



MINUTES PASSED BY COC BOARD ON JANUARY 21, 2026

CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD MINUTES

VIRTUAL ONLY

December 17, 2025

3:00PM - 5:00PM

Meeting Opened at 3:02 with Roll Call of Board Members

Quorum reached with 18 members present

Approval of December Agenda and November Minutes

Motion to approve by Eric, second by Blake, unanimously approved

Public Comment

No public comment

Collaborative Applicant Updates

Jon - PIT Presentation

Change in statutory requirements will mean that we are only compelled to complete the PIT count every two years. Includes sheltered and unsheltered count for the night of January 27th, lines up with Homeless Connect. Meant to measure and monitor trends, assess local resources and allocation of those resources, and maintain regulatory compliance. Collection includes demographic data (HUD requirement) and place/county of origin, doubled up or couch surfing numbers, and ID/SS Card needs (local preferences). Unsheltered count data collected by volunteers utilizing "Counting Us" survey software app.

Data Timeline:

- September through November - survey questions developed
- December 17, 2025 - CoC Board approves survey questions
- Final 10 days of January - surveying is conducted
- Q2/Q3- data aggregated – data reported to HUD – data reported locally
- Ongoing - data informs priorities including 5-year plan

Q: Can cleaning up data be streamlined? A: We could have another meeting to go over the details of data collection and how it is formatted.



County-wide street-level coverage and fixed locations for survey tracked/recorded on GIS map. Goal to locate more people outside of major corridors. Current locations include libraries, food pantries, and STA bus plaza.

Sheltered count data submitted to HMIS. Q: What about those shelters that don't use HMIS, A: volunteers deployed to Truth, UGM, other non-HMIS shelters.

Local discretion allows for how questions are asked to collect specific data points required by HUD.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) also occurs at the same time. Is a review of beds and units available in programs that are dedicated to serving those experiencing homelessness.

Asking today to have survey questions approved by CoC Board, and whether we want to ask the full suite of questions to those who are doubled up or couch surfing.

Discussion:

Is it relative if folks aren't considered homeless to ask the full suite of questions? A: We have discretion to make that decision. Data would include basic demographic information. Should we just use enough data to de-duplicate those surveyed?

Blake: concerned with language re substance use as a "disorder" evoking fear, too clinical a term?

Amanda: We can change phrasing as long as we get to the answer HUD is looking for re: SUD. Looking for more open questions with follow-up about impact on day-to-day life. Q: Is HUD looking for diagnosis to ascertain a disabling condition? A: Historically they are looking for identification of a disabling condition of SUD.

Current question is "do you have a substance use disorder".

Amanda: will need to ask additional questions to understand impact.

Jon: volunteers have flexibility to be conversational during survey to get to the answer to this question.

Suggestion: "Do you use drugs or alcohol to cope with your living situation? Which one? Does this impact your daily life or your ability to maintain work or housing?"

Kelly: method for count asks folks to self-identify everything on survey, so while asking about SUD is still problematic, we might consider keeping it in line with the dataset HUD is looking for and maintaining the question as it is.

Blake - move to table questions until answer is achieved re: SUD. Jon – decision needs to be made today with board approval to upload the questions into app. We also have the opportunity to train volunteers to ask questions through a trauma informed lens.

Joe – move to accept the question set as is for this year and adjust next year, Reese second. 1 opposed, all others in favor, motion carries.

Reese: ask to have subcommittees discuss this during the year. Arielle: PIT Committee has been meeting and discussing these questions and agreement to add to subcommittees.

Scheduling 2026 Retreat





Last year was in early May. Suggest maintaining that timeframe to allow time for discussion re: board positions. Reese: desire and ability of board members to do retreat planning? None offered so suggest that board form a subcommittee. We would like to use a room at WorkSource again. April or May? Avoid April 6 – 10 for SPS Spring Break. Friday May 1st is the most favorable date. Jen: The room is available May 1st at WorkSource. Use same time as last year; 9 am – 3 pm. Planning committee? David and Reese. Reese will send an email to recruit other volunteers. Expecting about 30 people including board and CHHS staff. City to assist with budget.

NOFO Update

NOFO was rescinded by HUD. Currently many WA CoCs have suspended RFP process. Locally we have postponed submission of applications to Dec 31. The court date this Friday may yield more information. Suggestion for maintaining January 7th special board meeting schedule for now. CHHS will notify the board of any changes.

County, City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley Updates

County – George – preparing next RFP Jan 6th closes Feb 20th. Includes CDBG, disaster recovery and homeless assistance funds. Will send email notification via Listserv.

Valley – Eric – last night Council adopted City's five-year plan as theirs. Plug for Homeless Connect. Sponsorship is down and they need lots of volunteers.

City – Maggie – inclement weather beds opened last night and again tonight due to wind. Using ROW ERP to get folks into Catalyst. Two sites identified along the river in NE precinct. 5 individuals have moved into housing. New By-Names-List (BNL) underway. RFP closed with opioid funding for culturally specific opioid treatment. \$500,000 available that could be used to fund one or more proposals.

Updates from Sub Committees and Workgroups (if any)

Notes attached to agenda email. Any specific additions? None

General updates? Lacey - Is the opioid meeting tomorrow from 1-2? Maggie will follow up. There may have been an email that went out incorrectly. That meeting was cancelled.

Link for Homeless Connect: <https://www.spokaneconnect.org/> on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 at the Spokane Convention Center.

Move to adjourn by David, second by Lacey, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by S.L. Wells

