



Leadership Council Meeting

September 9th, 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. Welcome & Call to Order, Beth Edwards Svetlic
 - i. Agenda will be slightly adjusted: City of Tulsa will be moved up so that Mayor Nichols can speak to the group.
 - b. Roll Call, Amy Olsen
 - i. Quorum established
2. Meeting Topic(s): Response to Operation SAFE, Mayor Nichols
 - a. Begins with a thank you to LC and member providers for the work they do, is grateful to the community as we work together to end homelessness. Acknowledges the frustration at the Governor's actions in the past few days which have increased tensions "at a time when we were starting to make a lot of progress" but he is still committed to our approach of responsible encampment decommissioning. Intends to lead the City in pursuit of further financial support for housing and housing programs that address homelessness. Looking to the winter months, notes that his office is still working toward shelter spaces for use during weather emergencies. Encourages folks to reach out with ideas or if anyone has issues/needs assistance. Office is also looking to talk with and build partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders (legislators, providers, business leaders) to both educate and learn about the issue.
 - b. In conclusion, Mayor commits to doing everything he can to get resources into the system that will address the issue at scale.
3. Discussion & Approval
 - a. August Minutes, Beth Edwards Svetlic*
 - i. Motion to approve August minutes: Noe Rodriguez, Second: Major Phelps
 1. All in favor (no abstentions): **Approved**
 - b. Coordinated Entry System Re-Prioritization, Olivia Denton Koopman**
 - i. Chair explains that this is the process by which individuals are prioritized and matched to housing opportunities; annually re-evaluated by the Coordinated Entry Task Group (made up of providers, lived experience experts, and others). To give this topic enough space, Chair notes that LC will be able to attend a Q&A session (Wednesday, September 9 (3-4pm) – virtual) before they're asked to vote.
 - ii. Changes include:
 1. New prioritization to go into effect October 1st (if approved)
 2. Higher emphasis on length of experience and system involvement



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3. Removal of Veteran status, juvenile justice involvement, experience of discrimination or prejudice, direct referrals from TPD/TFD. Felony/misdemeanor factors (convictions only) were combined.
 4. DV experience is now verified through HUD Victim Service Providers (DVIS & The Spring) and that survivors must be actively fleeing a situation to meet the criteria.
 - iii. Safe Move Tulsa initiative will be part of the Coordinated Entry process, with distinct eligibility/matching criteria (like other CoC programs), though the details of that have not yet been defined.
 - iv. Motion to authorize an electronic vote: Claudia Brierre; Second: Sarah Grounds
 1. All in favor (no abstentions): **Approved**
 - c. AWH4T Member Fund Policy*
 - i. Member Fund is funded through donations by community members to the City of Tulsa's Change the Way You Give campaign. Currently about \$8k available; \$0 has been utilized. Housing Solutions and Funding Committee decided to reevaluate that process and reformatted the policy/application: removed the limitation that agencies can only request funds once every 6 months. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Housing Solutions and partners will promote the Fund through social media/publications. No time limit in which the funds need to be expended.
 1. Treasurer notes that Funding Committee hopes this change will help cover some urgent costs incurred by organizations in response to the Operation SAFE impact.
 - ii. Motion to approve revised A Way Home for Tulsa Member Fund Policy: Lauren Sherry, Second: Noe Rodriguez
 1. All in favor (no abstentions): **Approved**
 - d. Representative Selection**
 - i. Nominees:
 1. Funding Representative: Michael DuPont, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies
 2. At-Large Representative: Annie Mitchell, Tulsa Area United Way
 3. At-Large Representative: Zack Stoycoff, Healthy Minds Policy Initiative
 - ii. Motion to authorize an electronic vote: Emily Hall, Second: Sarah Grounds
 1. All in favor (no abstentions): **Approved**
 4. Lead Agency Updates
 - a. CoC Programs Update, Amy Olsen



