



INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

Housing for all = A Stronger Montgomery

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness | HousingForAll@montgomerycountymd.gov

September 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location

[Remote Teams/Zoom Meeting link \(update with actual link\)](#)

Attendance

Commissioners Present (remote)

- Jeff Goldman, Chair
- Ebony Grey, Co-Chair
- Scott Bruton
- Christine Hong
- Pelumi Olatinpo
- Karishma Sheth
- William Johnston for Dr. Kathryn Kelly
- Courtney Hall
- Dr. Gwendolyn Harter
- Margarita Bohorquez
- Stacey Gold
- Deryn Thomas / for Del. Vaughn Stewart
- Capt. Mike Brickles

Members Not Present

- Chelsea Andrews
- Earl Stoddard
- Beth Shuman

Proof of Quorum

Multiple members from various organizations were present, as confirmed in the detailed round of introductions led by Jeff Goldman and others at the start of the meeting.

Staff Present

- Diana Pina| Deputy Chief of SEPH

- Rozina Adhanom CoC Coordinator | ICH Staff
- Gloria Huggins | EAA for SEPH
- Vicky Suero | OSC for SEPH

Guests Speakers

- Beza Baheru | Co-Chair - OIC
- Cornelius Kuteesa, Chair | Alycia Chunev, Co-Chair
- Hannah Roberts, Senior Program Manager, CSH
- Lisa Lowe, Chair | Shatara Rolle, Co-Chair
- K. Kunda, Chair | Donna Gabriel-C

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Jeff Goldman welcomed all attendees, thanked them for their patience regarding the meeting's delayed start, and outlined the importance of the session. He invited each participant to introduce themselves in turn, resulting in a thorough round of introductions that confirmed the presence and engagement of representatives from numerous organizations and agencies central to the ICH mission.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Ebony Grey led the review and approval of the minutes from the July 22, 2025, meeting. After confirming there were no questions or revisions, Karishma Sheth moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Gwen Harter. The motion carried unanimously, with no objections, thereby approving the minutes of the previous meeting as written.

Meeting Minutes Agenda Items

1. Update on HUD's Build and COC Renewals NOFO

- a. Diana Pina and Christine Hong provided an update about potential major changes in the HUD CoC NOFO, particularly the risk of a 70% reduction in funding. This would result in approximately \$17 million lost in rental assistance over three years, potentially impacting 757 currently housed households and 509 awaiting housing.
- b. The changes may shift funding away from permanent housing to emergency shelter/transitional options, which would be a temporary solution and could lead to increased unsheltered homelessness.
- c. Advocacy efforts discussed included:
 1. Communicating with various stakeholders, including Montgomery County leadership, congressional delegates, faith communities, landlords, and local and regional agencies.
 2. Coordinated the writing of letters to Congress, including to Senator Chris Van Hollen, and promoted outreach to members in other jurisdictions.
 3. Aiming for inclusion of Section 166 in upcoming legislation to safeguard at least 12 months of current funding.

4. Meetings scheduled with landlords, Chambers of Commerce, and faith communities to empower a broader advocacy coalition.
5. Partner organizations are urged to join in contacting Congress and supporting the advocacy strategy.
- d. The group emphasized the urgency for advocates to communicate the impact not only on housed clients but on service systems region-wide
- 2. CoC Data and Funding at a Glance - Christine Hong, Chief of SEPH**
 - a. Christine Hong presented an overview of CoC data and funding during the meeting.
 - b. In FY25, the Continuum of Care (CoC) served 7,455 individuals through outreach, shelter, and housing programs.
 - c. Total funding for CoC was \$95.8 million, sourced from county, state, and federal levels.
 - d. Allocation of funds included:
 1. \$22 million for prevention and housing stabilization,
 2. \$23 million for crisis response (diversion, outreach, shelter),
 3. \$50.8 million for housing (permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing).
 - e. The housing total includes \$12 million in HUD funding.
 - f. Christine emphasized the critical risk of losing federal funds, with no alternative funding available for currently housed clients.
 - g. The discussion emphasized the importance of these resources in supporting vulnerable populations.
- 3. Updated ICH Governance Charter **VOTE - Rozina Adhanom CoC Coordinator
|ICH Staff**
 - a. Rozina led a discussion on the updated ICH Governance Charter.
 - b. The charter was revised to align with the newly adopted strategic plan.
 - c. The number of core committees was reduced from seven to four.
 - d. Subcommittee and work group assignments were updated to reflect current strategic priorities.
 - e. The updated structure clarifies the roles and responsibilities of governing and administrative bodies.
 - f. The aim is to streamline committee functions and improve alignment with CoC's objectives.
 - g. Revisions were made following direction from the previous commission meeting.
 - h. Copies of the revised document were shared with the full commission for review.
 - i. The discussion allowed for questions and clarifications before the vote on the updated charter.
 1. **Motion to adopt changes:** Gwen Harter
 2. **Seconded by:** Stacey Gold
 3. **Outcome:** Unanimously approved.
- 4. Review and Approve: CoC Performance Goal Memo ** VOTE - Beza Baheru, Co-Chair
Outcome and Improvement Subcommittee**
 - a. Bezawit led a review of the CoC Performance Goal Memo, focusing on key system performance goals for FY26.
 - b. Targets discussed included:
 1. Reducing the average length of homelessness

