

AGENDA	PRESENTER	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Quick Business	Dylan Shubitz	<p>Leadership Council Values and Group Agreements Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the shared values and group agreements of the Leadership Council was provided on a slide. Amanda discussed the development of these a couple of years ago to ground the Leadership Council in their work. Called out Equity as a value as it is being attacked at a national and state level. We have been through this before, but all these values and centering people with lived experience, struggling together as a group, and centered on equity as a value can help us weather this storm. It's why we do this work. It has taken a long time to get to the point where we can embed equity into our policies and processes and we don't want to cede and if at some point we have to, the core values will help us be successful. Approval of 2/3/2025 Public Meeting Minutes <p>The Jan 2025 Public Meeting Minutes were brought up for a consent vote for approval. These were approved as written.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point in Time Count Gratitude <p>Dylan called out ECHO in its work to do all the support required to do the PIT. He gave a particular shout out to Angela DeLeon, the Operations Director at ECHO who was the primary organizer for the PIT Count.</p> <p>Over the next several months the data will be analyzed and then presented to the community.</p> <p>Kate Moore, with ECHO, gave a shout-out to the community members and volunteers who helped count.</p>	LC approved the Jan 2025 Public Meeting Minutes on consent.

		Linda Jackson gave out shout-out to Austin Mutual Aid who helped make beanies and give out sleeping bags.	
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<p>NOFO Updates</p>	<p>Kate Moore</p>	<p>Kate provided an update on the HUD NOFO. ECHO leads the annual competition for CoC HUD funds. This includes a local competition for renewals, which are projects that have been awarded in previous years, that will be reapplying for funds in the next year. HUD also often provides bonus funding. ECHO is the administrative arm of this and Leadership Council is the policy arm of this and it is a collaboration with these two groups and the providers who are applying.</p> <p>The Austin/Travis County CoC received its largest award yet and received \$2 million more dollars for our community’s Homeless Response System. A slide was shared showing the agencies awarded funds. Caritas of Austin, ECHO, Housing Authority of the City of Austin, Housing Authority of Travis County, Integral Care, LifeWorks, The SAFE Alliance, Sunrise Navigation Center were all awardees.</p> <p>Three new projects will provide permanent supportive housing (PSH): LifeWorks – youth and young adults; The SAFE Alliance – survivors of domestic violence; Integral Care – people living with serious mental illness.</p> <p>There were no applicants for the Domestic Violence bonus. PSH is not an eligible activity for these funds.</p> <p>Integral Care will create site-based PSH at Community First! Village (CF!V) and this is the second time HUD has awarded funds at CV!F – the first being Family Eldercare. HUD did not want them to use rental assistance funds at this location but are hoping this will change for this new award.</p> <p>Leadership Council made the decision to reallocate a Rapid Rehousing project that was a renewal from The Salvation Army. ECHO is supporting this program to ensure participants either transition to another program or maintain funding.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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	<p>Executive Order Update: ECHO will continue to monitor the situation at the federal level. We hope the grant agreements will move forward as planned for the new CoC awardees.</p> <p>Questions: Liz: Is the YHDP NOFO back up? Per Kate, it is still not posted. They also cancelled the webinar they had scheduled. Her assumption is they're internally regrouping and seeing if they need to change anything about the NOFO before releasing it again.</p> <p>Liz wanted to draw attention to the DV bonus we didn't apply for, and this was a reminder to not rely on the larger institutions or expect they're going to apply for all available dollars. We have a year and a half until the next NOFO comes out and we hope other organizations will step into the process.</p> <p>Gary Pollack: Where will The Salvation Army participants potentially transfer – Dominique answered the question in the Q&A and is in contact with the HSO about the need. HSO staff confirmed that ECHO has been in touch with HSO.</p> <p>David: If there are new organizations that want to get engaged, there is a need for us to broaden how we think about applicants. What is the process for new organizations to be brought into the fold before NOFOs drop so organizations are prepared to submit applications and manage these grants.</p> <p>Per Kate: Historically, the planning dept (Maya and Eri) had an outreach plan and met with current and potential new providers with the desire to not leave any money on the table. This is also part of the Capacity Building Cohort of grassroots organizations going through a series of trainings to increase their capacity to provide more services in the Homeless Response System. When we get to the point of doing</p>	
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		<p>this outreach again, ECHO would love to have this conversation again with Leadership Council.</p> <p>David: We're trending up the last two NOFOs – in two years we've increased the funds the CoC receives by \$4 million.</p>	
<p>HMIS Vendor Update</p>	<p>Whitney Bright</p>	<p>ECHO has been on the search for a new HMIS vendor since the summer. When the RFP was posted, there were six different vendors apply and went through the demo process with five different vendors with the vendor selection committee and narrowed this down to three vendors. Whitney reached out to the references and the top vendor landed on was Bit Focus and their vendor is called Clarity. ECHO will be moving from Well Sky to Bit Focus, and this was the top choice from the vendor selection committee comprised of different HMIS users such as shelter, housing programs, and analysts.</p> <p>Well Sky has been notified, and they will need to renew a contract for six months that will enable ECHO to transition to Clarity and hit the go live date of 9/1/2025.</p> <p>We will still be working with the technical assistance folks to work on contracts and listening in on all of the contract negotiations and helping with the migration of the data to Clarity. They'll also help us update policies and procedures.</p> <p>We'll be getting feedback on the process for training and formatting curriculum for training. This will be a massive lift because we'll be training all new users in-person at the end of summer and early fall.</p> <p>Whitney will be meeting with Bit Focus in February to discuss the contract.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>Questions:</p> <p>Linda: How will this impact the certification of new users?</p> <p>Whitney: Everyone has to get their feedback into HUD by the tenth and Bit Focus and ECHO will be working to determine the timeline of the contract because the \$640K is wrapped up in the federal CoC award. Bit Focus' fees are a little higher, but this was to be expected, but not significantly higher.</p> <p>All users will need to go through new user training and agreement and a new HMIS MOU.</p> <p>David: How many certified users do we have now and how long will it take to train them? During this transition will there be opportunities to test the new system instead of a live database? Does this allow for any automated data transfer? Are you expecting any changes to the HMIS MOU agreements?</p> <p>Whitney: We have about 700 users and have not had to purchase any new licenses for a while. ECHO anticipates training everyone in two weeks to cycle users in and out in big batches. People will be able to practice in a trial database to ensure everything is working the way its supposed to work.</p> <p>There will be more opportunities to extract data and to input more information with Clarity.</p> <p>There may be some "tweaks" for the HMIS User agreements</p> <p>David: Would like Leadership Council to review these new HMIS User Agreements and MOUs to ensure its in the best interest of our community.</p>	
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<p>Equity Review Tool Update</p>	<p>Tania Hughes</p>	<p>The Equity Review Tool Workgroup has been meeting weekly and there are three Leadership Council members in the workgroup (Candace, Amanda, and Linda) and this has been helpful. There are additional edits needed. The work group is working on examples to include with the questions, to give people an idea of how to answer the question. We hope to bring the tool back in March.</p> <p>The group has been discussing if the tool should be brought to other committees for feedback and is seeking guidance from the Leadership Council on this. Should we bring this tool before other committees.</p> <p>Candace: The only reason we’re asking for guidance is because this delays the timing of bringing the tool back to Leadership Council.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

