice with individual consequences
- Provide clear pathways, lower barriers, and defined strategies for housing
- Permanent housing placements must be supported with strong case management
- Results reviewed and updated using data-driven decision making
Applicability

Standards apply to publicly funded entities of The Way Home CoC

• Non-profit homelessness assistance provider agencies and their staff
• Faith-based providers of safety net resources
• Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County
Roles & Responsibilities – Agencies

- Execute MOU with CFTH and any subcontractors
- Monitor compliance with any subcontractors
- Maintain ethical boundaries, compliance with all nondiscrimination and fair housing laws, reasonable accommodations for disabilities
- Maintain privacy and security of program participant data, records
- Maintain a participant grievance policy
- Address staff safety and document any critical incidents
- Meet unique needs of persons from disadvantaged groups
Roles & Responsibilities – Program Managers

- Track progress on housing targets and outcomes w/ CM staff
- Manage CM staff in alignment with all Practice Standards
- Conduct collaborative service planning and case reviews
- Practice CM workload management
- Identify and share resources to assist CM staff to do their jobs effectively
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge on TWH system strategies, policies, guidance
- Develop staff onboarding and orientation plans
Roles & Responsibilities – Coalition

• Guide system management and provide technical assistance
• Monitor fidelity to HMIS, Coordinated Access, and CoC Written Standards fidelity
• Provide (or arrange for) training and capacity building opportunities
• Evaluate system performance
• Research promising practices and share with CM teams
• Align programmatic goals and objectives with system goals
• Operationalize benchmarks for ending chronic, Veteran, unsheltered, youth and family homelessness
• Comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws
• Adherence with all CoC policies, guidelines, standards
  • CAS
  • HMIS
  • ESG Written Standards
  • CoC operating instructions
• Collect and maintain participant eligibility documentation
• Build capacity of direct service staff through ongoing training
Coordinated Access Assessors

Serve as initial point of contact for persons experiencing a housing crisis

Administer assessments, document client characteristics and details for waitlist management

Communicate assessment results and referral status to clients

Manage care coordination with referral providers
Outreach

• Support **system outreach** efforts directed at encampment decommissioning process
• Facilitate access to both crisis housing and permanent housing pathways
• Enroll clients in HMIS and initiate **pre-navigation** activities: housing search and documentation management
• Facilitate connection to Navigation and/or Case Management staff throughout client’s progressive engagement and pathway to housing
Navigation

Support clients through process of applying for and securing permanent housing

Collect and maintain client documentation (e.g., identification card, birth certificate, SS card, verification of homelessness, verification of disability)
Diversion

01
Screen referred participant for eligibility. Maintain eligibility documentation

02
Make at least 3 attempts over 7 days to contact participant

03
Collect and maintain all documentation participant needs for successful housing search, location and placement

04
Support successful crisis resolution through landlord mediation, re-unification, relocation or creative problem-solving strategies
RRH and PSH Case Management

- Operate under the “Housing First” model and adhere to all “Housing First” tenets
- Collect and maintain participant eligibility documentation
- Coordinate with Navigation services to ensure successful housing search and placement
- Coordinate a hand-off, preferably in person, with Navigation staff
- Conduct, at a minimum, monthly home visits (in person) with each participant on the case load
- Conduct, at a minimum, monthly check-ins with participant’s landlord
- Participate in monthly internal supervision meetings to ensure adoption of housing first, harm reduction, client-centered, strengths-based cm.
- Document client progress in HMIS, abiding by all HMIS policies and procedures
- Enable rapid, safe, trauma-informed transfers when applicable
RRH and PSH Case Management

• Make referral to Harris Center Supportive Services or DV Mobile Advocacy for all concerns about participant’s wellbeing
• Maintain 85% of contracted caseload capacity regardless of staff numbers
• Terminate cases upon successful permanent housing is secured, or if:
  o No contact after repeated, documented attempts over 30 days
Continuous Quality Improvement

• Do standards accurately and completely reflect current CoC programmatic requirements?
• Do standards reflect evolving system needs and system performance objectives?
• Are standards appropriately addressing inequities and disparate impacts?
• Are standards feasible, implementable, monitorable?
1. Brief Description of Proposed Item:

