HRS Leadership Council's Public Meeting Minutes

Duration:	TIME: 12 pm - 2 pm	Date: 2/2/2026
		Meeting Place: VIRTUAL MEETINGS Meeting ID: ZOOM INFO

Leadership Council Members					
P	Dr. Larry Wallace	P	Linda Jackson	P	Monique Coleman
P	Coni Stogner	P	Candace McGary	P	Ebonie Oliver
P	Liz Baker	P	Sheila Joseph	P	Ashley Jones
P	Dylan Shubitz	P	Amanda Jasso	P	Tim Mercer
P	Jacob Emerson	P	David Gray		

P = Present
A = Absent

Committee Chairs					

Guest Attendees					
Guest Attendance is Recorded					
P	Sydney Da Costa	P	Pamela Bryant	P	Matt Mollica
P	Claudia Thompson	P	Kate Moore		Whitney Bright

ECHO Staff Presenting (Collaborative Applicant)							
P	Shan Robertson	P	Perla Carranza	P	Anthony Curtis	P	Lyric Wardlow
P	Helen Eisert	P	Joseph Montano	P	LaShandraia Dwyer	P	Jason Phillips
P	Kate Moore	P	Dominique Peevy	P	Kyle Walker	P	Whitney Bright
P	Kawther Alrubaye	P	Sharon Kao	P	Bill Wallace		
P	Megan Biscamp	P	Angel Romero	P	Tania Hughes		

AGENDA	PRESENTER	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Welcome	Shan	**Welcome and Agenda Overview** The meeting was called to order. Shan opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to Leadership Council members and attendees. Overview of the agenda items for the Feb 2, 2026, Public Meeting. **Leadership Council Updates** • Open seat on Leadership Council: Education or Workforce Development • https://www.austinecho.org/leadership-council/ • Stay informed about CoC News including opportunities to serve on Leadership Council, please sign up for ECHO's CoC News Updates. https://www.austinecho.org/getinvolved/ • Open seat on Leadership Council: Education or Workforce Development • https://www.austinecho.org/leadership-council/ • Stay informed about CoC News including opportunities to serve on Leadership Council, please sign up for ECHO's CoC News Updates. • https://www.austinecho.org/getinvolved/	**N/A**

| Quick Business | Shan | **Reflection on HRS Shared Values:**

● **Review of Leadership Council Shared Values & Group Agreements**
• The Leadership Council reviewed the Shared Values and Group Agreements.
• Members were reminded of expectations related to respectful engagement, transparency, and collaborative decision-making.

Amanda called out "Not rushing the process" focusing on acknowledging the work folks were doing during the winter storm to get people to safety as well as the importance of doing our governance work thoughtfully so that systems built, rebuilt or redesigned serve people well. She further called out "centering lived experiences and of those most directly impacted" and that a recent survey read showed that when organizations do include people with lived experience it dramatically improves outcomes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

● The minutes from December 1st, 2025, public meeting were reviewed and approved with no edits.

● **Motion:** Approve December 1, 2025, minutes as presented.
● **Outcome:** Motion passed with no objections. | **Approval of 12/1/2025 Public Meeting Minutes with no edits - Approved by all LC members present.** |
| **Housing Protections Workgroup** | Sydney Da Costa, Claudia Thompson, Pam Bryant | **Equity Committee (Housing Protections Workgroup VAWA Presentation**

CoC Written Standards & VAWA Policies (Action Item) | |

		Presenters: Sydney Da Costa, Claudia Thompson and Pam Bryant	Dylan Yes Sheila yes Liz Yes Ebonie Yes Dr Wallace Yes Candace Yes Ashley Yes Coni Yes Dr Mercer Yes Amanda Yes Jacob Yes Linda Yes David Yes Monique Yes
		Claudia Thompson and Sydney Da Costa presented updates to the Austin/Travis County CoC Written Standards and policies related to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), including the Emergency Transfer Plan. The presentation included:	

- Overview of VAWA requirements and alignment with HUD guidance

- Summary of updates to CoC Written Standards

- Review of the Emergency Transfer Plan and assessment questions

- Implications for providers and system partners

Claudia stated that persons can receive

VAWA documents presented can be found on ECHO website. Austin ECHO Polices and Procedures

Questions were raised regarding whether the Emergency Transfer process under VAWA applies to non-CoC funded projects, and if not, whether there is a broader need or interest in extending similar protections beyond CoC-funded programs.

Claudia Thompson clarified that the Emergency Transfer Plan is specific to CoC-funded projects, as this is the scope and purpose of CoC policies; however, survivors of violence should have access to similar protections across housing programs. Ultimately, applicability depends on the specific project and funding source. She also noted that survivors can seek legal assistance through local legal partners (e.g., via SafeLine) to receive guidance on housing rights and other legal aid services.

| | | Helen Eisert further clarified that the Leadership Council's authority and oversight apply to CoC-funded projects, which are required to follow CoC-specific policies in alignment with federal and state law. Other subsidized housing programs that receive HUD or state funding are also subject to federal VAWA requirements; however, the policies presented and voted on at this meeting are specific to the CoC.

Motion was moved by Liz and second by Sheila.