		<p>Linda: Supports bringing it to the other committees to ensure there is not something being left out or that we're getting wrong. They want to have different perspectives.</p> <p>Per Dylan – send it up through the Committee Per Liz – There is a gap we've identified of how to improve communication amongst committees laterally. Could the group try emailing it out to Committee co-chairs to see if the committees want to send feedback. The further up in the governance structure you go the more broad the view becomes. If the workgroup thinks it would be valuable for this feedback this is OK, but recommend keeping with the March deadline.</p>	
<p>Public Comment & Adjournment</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>David: We're coming off some stretches of severe cold weather and there were a lot of organizations that came together to played a role in keeping our community safe during the cold weather shelter. Handing out clothes, spreading the word, providing a meal – all of this helped ensure people were cared for – the list of organizations is too large, but wanted to say thank you and shows how much we can accomplish when we work as one community to serve people.</p> <p>Tracey Moody: Wants to commend ECHO on the incredible job on the PIT count. She had expressed a desire to volunteer and even though she is disabled, she felt there were ways she could help. The feedback she received was that the people with lived experience couldn't help because they could not be compensated. She hopes in the future this does not preclude people with lived experience from volunteering. People understand that volunteering does not mean there is compensation.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>Anytime there's a need for volunteers, reach out to the people with lived experience. Compensation isn't our concern. Getting things done is our concern.</p> <p>Linda: Most of the people on her team were people with lived experience. Putting together beanie rolls can be done anywhere.</p> <p>David: I know there will probably be an opportunity for us to talk about future PIT counts. Some do it over two days. Some do it during the day. When the time is appropriate, we may want to consider different ways to do it. The count ECHO facilitated was very successful, he would be interested in change it some. He apologized on behalf of Leadership Council that Tracey did not feel she could volunteer.</p> <p>Linda: It would be nice if there were other events that occurred between PIT counts that had a drive for volunteers. The PIT count is the one event where people come without experience, and it is an eye-opening experience for them. It gives a real reality check for people that may have some preconceived ideas.</p> <p>Toby Nunley: He is a co-chair of the Crisis Response Committee. We were notified that the compensation for people with lived expertise would change in the summer, however, we have also been told there would be some type of push to fundraise to see if there would be an increase in the amount of funding to compensate PLEs. Is there any news on this front and if not, are there any future goals that will help spur the development of these funds.</p> <p>Dylan: Is there someone in the meeting that could speak to this?</p>	
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	<p>Helen: We could bring something back to Leadership Council. There was discussion about doing a survey of people with lived expertise and could provide an update on the budget for this and given an update on fundraising efforts.</p> <p>Kate: We have finalized our budget for 2025 and could give an update on this.</p> <p>Toby: Are we compensated just for being on a committee, or do you have to attend the meeting to be compensated. For example, the Crisis Response Committee did not meet in December, so he was not compensated, but he thought he would be.</p> <p>Linda: Is the funding for PLE payments included in the budget? Kate: Yes, it is and we can get that for you.</p>	
<p>Next Public Meeting: Monday March 3, 2025 12pm-2pm</p>		

<p>Actions taken by Leadership Council during the meeting on 2/3/2025 Public Meeting</p>
<p>I. Approve the January 2025 Leadership Council minutes. Approved on consent.</p>