

CoC General Membership Meeting Minutes

JUNE 25, 2026 | 9:30 - 11:00 AM

In Person – Center for Community Transformation



FACILITATOR Alyssa Anten

MEETING ATTENDEES: Alonda Trammel, Angela Ricones, Becki Postma, Bill Weld-Wallen, Brian Bruce, Brianne Robach, Bryan Holt, Carolyn Allen, Casey Gordon, Cassandra Mehari, Catherine Besaw, Catherine Landers, Cheyenne Page, Courtney Myers-Keaten, Crystal Houston, Cynthia Owens, Dain Gates, Elizabeth Stoddard, Frieda Campos, Gordie Moeller, Hannah Visser, Joe Botting, Jordan Brinker, Josh Leffingwell, Kate Berens, Kate Meyer, Kevin Sears, Lana VanBuren, Lindsey Reames, Mackenzie Vilmont, Maranda VanZegeren, Maria Moreno-Reyes, Maria Williams, Monique Carter, Rachel Verwys, Sabrina Slenk, Sam Westhouse, Shelby Sichta, Stacy Datena, Stephanie Collier, Tenisa Frye, Tyler Doornbos, Wendie Preiss, Zenaida Jimenez

TIME CONVENED: 9:35 am

TIME ADJOURNED: 11:05 am

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2026

MOTION BY: Kate Berens

SUPPORT FROM: Brian Bruce

DISCUSSION: All in favor, motion passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 2026

MOTION BY: Tenisa Frye

SUPPORT FROM: Lindsey Reames

DISCUSSION: All in favor, motion passed

COC STAFFING UPDATE

DISCUSSION: Becki Postma shared that Courtney recently announced her resignation as the CoC Director and thanked her for her leadership. She will stay through the end of August to help with the HUD NOFO process only. For non-NOFO questions, reach out to Alyssa (Director of Operations) or Brianne (for Coordinated Entry-related inquiries). The CoC welcomed three new staff members over the last two months: Lana (CE Admin Associate), Kate (HMIS), and Maddie (CoC Admin). If you're not sure where to direct questions to, please contact Alyssa. Feel free to reach out to Becki Postma (bbostma@hwmuw.org) or any member of the Executive Board with questions or concerns.

REBRAND REVEAL

DISCUSSION: The CoC has a new name and look! After careful consideration, staff and community partners realized it was time for a bit of a refresh, especially to be more inclusive of the work being done and to bring clarity to it. It takes all the partner organizations to move toward system change, and the new brand identity is intended to mirror that. The new name is “Kent Homelessness Coalition” but can still be referred to as the CoC. New colors include high contrast black and white with pops of color (yellow and blue), making it clean, professional, and easy to read.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – COORDINATED ENTRY

DISCUSSION: Brianne provided a high-level overview of the Coordinated Entry (CE) process. This process is intended to quickly connect folks in need with resources in an equitable manner. The process starts with Access (connecting with local service providers, communityhousingconnect.org, or 2-1-1). Next is Assessment, which includes completing online and HMIS assessments. As there are not enough local resources for everyone in need, Prioritization in the CE process is based on vulnerability and eligibility. Finally, the Referral step includes standard processes for submitting openings and receiving referrals.

Community partners that are not directly involved in the CE process can support participants by directing them to access points, completing homeless verification documentation, posting CE flyers, explaining the CE process to participants, providing access to the online assessment, and helping participants get to follow-up appointments or obtain vital documents. Please feel free to reach out to Brianne at brobach@hwmuw.org with questions.

HUD COC PROGRAM COMPETITION NOFO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

DISCUSSION: Courtney shared that the current NOFO is very similar to what was discussed in the February meeting. There is a lawsuit pending, but it is unclear if it will be successful based on previous litigation. It is best to move forward to be prepared. However, there could be delays.

Key highlights in current NOFO include no special protections for YHDP (which was non-competitively ranked and now must compete with all projects) and priority for new TH and SSO projects. Renewals are de-prioritized, there is a set-aside for permanent housing (PH) for families with children, and eligibility for PSH has expanded to include projects that assist category 2 participants with disabilities.

Factors that impact likelihood of project rejection include an expansion on risk review consideration and additional subjective factors. Tier 2 project scores are now based on a 100-point scale (meaning every single project in Tier 2 will now be reviewed by HUD in addition to local review and ranking).

HUD will select projects for funding in the following order:

- 1) All CoC planning and UFA Cost applications
- 2) Projects in Tier 1

- 3) HUD determines how much of the funding awarded in Tier 1 was for DV Bonus projects – if it doesn't equal \$104 million then they'll select additional DV projects that meet requirements ranked in Tier 2 up to set-aside amount
- 4) HUD determines how much in Tier 1 was for PH for families with children – if it does not total \$430 million HUD will select additional PH projects targeted to serve families with children
- 5) New TH and SSO projects – set aside is \$1.3 billion
- 6) All other new projects in Tier 2
- 7) Renewal projects ranked in Tier 2 (anticipate they are unlikely to be funded)

The two biggest goals with the NOFO are:

- 1) Keep as many people housed as possible
- 2) Keep all our funding in our community

Key changes in local competition include project service requirements in the narrative and an emphasis on the following data measures: returns to homelessness in last 2 years (instead of 6 months), increases in cash/employment, and exits to unsubsidized permanent housing. Steering Council will also be discussing new policy considerations for reallocation and ranking. This includes reallocation if a threshold score is not met to focus on high performing projects.

Additional considerations for the community's application include bonus points for drug enablement prohibition and governance charter updates (board must include at least three elected public officials, law enforcement, etc.). CoC's will also receive points if their programs require participation in supportive services (drug treatment and recovery services, on-site substance use treatment, behavioral health centers, etc.) and have SUD treatment beds available based on number of clients with SUD counted on the PIT count. There is also a focus on protecting public safety (CoC must show evidence that it cooperates with the justice system and doesn't impede it).

ACTION ITEMS: none

COMMUNITY PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS *(limit 3 min. each)*

DISCUSSION:

- Mel Trotter: Tyler (Outreach Director) welcomed a new baby! He will be off for four weeks. Shelby (Director of Guest Services) will be on sabbatical starting July 13.
- Fair Housing Center of West Michigan: hosting a free virtual training on fair housing rights for people with disabilities on Monday, June 29th – Register here: <https://fhcwm.org/event/fair-housing-rights-of-people-with-disabilities/111>
- Sun Bucks benefits (\$120/child) should be coming soon! RX Kids for families in 49507 zip starts July 1st (includes \$1,500 benefit during pregnancy and \$500/month for the baby's first six months to help families stabilize)
- FROM's new housing (in partnership with ICCF) in Lowell has been successful (17 units occupied so far)

ACTION ITEMS: none

ADJOURNMENT – *Next meeting: August 27, 2026*