



Leadership Council Meeting

December 9, 2025 | 1:30-3:30pm

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

Meeting Agenda

1. Leadership Council Meeting Introduction
 - a. Welcome & Call to Order, Beth Edwards Svetlic
 - b. Roll Call, Amy Olsen
 - i. 13 in attendance, 2 absent: **Quorum established**
2. Discussion & Approval
 - a. October & Special Session (12/1) Meeting Minutes, Beth Edwards Svetlic*
 - i. Motion to approve both meeting minutes: Sarah Grounds; Second: Noe Rodriguez
 1. 12 in favor, one abstention: **Approved**
 - b. Confirmation of Second Term (Sarah Grounds - Service Provider), Beth Edwards Svetlic**
 - i. Motion to vote electronically to confirm 2nd term for Sarah Grounds: Claudia Brierre; Second: Michael DuPont
 1. All in favor: **Approved**
 - c. 2026 Meeting Schedule, Beth Edwards Svetlic*
 - i. Future Leadership Council meetings will be held at Legacy Plaza East
 - ii. The tentative dates will be the second Tuesday of each month:
 1. January 13th, 2026
 2. February 10th, 2026
 3. March 10th, 2026
 4. April 14th, 2026
 5. May 12th, 2026 (All Member Meeting)
 6. June 9th, 2026
 7. July 14th, 2026
 8. August 11th, 2026
 9. September 8th, 2026
 10. October 13th, 2026
 11. November 10th, 2026 (All Member Meeting)
 12. December 8th, 2026
 - iii. Motion to affirm 2026 Leadership Council meeting schedule: Zack Stoycoff; Second: Noe Rodriguez
 1. All in favor: **Approved**
 - d. PIT Count Date & Survey, Olivia Denton Koopman & Beth Edwards Svetlic*
 - i. The 2026 PIT Count, the one-night census of all individuals experiencing homelessness, is mandated by HUD to be conducted within the final 10 days of



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January of the relevant year. The proposed date for Tulsa's unsheltered homelessness PIT Count is January 23rd in the morning and daytime, while the proposed date for the sheltered homelessness PIT Count is January 22nd in the evening.

1. HUD requires the PIT Count to include questions regarding household composition, age, location, race and tribal status, chronic status, disability, DV survivorship, and other demographics.
2. AWH4T can also include questioning that is deemed important for the CoC's assessment of its homeless population and services. Thus, the 2026 survey will also include questions regarding local root causes of homelessness, barriers to rehousing, services needed and requested, and starting locations of homelessness experiences.
3. A demonstration of the 2026 PIT Count Survey was presented to the leadership council.
 - a. Motion to authorize 2026 PIT Count survey questions and date: Benny Naifeh; Second: Ginny Hensley
 - i. All in favor: **Approved**
 - ii. The 2026 HIC count, a census of Tulsa's housing and unit inventory by program type, will also be conducted.
- e. OHFA HCV & TBRA Preferences, Olivia Denton Koopman & Beth Edwards Svetlic*
 - i. Tulsa has been awarded 120 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and 40+ Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) coupons by OHFA (the Oklahoma Housing Finance Authority) to be used by households meeting HUD's definition of homelessness, or at-risk of meeting the criteria upon referral.
 1. HCV Program: Rental assistance tied to the subsidy recipient that allows them to use the subsidy at a housing unit of their choice. Program enrollment is indefinite as long as the recipient remains eligible.
 2. TBRA: Rental assistance also tied to the subsidy recipient and allowing them to use it at a unit of their choice, but limited to two years of use.
 - ii. It is proposed to prioritize families with children under the age of 18 to rapidly deliver these resources via the Coordinated Entry System, while reducing family shelter occupancy.
 1. The By-Name List currently contains about 50 families.
 2. Motion to prioritize families with children under the age of 18 in regard to these awarded OHFA subsidies: Benny Naifeh; Second: Zack Stoycoff



