



# Leadership Council Meeting

August 12th, 2025 | 1:30-3:30pm

Boston Avenue United Methodist Church  
1301 S Boston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74119

## Meeting Minutes

1. Leadership Council Meeting Introduction
  - a. Beth Edwards Svetlic, Chair, calls meeting to order
  - b. Congratulations to New Officers: Claudia Brierre (Treasurer) & Stephanie Horten (Secretary)
    - i. Chair recaps that the officer positions are new, added under the recent revisions to the LC Charter. Monthly executive meetings of the LC Officers will be held to plan LC meetings, and coordinate LC initiatives.
  - c. Amy Olsen: Elizabeth Hall's term has ended as of this month; she was unable to attend the meeting, but Chair will read a prepared statement. Statement expresses gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the LC, to leadership for its guidance, to HS for its coordination, and to AWH4T partners for their dedication; she will continue to engage in this work. Chair expresses gratitude for her work on the LC.
  - d. Roll Call, Amy Olsen
    - i. Quorum established
2. Discussion & Approval
  - a. July Minutes, Beth Edwards Svetlic
    - i. No feedback
    - ii. Motion to approve: Mark Vancuren; Seconded: Benny Naifeh; Abstentions: None
      1. All in favor. Approved.
  - b. Membership/Representation Updates
    - i. Chair recaps recent changes to membership and creation of corresponding charter. Executive Committee is currently reviewing list of membership and which organizations fit into which categories. Results of review will be brought to LC in the coming months.
    - ii. Chair notes there are some vacant Council seats: YAB seat, Funder seat, At-Large seat (x2), and Muscogee Nation appointee seat.
      1. Committee solicited nominations for At-Large seat but didn't receive much; proposes that LC members should consider any orgs that they would like to see represented, particularly from sectors that are not or under-represented.
  - c. CoC Program Funding Competition Standards of Operation, Len Dittmeier
    - i. Document provided in packet for review. Standards revised to be as general as possible in order to avoid significant changes annually (only needed if there are major process changes); variable details will be included in the Request for Proposals (RFP) document instead. Seeking approval today to ensure we're ready for competition, should the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) be released soon.



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- ii. Shay Stanfill asks that Tribal governments be explicitly named in the eligible applicants section. Len acknowledges and says that change will be made.
- iii. Members clarify that the document will be approved as amended, with changes to eligible applicants section, not in its original form.
- iv. Motion to approve: Ben Naifeh; Seconded: Emily Hall; Abstentions: None
  1. All in favor. Approved.

### 3. Lead Agency Updates

#### a. CoC Program Funding Update, Len Dittmeier

- i. Still no word on when the NOFO will be released; assumed to be imminent given reminders from HUD for project representatives to ensure e-snaps access is established and up-to-date. Working through additional competition document drafts so that they are ready for edits when the NOFO does arrive. No updates to Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW); easy submission this year.
- ii. New bipartisan effort to protect the 2-year NOFO process, link in slides. Chair clarifies that the competition was supposed to be a lighter lift this year, but HUD rescinded their decision; there's a lot of work that goes into the competition process and that the 2-year process would save a lot of time and effort.

#### b. Data & Analytics Report, Olivia Denton Koopman

- i. Overview of system inflow vs outflow: saw a decrease in inflow last month; in looking at trends we see an increase in inflow during the winter with large system expansion (winter weather shelters); looking to break cycle of returns to homelessness by increasing supports as individuals exit housing programs.
- ii. Sarah Grounds: is there a way to break down the circumstances that are leading to returns to homelessness (frequent evictors, lack of income, etc.)? Olivia offers to meet and break down those nuances so that they can bring it back to the council.
- iii. Ben Naifeh: why is the number of exits to recovery/halfway houses so low? Appears to be an underutilized resource. Olivia notes that this could be something that is underreported, but also we can look deeper at the data to see how many folks are going into those recovery situations and then exiting to permanent housing.

#### c. Policy Update, Mark Smith

- i. Federal budget appropriations for housing/homelessness are under consideration in both houses of Congress; provides chart to show how that looks right now, including net decreases on the House side and increases on the Senate side. Public housing assistance proposed lower in both. Numbers will change before approval. We may see a



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Continuing Resolution (CR) which would mean flat spending, and therefore a net decrease since costs continue to increase.