Outcome: Approved with no amendments | |

HMIS Roadmap Timeline	Whitney Bright, ECHO	**HMIS Roadmap Timeline** • Whitney Bright provided a breakdown of the HMIS transition roadmap, including key timelines, issues impacting the Clarity migration, and upcoming feature rollouts. She shared that the first file to be addressed is the Assessment file, which contains custom Coordinated Entry data. This file has been submitted to Bitfocus for analysis to identify any data issues or structural concerns. Any required changes or fixes will be addressed and returned to Bitfocus for continued analysis. Once finalized, the files will be uploaded to the migration site and validated to ensure data maps correctly into the appropriate fields within user profiles. Current status of the transition • Key milestones and anticipated timelines • Data migration considerations and system readiness • Emerging considerations for system partners Discussion focused on provider support during the transition period, anticipated training needs, and communication strategies to ensure continuity of data reporting and system operations. No formal action was requested.	
Coordinated Entry Scope of Work (Action Item)	Matt Mollica, Kate Moore	**Coordinated Entry Scope of Work (Action Item)** Matt Mollica and Kate Moore presented the Coordinated Entry (CE) Scope of Work and goals for the CE Redesign. The goals of the redesign include: • Comprehensive Resource Connections for People Experiencing Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness • Supports the needs of Providers running programs in the Homelessness Response System • Informed by People with Lived Experience, centering the equity of historically marginalized populations	**Dylan Yes** **Sheila yes** **Liz Yes** **Ebonie Yes** **Dr Wallace Yes** **Candace Yes** **Ashley Yes** **Coni Yes** **Dr Mercer Yes** **Amanda Yes** **Jacob Yes** **Linda Yes** **David Yes** **Monique Yes**

		• Data informed by design and continuously evaluated to ensure impact as intended. • The presentation outlined key areas for redesign, including: • Updates to the assessment tool and core elements • Improved tools for determining eligibility and prioritization for resources • Expansion of the types of resources available and increased accessibility • Strengthened processes for managing access, referrals, enrollments, and exits across the Homelessness Response System Presenters also reviewed the CE Redesign process and initial benchmark goals, which include: • Analysis of the current system using both qualitative input from people with lived experience and other stakeholders, alongside quantitative data • Building buy-in and identifying new resources to be linked to Coordinated Entry, including the development of operational plans for each resource • Development of a prioritization framework for Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Operational and policy-related changes were discussed, including anticipated updates to assessment, prioritization, referral, and matching processes, as well as related CoC policy and process changes. The redesign also includes plans to expand the types of resources available through CE and integrate with adjacent system partners. **Proposed Timeline for Approval and Implementation:** • February 2026: Leadership Council approval of the Coordinated Entry Scope of Work • May 2026: Analysis phase completed	

		• July 2026: Draft prioritization framework presented to and approved by Leadership Council • October 2026: HMIS build-out and pilot of prioritization and resource matching • August 2026: Pilot roll-out (analysis and testing phase) • January 2027: Final CE Redesign go-live Leadership Council members discussed implementation considerations, provider readiness, and alignment with ongoing CE Redesign efforts. • **Action Requested:** Adoption of the Coordinated Entry Scope of Work • **Motion:** To approve the CE Scope of Work as presented. • **Moved by: Candace** • **Seconded by Amanda** • **Outcome:** Approved with no amendments	
NOFO Update	Helen Eisert, ECHO	**NOFO Update** Presenter: Helen Eisert, ECHO Helen Eisert provided an update on the anticipated CoC NOFO release, including the current status and expected timing, high-level planning considerations for the CoC, and anticipated next steps for governance and system partners once the NOFO is released. Helen shared highlights from a separate meeting of non-conflicted Leadership Council members, during which several proposed changes and implications related to the NOFO were discussed: • Due to the permanent housing project cap, some Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects may be required to transition to Transitional Housing. • HMIS was not placed in Tier 1 for the upcoming NOFO (as it was in 2024). While HMIS was projected for inclusion, it would be required to compete nationally. This may change	

		with the FY 2026 NOFO, depending on any updates to the 60% permanent housing cap. • New Transitional Housing projects will be required to provide at least 40 hours of customized supportive services to participants, with exceptions for participants over the age of 62 or those with physical or developmental disabilities. • Supportive Services Only Street Outreach projects will be required to demonstrate a history of working with law enforcement. Helen also provided a brief update on current litigation related to the NOFO. CoCs are awaiting a summary judgment from the U.S. District Court in Rhode Island regarding conditions of the NOFO. Plaintiffs have argued that multiple NOFO conditions are unlawful, including claims that certain provisions discriminate against people with disabilities, violate HUD's Equal Access Rule, and cause harm by not prioritizing project stability in local CoC decision-making. No action was requested at this time.	
Public Comment		**Public Comments** • Sonja Burns shared concerns about existing challenges with Medicaid, noting that even historically there have been limitations on coverage for inpatient psychiatric care. She referenced prior federal policy indicating that Medicaid does not cover more than 15 consecutive days of inpatient psychiatric care in facilities with more than 16 beds. She emphasized that determining whether a medication is effective often requires longer inpatient stays, and that limited funding creates barriers to adequate treatment. Sonja also expressed concern that data related to these impacts is not being consistently collected and submitted.	

Next Public Meeting: Monday March 2, 2026
12pm-2pm

Actions taken by Leadership Council during the meeting on 2/2/2026 Public Meeting
1) Approval of the December/1/2025 Public Meeting Minutes 2) VAWA Policies & Procedures/Emergency Transfer Plan approved 3) CE Scope of Work and Recommendations approved