The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC) is implementing system-wide practice standards to guide how services will be provided to individuals experiencing homelessness. The standards were created with input from current CoC partners and those with lived expertise of homelessness. These system practice standards establish baseline expectations for the delivery of services across the CoC components of Coordinated Access, Outreach, Diversion, Navigation, and Case Management for Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects. The practice standards represent the “how-to” or the application of the service practice in the context of engaging persons experiencing a housing crisis, assessing client-specific needs and goals, and assisting individuals to resolve their housing crisis as rapidly as possible.

The Practice Standards Guide (Guide) that was developed provides essential information and guidance to homeless assistance program staff and partners to ensure effective care coordination of persons experiencing a housing crisis from point of first contact to successful housing placement. The Guide is intended to help program staff better understand The Way Home programmatic components. Practice Standards in this Guide cover the following program types:

- Coordinated Access Assessment
- Outreach
- Diversion/Problem Solving
- Navigation
- Case Management for RRH and PSH projects.

This Guide serves as a reference for The Way Home grant recipients and CoC Program grant recipients to operate homeless assistance projects and systems with consistency and in adherence to established system norms.

2. Date of Steering Committee Meeting:

Thursday, April 13, 2023

3. Proposed Committee Resolution:

Approval of The Way Home Practice Standards

4. Approval of Steering Committee Chair
Name: ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________  Date: __________________________
FY22 NOFO Awards

Renee Cavazos
Annual Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Competition

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced $2.8 billion in Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Awards for thousands of local homeless service and housing programs across the United States; over $46 million was awarded in the FY 2022 CoC Competition for The Way Home (TX-700), for local homeless housing and service programs across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties.

Important Notes

• With the FY 22 Award, we welcome one new PSH project led by TLC Health and Wellness. The project will follow a parent leasing model, including 40 units/77 beds. The contract award will be $951,884.00.

• We expect a 2022 NOFO debrief report to be provided by HUD to inform us of our score and any feedback from HUD reviewers. We will share the results of this report once received.

• The award of $46 million includes awards for all existing CoC renewal projects. Therefore, most of the dollars ($44 million) awarded to our community through the NOFO process go to existing renewal projects to keep services and housing going. All proposed projects that received awards from HUD received 100% of the application amount.

Awards over the past 3 years

• FY 22 Award- (Announced March 2023)- $46,204,617
• FY 21 Award - $45,243,794
• FY 20 Award- $42,588,063

Congratulations to all grantees and to our community for its participation, commitment to excellence, and strategic approaches to our collaborative application each year!!
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program

Who?
- The Way Home Youth Action Board
- 8 YHDP-Funded Organizations with over 30 YHDP dedicated staff providing case management to divert and lead youth and young adults to permanent housing solutions.

What?
- 24 Transitional Housing Units (TH)
- 52 Rapid Re-Housing Units (RRH)
- 20 Permanent Supportive Housing Units (PSH)
- 2 Diversion-Plus Programs that include rental assistance
- 1 Diversion Supportive Services Only Program (SSO)
- YYA Dedicated Coordinated Access Assessors, Housing and Employment Navigation Services and Outreach Team
YHDP Q1 2023

- Began YHDP referrals on January 20, 2023
  - 296 referrals sent to YHDP Programs
- 107 Youth/Young Adults enrolled in YHDP projects
  - 5 Housed in TH
  - 8 Housed in RRH
- 62 Youth/Young Adults on Diversion Waitlist
- 75 Youth/Young Adults on Housing Waitlist
Steering Committee Vacancies

Barbie Brashear & Caybryn Southern
About the Steering Committee:

The Way Home Steering Committee is the leadership body (similar to a board of directors) of the local Continuum of Care (CoC). It has authority over the planning and deployment of federal government funds to address homelessness in our community.

The CoC Steering Committee has specific responsibilities as outlined by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in the CoC Interim Rule. The responsibilities required by the CoC by HUD in the Interim Rule and assigned to the Steering Committee are outlined in The Way Home Charter.