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- i. CoC Builds NOFO re-released after being re-released (superseding a 2024 NOFO) in May. Opportunity is a capital project for the construction of new PSH units. Significant changes to the criteria from previous versions. Application timeline is only 7 days.
 - ii. CoC Program competition is still pending, as HUD has not released any information. Funding Committee has put together as much of the competition materials as they can to ensure community is able to launch the competition quickly.
 - b. Policy Update, Mark Smith
 - i. With the legislations reconvening in the coming months, we'll start to see new interim studies, which are mostly an opportunity for legislators to hear from individuals/experts that they call on to speak. Acknowledges the turmoil faced by mental health providers who have faced recent State funding cuts. Notes that policy is often shaped by the narrative and encourages all members to continue speaking up and speaking to the solutions to homelessness that work.
 - c. Data & Analytics, Olivia Denton Koopman
 - i. HUD Data Standards were developed to ensure consistent, accurate data collection across homelessness providers in HMIS. FY26 Data Standards go into effect October 1st, though they haven't actually been officially finalized by HUD; trainings on these will be offered through the month of September. Still locally collecting and assessing the data fields that were removed by HUD.
 - 1. Regarding safety concerns for clients by collecting gender, sexual orientation, translation services fields, Olivia responds that HUD has not said we cannot collect those fields and HUD cannot access our local data without our permission. When we send any reports to HUD, the data is deidentified. Also notes that we don't collect citizenship status.
 - ii. Some current family shelter capacity, so to be sure to reach out to shelter partners if clients are in need of that shelter space.
 - iii. 72 housing placements last month; we're tracking on target to meet our housing placement goals, however we should keep in mind that those tend to fall off near the end of the year. Seeing a higher than usual rate of people exiting from the system into housing without subsidy, though they have a high rate of return.
 - d. Coordinated Outreach Update, Chelsea Butler
 - i. Outreach is not engaging with OHP/Operation SAFE enforcement. Teams are struggling as so many clients are losing vital possessions like IDs, tents, blankets, clothes, etc. Puts out a call for donations to replace these things.
- 5. Meeting Wrap-Up



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- a. Public Comments
 - a. Training Opportunities, Amy Olsen
 - a. Next Meeting: October 14th, 2025 at Boston Ave.

6. Adjourn

* Items to be voted on by Leadership Council in-person

** Items to be voted on by Leadership Council electronically



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Attendance

	NAME	REPRESENTING	CATEGORY	TERM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ginny Hensley	Tulsa Housing Authority	Fixed Position, Appointed	07/24 – 06/26*
x	Emily Hall	City of Tulsa	Fixed Position, Appointed	07/24 – 06/26
x	Mark Vancuren	Tulsa County	Fixed Position, Appointed	07/25 – 06/27
x	Noe Rodriguez, Vice Chair	Tulsa Day Center	Provider Representative, Elected	01/24 – 12/25
x	Claudia Brierre, Treasurer	INCOG	Fixed Position, Appointed	07/24 – 06/26*
x	Shay Stanfill	Cherokee Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed	07/25 – 06/27
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>	Muscogee Creek Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed	
x	Sarah Grounds	City Lights Foundation	Provider Representative, Elected	01/24 – 12/25
x	Beth Edwards-Svetlic, Chair	Youth Services of Tulsa	Provider Representative, Elected	01/25 – 12/26*
x	Ben Naifeh	Participant Advisory Group	Consumer Representative, Elected	01/25 – 12/25
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>	Youth Advisory Board	Consumer Representative, Elected	
x	Lauren Sherry	QuikTrip Corporation	Business/Commerce Representative, Invited	01/25 – 12/26*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>		Funder Representative, Invited	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>		At-Large Representative, Invited	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>		At-Large Representative, Invited	
x	Stephanie Horten, Secretary	JusticeLink	At-Large Representative, Invited	01/24 – 12/25
x	Maj. Wes Phelps	Tulsa Police Department	At-Large Representative, Invited	07/25 – 06/27

* indicates 2nd term