



# FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S Continuum of Care Board

## PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**WHEN:** December 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fairfax County Government Center  
Conference Rooms 9/10  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

**AGENDA:** Call to Order.

Approve Minutes.

Member Presentations.

Next Steps for Gaps Analysis, Strategic Recommendations.

Next Meeting: January 24.

Adjourn.



*Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all County programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call 703-246-5000 (select menu option 8), or TTY 711. Equal Housing/Equal Opportunity Employer.*





# FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S Continuum of Care Board

## ATTENDANCE:

Name	Attending (Yes/No)	Name	Attending (Yes/No)
David Meyer, Chair	Yes	Maura Williams	Yes
Adrienne Hosein	Yes	Nathalie Washington	No
Aimee Garcia	Yes	Noah Abraham	Yes
Ashley McSwain	Yes	Pamela Michell	Yes
Cathy Benn	Yes	Pamela Powers	No
Connie Johnson	No	Penelope Rood	Yes
Douglas Dane	Yes	Randy Shusman	Yes
Michael Axler	Yes	Rena Alexander-Lewis	Yes
Fatima Khalid	Yes	Ruth Pearson	Yes
Kameron Wilds	Yes	Seth Pearson	No
Lisa Jones	No		

## Non-Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Members

Organization	Name	Attending
Housing and Community Development, Fairfax County <i>Office to Prevent and End Homelessness</i>	Thomas Barnett	Yes
	Stephen Knippler	Yes
	Diana Pina	Yes



## FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S Continuum of Care Board

### I. Call to Order.

- The meeting was called to order by CoC Board Chair David Meyer.

### II. Approve Minutes.

- The Minutes of the November 8, 2023, CoC Board Meeting were approved with no objections.

### III. Member Presentations.

- Members provided brief presentations regarding their organizations, covering organization overview, organization details, mission and services, contribution to the CoC, and focus area, specifically the identification of the biggest gaps in the homeless services system as perceived by their organization.
- Maura Williams presented for Cornerstones. Among the challenges Ms. Williams identified were lack of affordable housing, long-term guests residing in hotels, the difficulty in securing vouchers or long-term rental assistance, and shelter guests with large families.
- Rena Alexander-Lewis presented for FACETS. Among the gaps in the homeless services system Ms. Alexander-Lewis identified were lack of a single shelter building in Human Services Region 4, shortage of shelter beds for single adults, and limited availability of beds for potential permanent supportive housing clients to provide the housing and case management support that they need for a successful life.
- Aimee Garcia presented for the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS). Among the gaps in the homeless services system Ms. Garcia identified were the over-representation of the Black community and other people of color, homeless services facilities sufficient for the growth of unhoused community members' requirements, and industry affordable housing stock expansion.
- Michael Axler presented for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). As pressing needs, Mr. Axler identified additional shelter availability and more affordable housing options for formerly homeless families, after-hours staffing for families experiencing a housing crisis outside of Coordinated Services Planning weekday hours and on weekends, and increased access to transportation.
- Ashley McSwain presented for New Hope Housing. As gaps in homeless services, Ms. McSwain identified consistent on-site mental health support during the day and throughout the evening, more housing accessible and affordable for clients, and more linkage between homeless services and information technology.
- Adrienne Hosein presented for Northern Virginia Family Service. Ms. Hosein identified the following gaps: support for the workforce, post-COVID, with a multi-disciplinary team; compensation and wage equity; and workforce support for persons with lived experience of homelessness.



## FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S Continuum of Care Board

- Kameron Wilds presented for Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. Regarding Focus Areas, Mr. Wilds identified access to affordable housing, temporary shelter, and emergency sheltering as the largest gap; huge barriers once a person is approved to get into stable housing; and a major gap in Region One concerning adult mental and behavioral health.
- Cathy Benn presented for Second Story. Regarding gaps, Ms. Benn identified gaps in services for transition age youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness including no designated shelters for TAY, TAY being placed in overflow spaces during hypothermia and therefore not getting case management services, the gap for TAY with significant mental health issues in that Fairfax County needs permanent supportive housing programs that specifically focus on TAY, and the short length of services and lack of graduate programs to extend the time a young person can get supportive services.
- Randy Shushman presented for Pathway Homes. Mr. Shushman identified as gaps, the lack of affordable housing, landlord incentivization, and addressing background checks.
- Fatima Khalid provided information on her background as an employee with FCPS and how she interacts with those who are homeless.
- Chair Meyer inquired of the Board if they could identify other organizations that could provide insight. Responses included: hospitals, EMS, County public health centers, Shelter House, The Lamb Center, Reston Strong, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, veterans groups, Housing and Community Services, Friendship Place, the LGBTQ population, refugees, the police, people experiencing homelessness, OAR, Good Shepherd Housing, Homestretch, PRS (now HopeLink Behavioral Health), and faith communities involved with the hypothermia prevention program.
- Jerry Poje, a meeting attendee, suggested Northern Virginia Community College as an entity that could be at the table. Mr. Poje spoke of One University Place that has affordable housing as well as student housing, and Chair Meyer suggested that this is perhaps a pilot project that could be learned from.
- A Board member suggested that for next time maybe those appointed to the CoC Board by Board of Supervisors members could share what they see as gaps.

#### **IV. Next Steps for Gaps Analysis, Strategic Recommendations.**

- Office to Prevent and End Homelessness Deputy Director Tom Barnett inquired what will be on the agenda for the planned next meeting. Comments provided included the importance of getting data to members; information on new developments setting aside units for affordable housing; a question of what the product expected to be delivered in September is; and what are measurable benchmarks.
- Deputy Director Barnett suggested that staff could come back with a framework of what deliverables may be and Chair Meyer suggested coming back with some data as well.



## FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S Continuum of Care Board

- An inquiry was made regarding the amount of the Half-Penny that is set aside for affordable housing in Fairfax County and the suggestion was made that perhaps the County could come back to the penny and then maybe two cents. Deputy Director Barnett stated that staff will bring information on the Half-Penny to the next meeting.

### **V. Next Meeting.**

- The next meeting was scheduled to be held on January 24, 2024. (Subsequent to this December 6 meeting, the date of the next CoC Board meeting was changed to February 15, 2024.)

### **VI. Adjournment.**

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held February 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.