Current Vacancies:

• One (1) Provider Representative
• Three (3) At-Large Representatives
What is a Provider Representative?

Provider representatives are professional staff of organizations that provide services for people experiencing homelessness; they represent two types of direct services, and either representative can represent either type (i.e., we do not necessarily need one of each):

- Crisis Response System (includes emergency and transitional shelter, homeless prevention, outreach, navigation, coordinated access, day services, and crisis response services).
- Permanent Housing (includes permanent housing provision (PSH/RRH) and/or services for people in permanent housing).

Who is eligible?

- Provider Representative candidates must be professional staff members of official Continuum of Care (CoC) partner agencies in good standing.
- Candidates must have programmatic decision-making authority over their organization and the services in which they provide.
- Candidates must have the support of their CEO/ED of the Agency in order to apply, and only one person may apply per agency.
How are Provider Representatives Selected?

Provider Representatives are elected via popular vote by the CoC partner agencies. Candidates and their agencies must be in good standing with the CoC, as determined at the discretion of the Lead Agency, and meet all CoC partnership requirements to be eligible.

A packet of all the candidates’ submitted material(s) will be made available for agencies to determine their top five (5) choices.

Those top five (5) candidates need to be ranked starting with the most desired candidate as number one. Only one (1) vote will be counted per agency.

Agencies MUST be official (updated) partners of The Way Home and in good standing for their vote to be counted. Email Caybryn Southern to confirm your agency’s status.
Provider Representative Election Timeline

- **COMPLETE - March 27, 2023**: Provider Representative submission period opens
- **COMPLETE - March 27 – April 10**: Submissions are accepted and sent to scquestions@homelesshouston.org.
- **COMPLETE - April 13**: The CFTH will notify the CoC of the Provider Representative candidates and share corresponding materials
- **April 14 – 21**: Electronic voting period is open
- **April 24 – 25**: The CFTH will notify the Provider Representative candidates of the election results
- **April 26**: Announcement of election results
- Email Caybryn Southern at csouthern@homelesshouston.org if you have questions.
At-Large Representative

At-Large representatives are professionals who work in systems that interact with the homeless response system (e.g., funding, philanthropy, health, mental health, Veterans Administration, school districts, child welfare, workforce development, university, criminal justice, business, faith community, victims service providers, etc.).

The role of At-Large Representatives is to assist the CoC in leveraging mainstream funding from — and making positive changes within — those systems for the benefit of people experiencing homelessness in our region.

Currently, The Way Home Steering Committee is prioritizing representation from the following systems: child welfare, workforce development, and criminal/juvenile justice.
How are At-Large Representatives Selected?

- At-Large Representatives are recommended by the Lead Agency and Nominating Committee and then selected by a vote of the members of the entire Steering Committee.

- All recommendations, nominations, and letters of interest for At-Large Representative candidates will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee and Lead Agency during an open call period.

- The open call provides members of The Way Home CoC, community stakeholders, and cross-system partners, the opportunity to submit a letter of interest & resume and/or nomination to join The Way Home Steering Committee.

- Strong applicants will be selected for interviews with members of the Nominating Committee and the Lead Agency, and recommendations for representatives will be made to the full Steering Committee for approval at an upcoming Steering Committee meeting or via email vote.

- To learn more view [The Way Home Charter](#).
At-Large Representative Timeline

• April 14, 2023: Public call for At-Large Representatives opens

• April 14 – 28: Submissions are accepted and sent to scquestions@homelesshouston.org.