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a. All in favor: **Approved**

f. CoC Program Competition Process Change, Len Dittmeier & Beth Edwards Svetlic*

- i. HUD has officially withdrawn the FY2025 NOFO on December 8th without reason, as an ongoing lawsuit against HUD regarding the NOFO proceeds in the federal court system. HUD reserves the right to alter or re-issue the NOFO at any time.
 - 1. Though there is little guidance from HUD about the NOFO outside of this withdrawal, frequent updates about the NOFO and the ongoing court case against it can be found at the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).
- ii. As a result, it is proposed to close the local CoC Competition, but encourage potential project applicants to continue to develop their projects in the event the NOFO is re-issued. Technical assistance will also remain available via Homebase and Housing Solutions for prospective applicants.
 - 1. Motion to close the local CoC competition and maintain technical assistance efforts: Stephanie Horten; Second: Annie Mitchell

a. All in favor: **Approved**

3. Lead Agency Updates

a. Data Spotlight, Olivia Denton Koopman

- i. As of December 1st, AWH4T Homelessness Prevention services have served 612 individuals within 284 households, including 246 children and 57 veterans. Of these individuals, 36% were individuals with a disability, and 24% were survivors of domestic violence. These efforts helped 77% of households to avoid being evicted.
- ii. In AWH4T's shelter system, 1,025 individuals were served in the month of November, representing a 19% increase month-over-month in individuals accessing emergency shelter care. This also represents a 116% utilization rate, where emergency shelters are over capacity by 16%. Additionally, the average length of stay is 88 days.
- iii. Through the end of November, 870 individuals have received housing placements, bringing AWH4T closer to its goal of securing 1,000 housing placements by the end of 2025.
- iv. In FY2025, AWH4T performed well in many key HUD System Performance Measures:
 - 1. 96% of individuals in permanent housing programs retained permanent housing, representing a 2% increase in permanent housing retention.
 - 2. 25% of adults exiting CoC programs increased their total income.
 - 3. 30% of adults actively enrolled in CoC programs increased their total income.



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4. The system's return-to-homelessness rate declined to 16%, representing a 4% decrease from the previous fiscal year.
 - a. This can be attributed to an increase in housing stabilization efforts from case managers and housing providers, and an increase in CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Center) case management services.
 - b. These returns to homelessness have happened most frequently between the first and second year of an individual's time in permanent housing.
5. AWH4T's complete HUD System Performance Measures for FY2025 will be submitted to HUD in April 2026.

b. Safe Move Tulsa, Mark Smith

- i. Safe Move Tulsa is currently working at two encampments, and is on track to decommission them and house their inhabitants by the end of the year. The goal of this initiative is to house every individual at the encampments, and every individual will be offered housing. At the moment, Safe Move has seen a 90% to 95% success rate in housing these individuals.
- ii. The ultimate goal of Safe Move is to decommission one encampment per month, and in 2026, the focus will also expand to decreasing street sleeping through emergency shelter access. This will include using housing resources to help individuals exit shelters, which will thus decrease shelter occupancy and allow more individuals to access shelters.

c. CREOKS/BeHeard (winter shelter), Mark Smith

- i. Tulsa's new temporary winter shelter, operated by CREOKS and BeHeard Movement, opened on November 17th. Current capacity is at 50 individuals, with a goal to expand that capacity to 125 individuals as Tulsa heads into winter weather in 2026. In the event of inclement winter weather, the shelter may also be able to expand to a capacity of 200 to 250 individuals.

4. Meeting Topic(s)

- a. Success Stories & End of Year Celebrations, Beth Edwards Svetlic
 - i. MODUS earned a United Way Social Innovation grant allowing them to launch a workforce shuttle in 2026 that will connect families in transit deserts to steady employment.
 - ii. The Tulsa Housing Authority has opened Phase 1 of its new housing development at 36 Degrees North, which will bring 545 mixed-income housing units to North Tulsa



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upon completion. Phase 1 provides 100 mixed-income housing units, and is almost fully leased.

- iii. Lindsey House has seen many great achievements as the year comes to a close.
 - 1. 15 families have graduated and found housing, and 2 of these families became homeowners. These families graduated with an average of \$6,500 in emergency savings funds as well.
 - 2. As of October, participants have eliminated a total of \$58,907 in debt, ten participants have started new jobs or received a promotion, and 14 child participants have exited foster care and completed or begun the process of reunifying with their mothers.
- iv. The Tulsa Day Center Blue Team, which works with the segment of the homeless population that struggles with anosognosia, the inability to recognize that one has a mental illness, was launched in September 2022. Since its inception, the Blue Team has worked with 43 individuals, and 19 of them have achieved stable housing, with only one individual losing housing. 86% of Blue Team clients received stabilizing shelter in a hotel room or at the Tulsa Day Center while working towards their goals, which is a key factor in client housing retention. They have also seen a dramatic decrease in client reliance on emergency public services, like law enforcement, criminal justice involvement, and ambulance usage.
- v. The Mental Health Association (MHAOK) provided vital stability and case management support to many clients, reconnecting them with families, securing transportation and permanent housing, and facilitating access to legal fine and fee forgiveness. MHAOK's Street Outreach team successfully housed over 50 homeless individuals over the course of the year in a range of housing options.
- vi. The City Lights Foundation broke ground on the construction of the City Lights Village in June, which will provide 75 units of permanent supportive housing for Tulsa's chronically homeless population. The Village will also include a 12,000 square foot community center, a laundry facility, and gardens and orchards for neighbors to enjoy. Construction is expected to be completed by late Summer 2026.
- vii. CREOKS, in partnership with many AWH4T service providers, has housed and provided ongoing supportive services to many individuals, allowing them to maintain employment and behavioral health support.



