

Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) Board
Monday, March 3rd 2025; 9:30am; Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Jovan Burton, Clara Stokes, Traci DeShazor, Hana Yun, Scott Andrews-Weckerly, Adrienne Cole, Jessica Segarro, Robert Baez, Katie Chlan, Beth Van-Turnbull, Brian Davis, Irene Zolotorofe, Rob Rowley, Shawntee Wynn, Celeste Anderson, and Kathleen Kramer

Homeward Staff in Attendance: Kelly King Horne and Jen Johnson

Notes:

9:32am Welcome and Consent Agenda: In the first GRCoC Board meeting of 2025, Jovan welcomed new board members and discussed the agenda. The meeting minutes from the December 2024 meeting and a recommendation from the HMIS committee regarding access to the HCIS database were on the consent agenda. The committee recommended denying access due to concerns about data integrity and privacy, and lack of participation with the continuum of care. Tracy asked about the relationship and partnership with an organization that works with veterans, and Katie explained that the denial was due to the organization's request for read-only access, which would give them a high level of detail and was not necessary. The consent agenda was motioned by Brian Davis and Second by both Scott Andrews-Weckerly and Beth Vann-Turnbull.

9:37am GRCoC Planning and Operations:

- **GRCoC participation in Homeless Data Integration Project:** Kelly proposed suspending the Homeless Data Integration Project due to concerns about data privacy and protection. The project, which was approved by the board a few months ago, involves sharing personal data with state partners. Kelly suggested pausing the project until they could ensure the data of vulnerable individuals was protected. Jovan confirmed that there were no conditions attached to the project's participation, and Kelly clarified that if funding was tied to the project, they would return to the board with updated information. The suspension of the Homeless Data Integration Project was motioned by Scott Andrews-Weckerly and Second by Hana Yun.
- **January 2025 Preliminary Point-in-time results:** Kelly reports on the preliminary point-in-time count data, which is a federal requirement to count people in shelters and unsheltered locations on a single day. The total count is 660, with 333 in year-round shelters, 184 in seasonal shelters, and 143 unsheltered individuals. Kelly

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notes that while the overall numbers are similar to last year, there's a decrease in unsheltered individuals. She emphasizes that this count provides a narrow picture and doesn't include all situations, such as hospital stays. Kelly expresses concern about potential future increases in homelessness due to funding cuts and economic challenges. Kelly discussed the decrease in homelessness counts between January 2024 and January 2025, attributing it to the frigid weather and people finding temporary housing. She mentioned the importance of showing the context, including the number of callers to the homeless connection line and people in housing programs, in the infographic. The team also discussed the challenges of homelessness and the efforts to house people who were previously sleeping outside

- **Committee Updates:** Kathleen Kramer and Jen Johnson updated on Ranking and System Policy and Process committee, respectively. Hana Yun on Governance, reported on a successful orientation event.

10:03am Discussion of Federal and state funding and policies to reduce homelessness and housing instability: Kelly discussed the uncertainty surrounding federal funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's continuum of care program, which is crucial for addressing homelessness in their community. The funding, totaling 1.5 million dollars, was awarded on January 17th but the status remains unknown. Kelly emphasized the importance of communicating with congressional representatives about the potential impact of reduced or cut funding. She also shared information about the community's reliance on this funding, highlighting that without it, approximately 600 people would not be able to pay their rent and 225 landlords with over 400 units would not receive rental payments. Kelly committed to educating local jurisdictions about the funding situation and its implications for their constituents. Kelly discussed the challenges faced by nonprofits due to proposed cuts to Medicaid and the impact of these cuts on their services. She mentioned that the new administration might change policy priorities, potentially affecting housing-focused services. Kelly also highlighted the cancellation of contracts with technical assistance providers by HUD, based on a review of their websites and staff.

10:21am Upcoming Dates: Jovan encouraged the team to attend the upcoming Homeward's Best Practices conference and mentioned the possibility of an in-person board meeting in June.

10:22am Adjournment: 6/9/2025 next board meeting