• May 1: The CFTH will notify the Nominating Committee of candidates and share corresponding materials

• May 1 – 5: The Nominating Committee & Lead Agency will review submissions and select candidates to interview

• May 8 – 19: Interviews will be conducted for selected candidates

• Week of May 22: The Nominating Committee and Lead Agency will determine their recommendation

• June 8: Vote on recommendation occurs at the Steering Committee meeting

• Email Caybryn Southern at csouthern@homelesshouston.org if you have questions.
Evaluation of Applicants

In evaluating submissions, the following is/should be considered:

• Is the candidate representative of the diverse populations served by the CoC?
• Can the candidate assist the CoC with leveraging mainstream funds from — and making positive changes within — adjacent systems for the benefit of people experiencing homelessness in our region?
• Does the applicant have decision-making authority over their organization and/or the services in which they provide?
• Does the applicant’s experience meet the current needs of the Steering Committee and The Way Home?
• Does the applicant have a working knowledge of homelessness and live and/or work in the CoC’s geographic area?
• Does the applicant have the ability to fulfill Steering Committee responsibilities and be in compliance with the CoC Governance Charter and other applicable policies?
• Does the applicant demonstrate the ability to participate in work groups and committees beyond monthly Steering Committee meetings?
• Does the applicant present the ability to communicate clearly, openly, and transparently with both the Steering Committee and the Lead Agency?
• And more!
Advocacy

Mark Smith
Concerning Bills in the Texas Legislature

• **SB 2018** and **HB 4939** - Strengthening prohibitions on camping in a public place.
  - SB 2018 - moving to the full Senate for a vote
  - HB 4939 - awaiting a hearing in the House Committee on State Affairs

• **SB 1803** and **HB 4240** – Creates a statewide audit of all services for the homeless provided by state agencies.
  - SB 1803 – Hearing completed. Pending vote in Committee on Local Government
  - HB 4240 – awaiting a hearing in the House Committee on State Affairs

• **SB 1804** and **HB 4242** - Creating a Texas Definition of Homelessness that would include individuals or families lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
  - SB 1804 – awaiting a hearing in the Committee on Local Government
  - HB 4242 – awaiting a hearing in the Committee on Urban Affairs

• **SB 986** and **HB 2035** - Pre-emption of the authority of a local government to regulate evictions.
  - SB 986 – Pending a vote in the Committee on Business and Commerce
  - HB 2035 – Pending a vote in the Committee on Business and Industry
How our Partners and the Community Can Help

- Alert Local Senators about your concerns about SB 1803, SB 2018, and SB 986.
  - The Coalition will provide support on writing letters and/or speaking points.

- Alert local House Representatives about your concerns about HB 2035.
  - The Coalition will provide support on writing letters and/or speaking points.

- Monitor alerts from the Coalition about additional bills being scheduled for a hearing and be prepared to testify in Austin or submit letters of concern to Reps/Senators on associated committees.
Encampment Decommissioning & the Navigation Center

Ana Rausch, Mark Smith, and Omar Martinez
## Encampment Decommissioning - 2023

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Closure Date</th>
<th>Clients</th>
<th>Refused</th>
<th>Self-Resolved</th>
<th>Directly to Housing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emancipation</td>
<td>3/6/23</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i-45 S – Emancipation to 610</td>
<td>3/13/23</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i-10 East &amp; Beltway 8</td>
<td>3/20/23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emancipation</td>
<td>3/27/23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearlake</td>
<td>3/27/23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
<td><strong>156</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
<td><strong>147</strong></td>
<td><strong>94%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Encampment Closure Destination Summary

- **6%** Refused
- **31%** Self-Resolved
- **57%** Directly to Housing
- **6%** To Nav Center

**Updated 4/5/23**
New Service at the Navigation Center: Income Connections

- Avenue 360 and SEARCH visit Wednesday mornings to screen and enroll clients to apply for SSI/SSDI benefits through SOAR
  - 14 clients screened and enrolled as of 4/12/23
- Career and Recovery visit Tuesday mornings to offer job search, job placement, and work support services through CCHP Income Support
  - 9 clients placed in On-the-Job Training as of 4/12/23
Speakers will be called upon in the order in which they signed up. Others will be offered an opportunity to speak following.

Please use the “Raise Hand” function and wait to be called upon if you did not sign up to speak prior to the meeting.

When called upon, please introduce yourself and your organization (if applicable).

**Duration of comment: 1 minute.** This time limit will be identified with a visible timer shared on the screen, followed by the speaker being muted when the time is complete.
Thank you!

See you next month on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 3:00 PM.