

**Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) Board**  
**Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026; 2:00pm; Zoom**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Jovan Burton, Fletcher Johnson, Clara Stokes, Adrienne Cole, Beth Vann-Turnbull, Jessica Sagara, Robert Baez, Brian Davis, Katie Chlan, Celeste Anderson, Sherrina Sewell, Octavia King, Reggie Gordon, Rev Gwynn Crichton, Amy Popovich, Shawntee Wynn, and Matt Leslie

**Homeward Staff in Attendance:** Kelly King Horne, Keandra Davis, Frances Marie Pugh, and Jen Johnson

**2:02pm:** The GRCoC Board was at quorum and began the meeting.

**2:03pm Welcome and Consent Agenda:**

Jovan welcomed members and motioned to approve the consent agenda. The board discussed and approved changes to their 2026 meeting calendar, including rescheduling the September 7th meeting due to Labor Day and the March 2nd meeting to accommodate the NAEH conference. The board also approved minutes from the September 2025 meeting, with a correction needed regarding point-in-time count numbers. A motion was given by Reggie Gordon, and a second was given by Fletcher Johnson.

**2:10pm Update on Federal Funding and Policy**

The meeting focused on updates regarding federal funding for homelessness services, with Kelly providing a detailed overview of the current legal challenges and funding processes. The group discussed the impact of recent lawsuits on Continuum of Care funding, including a judge's ruling that requires HUD to use the previous year's funding process for renewals. Frances Marie explained the consequences of agencies not signing grant agreements with HUD, noting that unallocated funds could disappear if a recipient transfer is not identified. The board also addressed the potential need for email votes to approve project priority listings, with Kelly emphasizing the importance of board involvement in the process.

**2:38pm Update on Virginia State Funding, Policies, and Advocacy Initiatives**

Brian Koziol, Executive Director of the Virginia Housing Alliance, provided an update on state funding policies and advocacy initiatives. He noted that expectations for this year's budget have been tempered due to competing priorities, but Virginia Housing is still seeking to increase the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to \$200 million and the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program to \$15 million. Brian also discussed ongoing efforts to

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prevent localities from criminalizing unhoused individuals and to amend state tax exemption laws for affordable housing properties. While the 5,000 Families program targeting school-aged children has been put on hold due to budget constraints, Virginia Housing is exploring alternative funding sources through the Virginia Housing Commission.

The meeting focused on advocacy efforts and budget discussions. Brian Koziol explained that the organization aims to increase its budget from \$87.5 million to \$200 million annually, with a proposal of \$400 million for the biennium. He discussed an upcoming advocacy day on February 11th and the need for continued communication with elected officials regarding the HUD-NOFO situation. The group, along with 108 other organizations, sent a letter to Governor Youngkin and others requesting an emergency task force to address the HUD changes. Brian also mentioned providing talking points to the governor ahead of a meeting with the HUD Secretary. The conversation ended with discussions about federal advocacy and the importance of in-person, phone, and handwritten communications with elected officials.

### **2:21pm GRCoC Business**

- Jovan announced a proposal to elect Reggie Gordon as the new vice chair of the COC board, as there is currently no vice chair in place. Amy Popovich motioned, all second.
- The proposed methodology for the 2026 point-in-time count was approved by the board, with minor tweaks to be more inclusive of smaller jurisdictions. Jessica Sagara motioned and Sherrina second.
- Shawntee Wynn provided updates from the System Policy and Process committee. The board approved three policies: CES Referrals to Recovery Programs policy, CES Advertisement Policy, and Case Conferencing Participation Policy, while accepting the CES Evaluation for 2025 without a vote. Brian Davis motioned and Flether Johnson second.

**Board Discussion:** The board agreed to schedule a special session for deeper discussion on these topics, with Jovan and Kelly confirming they would send out prompts for the agenda.

### **3:19pm Updates:**

- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>: GRCoC Older Adults Service Coordination and Cross-Sector Planning
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Winter Point-in-Time Count
- TBD: Next GRCoC Board Meeting

**3:23pm Adjournment**

**Next Board Meeting: TBD**

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