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- viii. Pause4Paws has been helping homeless individuals to access pet fostering services so that they can receive vital services and healthcare without abandoning their pet companions.
- ix. Iron Gate admirably rose to provide food assistance to the Tulsa community as the federal government shutdown impacted access to SNAP benefits. In November, Iron Gate served more guests through its three programs, the Community Meal, Grocery Pantry, and Kids Packs, than any month in its history. Nearly 40% of Grocery Pantry guests in November were visiting Iron Gate for the first time in 2025. Iron Gate's Community Meal program averaged 856 plates served over the first 12 days of the month of November, compared to an average of 696 plates served over the same time period between January and October. Its Kids Packs program distributed 5,629 kid packs in November, compared to an average of 3,341 per month in the prior months of 2025.
- x. The Tulsa Higher Education Consortium assisted young people in securing safe housing, clearing eviction debt, finding employment and stable income, and facilitating transportation and vehicle access.
- xi. Oklahoma Veterans United, in partnership with organizations across Oklahoma, has housed 719 veterans across the state in FY2025. Of those veterans, 405 have families, and 331 of them received Rapid Rehousing in the Tulsa CoC area.
- xii. Volunteers of America has supported homeless individuals struggling with addiction and disabilities to access life-saving treatment and healthcare, along with Permanent Supportive Housing. These individuals are now able to live independently and access a community of support and case management services.
- xiii. Family Promise, which operates a shelter program and eviction prevention diversion program, has helped 211 families, including 455 children, stay housed throughout 2025. On December 3rd, Family Promise also had the opportunity to receive \$1 per ticket sold at the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Tulsa performances, and as result received \$5,674 for its eviction prevention efforts. Two anonymous donations at this event contributed to this total, allowing Family Promise to provide over \$26,000 to Tulsa families needing eviction prevention resources throughout the month of December.

b. The Harbor (low-barrier shelter), Nancy Curry & Jeff Hall

- i. The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation continues its work on developing The Harbor, a low-barrier shelter expecting to open in December 2026. The land for the proposed shelter has recently swapped hands from Tulsa County to the City of



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Tulsa with unanimous approval from the Tulsa County Board of Commissioners. The next procedural requirement for the Harbor to pass will be approval from the City of Tulsa's Board of Adjustments, and then the City Council must agree for the land to be owned by a separate LLC outside of City control so that fundraising efforts can be made to fund and create the shelter.

- c. Remembrance Ceremony, Noe Rodriguez
 - i. The Tulsa Day Center's annual Memorial Service and Candlelight Vigil will be held on December 18th at 5:30pm, honoring the loss of our neighbors that were unhoused, in shelters, or in CoC housing programs.

5. Meeting Wrap-Up

- a. Thank you, Beth!
- b. Final meeting at Boston Ave Church
 - i. Future Leadership Council Meetings will be held at Legacy Plaza East (5310 E 31st St, Tulsa OK 74135) in the Conference Center, Rooms ABC.
 - ii. Registration for future Leadership Council meetings is on [Eventbrite](#).
- c. Public Comments
- d. 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
X	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
<input type="checkbox"/>	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	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lauren Sherry	QuikTrip Corporation	Business/Commerce Representative, Invited	01/25 – 12/26*
X	Michael DuPont	Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies	Funder Representative, Invited	07/25 – 06/27
X	Annie Mitchell	Tulsa Area United Way	At-Large Representative, Invited	07/25 – 06/27
X	Zack Stoycoff	Healthy Minds Policy Initiative	At-Large Representative, Invited	07/25 – 06/27
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