2. Minimizing returns to homelessness
3. Lowering the number of people experiencing homelessness
4. Increasing income among those in permanent housing
5. Reducing first-time homelessness
6. Enhancing permanent housing placements.
- c. Participants analyzed data trends and the rationale behind each goal, with clarifications from Bezawit and OIC committee members on their methods.
- d. Challenges in increasing clients' income were highlighted, leading to recommendations for the county to improve internal tracking of significant gains and barriers to accessing benefits.
- e. Emphasis was placed on the interconnectedness of goals and the impact of resource and staffing constraints.
- f. Committee members acknowledged the ambitious nature of some targets, supporting ongoing review and adaptation for better outcomes.
 1. **Motion to adopt goals:** Courtney Hall
 2. **Seconded by:** Stacey Gold
 3. **Outcome:** Unanimously approved.
5. **Youth Coordinated Entry Framework **VOTE** - Cornilus Kuteesa, Chair| Alycia Chuneu, Co-Chair
 - a. Presentation on the Youth Coordinated Entry Framework provided by Cornilus Kuteesa (Chair) and Alycia Chuneu (Co-Chair).
 - b. Framework aims to improve service coordination for youth experiencing homelessness, emphasizing their unique needs.
 - c. Designed for Montgomery County, creating an equitable and accessible system for youth facing homelessness or at risk.
 - d. Key features include defining youth homelessness, refining access points, and gathering input from youth and service providers.
 - e. Pilot assessments (TAY-VI-SPDAT for ages 18–24) and trauma-informed training for providers are recommended.
 - f. Multiple entryways for youth include drop-in centers, local programs, schools, social services, and a proposed hotline.
 - g. Focuses on capturing youth vulnerabilities for fair access to housing resources amidst adult competition.
 - h. Individualized care with youth-specific data to match services to youth based on assessments.
 - i. Emphasis on ongoing support post-housing placement, utilizing peer navigators and connections to education, employment, and healthcare.
 - j. A comprehensive, youth-friendly resource directory is needed, incorporating continuous youth input.
 1. **Motion to adopt framework:** Dr. Gwen Harter
 2. **Seconded by:** William Johnston
 3. **Outcome:** Approved (21 yes votes)
6. **CES Evaluation Process- Progress update** - Hannah Roberts, Senior Program Manager, CSH

- a. Hannah (CSH) provided an overview of the evaluation process for Montgomery County's CES.
- b. The evaluation has three main activities:
 1. Reviewing existing performance data with the CES subcommittee and HMIS staff to determine which metrics to analyze.
 2. Conducting four feedback sessions to gather input from key partners (crisis response, housing service agencies, leadership, and staff).
 3. Conducting up to ten interviews with individuals who have experienced homelessness to understand their experience with the CES.
- c. The evaluation is a continuous improvement requirement, ensuring feedback is incorporated annually.
- d. Timeline:
 1. Initial metric identification with the subcommittee has already been completed.
 2. Next steps include finalizing questions and conducting interviews/feedback sessions in October–November.
 3. A final analysis will be reviewed by the subcommittee in November, with recommendations brought back to the ICH for review.
- e. The intention is to keep all stakeholders updated at each stage, and the goal is to use the findings to improve CES effectiveness and responsiveness in the county.

7. Committee | Subcommittee | Workgroups Updates

a. People's Committee - Lisa Lowe, Chair | Shatara Rolle, Co-Chair

- Lisa summarized the committee's recent work, including:
- The Committee is reorganizing its activities to align with the strategic plan.
- They are wrapping up identifying gaps, with a focus on the grievance process and creating an action plan to address it.
- They partnered with MCH and providers to hold case management workshops for more robust case conferencing.
- Under the strategy to educate and advocate, the committee is identifying policy priorities for the county executive, council, and Maryland General Assembly, and seeking to boost public awareness about homelessness.
- They are meeting with DHCD to learn about and propose relevant policy initiatives.
- Ebony publicly thanked the committee for their hard work.
- Lisa acknowledged the thanks and committed to keeping the group informed about ongoing progress.

b. Workforce Development Workgroup - K. Kunda, Chair | Donna Gabriel-Chair

- Kunda provided a concise summary of the group's activities and upcoming plans.
- They are preparing for Homeless Resource Day, with representatives from various organizations and informational tabling.
- Reviewing committee descriptions to align with the new strategic plan priorities.
- Recruiting businesses to join and participate in the group.
- Exploring partnerships for financial literacy programs in shelters, including discussions with local banks and financial coalitions.

- Planning small job fairs and new programs for the upcoming year, including partnership opportunities with Vita.
- Both groups are focusing their efforts on supporting system alignment, capacity-building, and advocacy to promote improved outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness.

8. Public Comments – Public

- a. Kelsey Lewis asked about the housing tax credit for renters; she expressed difficulty getting information from leasing offices about eligibility and program details.
- b. Courtney Hall and others clarified the difference between the Earned Income Tax Credit and housing tax credits. They suggested Kelsey contact the Community Action Agency, use the meeting Q&A, or email Diana Pina for more support.
- c. Lisa Lowe recommended that Kelsey reach out to the public housing authority (HOC) for questions related to LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) housing, as this is outside the COC's domain.
- d. Melissa also shared helpful VITA resource information in the chat.
- e. No further public comments were raised.

9. Announcements - All

- a. Rozina announced that the Homeless Resource Day will take place on November 6 at Bauer Park in Gaithersburg, with planning led by Gloria Huggins. Event details and additional resources will be posted online and on the ICH website.
- b. Attendees were invited to share other announcements, but none were given.
- c. Jeff closed the meeting with a reminder of the next meeting date: December 2, 2025 (virtual, 3–5 pm) and thanked all participants.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 12/02/2025 from 3–5 pm, virtual.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m