1. Ginny Hensley: if we were to see a CR that would mean a reduction of 800 vouchers from THA, since they would be unable to replace vouchers upon attrition.
  - ii. Administration's executive order on homelessness and substance use: biggest issue is likely the emphasis on civil commitment. Mark notes that this is an instruction for the Attorney General and would likely not have an immediate impact on our work given the lack of capacity for institutionalization here. May increase requirements for treatment programs to be provided, but there may be statutory barriers to that. Homelessness is interconnected to all our public systems, and we're already leading on addressing these issues with greater cooperation and engagement.
4. City of Tulsa Update, Emily Hall
- a. Inclement weather shelter is still a major priority for the Mayor's office.
  - b. City has partnered with BeHeard Movement to offer relief for folks who are downtown by transporting them to BeHeard services (access to water, bathrooms, hygiene) and then back.
  - c. Safe Move Tulsa Initiative
    - i. Born of clear need for increased housing services; not going to solve the issue, but is a step toward the solution. Serve 150-200 sheltered individuals and ~100 unsheltered folks; providing rental assistance and supports for up to 12 months. Aiming to free up shelter space so that more encampments can be decommissioned.
    - ii. Sarah Grounds: Notes that we see folks who are needing significantly more than 12 months of assistance and that our neighbors sleeping outside are staying in unsheltered locations for a variety of reasons (not just because there's a lack of shelter space), so we want to make sure we're addressing those needs. Process is moving forward quickly and wants to make sure that we're setting our neighbors up for success. With the boulders downtown, there's a lot of skepticism among folks and feeling like they're not welcome. We've been working to build trust and it's important that we are very thoughtful with this opportunity to preserve it.
      1. Emily Hall: appreciates that perspective
    - iii. Ben Naifeh: is it possible for our lived experience advocates to be involved in this process? Emily Hall: yes, and LE folks have a vote on the council which allows them to participate.
    - iv. Up for council approval and then the process for allocating the dollars will be announced.



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- v. Will be executed in collaboration with AWH4T partners, appreciates the feedback and questions from partners.

## 5. Meeting Topic(s)

- a. OK Department of Commerce Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Jessica Izquierdo
  - i. Grant opportunity available through ODOC. Funding is a little tricky for Tulsa applicants since the catchment area includes Tulsa County, but not City of Tulsa boundaries since the City of Tulsa also receives an entitlement grant for ESG. Amount available this year: \$88k; no applicants this year. Is a carefully monitored funding opportunity with annual evaluations and regular check ins. Funds cannot be rolled over and must be expended. Includes prevention, rental assistance, emergency shelter, and outreach services. Similar in scope and requirements to the CoC program, but with slightly different structure/rules.

## 6. Meeting Wrap-Up

- a. Public Comments
  - a. Sarah Grounds: Paul Schmidt of The Merchant retired last month after many years of service in this work.
  - a. Next Meeting: September 9th, 2025 at Boston Ave.

## 7. Adjourn



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## Attendance

	NAME	REPRESENTING	CATEGORY
x	<b>Ginny Hensley</b>	Tulsa Housing Authority	Fixed Position, Appointed
x	<b>Emily Hall</b>	City of Tulsa	Fixed Position, Appointed
x	<b>Mark Vancuren</b>	Tulsa County	Fixed Position, Appointed
x	<b>Noe Rodriguez, Vice Chair</b>	Tulsa Day Center	Provider Representative, Elected
x	<b>Claudia Brierre, Treasurer</b>	INCOG	Fixed Position, Appointed
x	<b>Shay Stanfill</b>	Cherokee Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>	Muscogee Creek Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed
x	<b>Sarah Grounds</b>	City Lights Foundation	Provider Representative, Elected
x	<b>Beth Edwards-Svetlic, Chair</b>	Youth Services of Tulsa	Provider Representative, Elected
x	<b>Ben Naifeh</b>	Participant Advisory Group	Consumer Representative, Elected
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>	Youth Advisory Board	Consumer Representative, Elected
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Lauren Sherry</b>	QuikTrip Corporation	Business/Commerce Representative, Invited
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Elizabeth Hall</b>	Burnstein Family Foundation	Funder Representative, Invited
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Jesse Guardiola</b>	Tulsa Area United Way	At-Large Representative, Invited
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>		At-Large Representative, Invited
x	<b>Stephanie Horten, Secretary</b>	JusticeLink	At-Large Representative, Invited
x	<b>Maj. Wes Phelps</b>	Tulsa Police Department	At-Large Representative, Invited