



## Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors Meeting

January 7, 2026  
1:00-3:00 PM

Zoom.us/join – Meeting ID: 813 3330 0917  
Passcode: 514351  
1-877-853-5257

The HSC Board strives to prevent and end homelessness, by advancing Housing as a Human Right. We provide leadership, advocacy, planning, and management of program funding in order to promote accessible and equitable housing and homeless services.

### MINUTES

- Call to Order and Welcome
- Introductions

Board members in attendance: Michelle Hemp, Maximiliano D'Larentez, Chara Taylor, Erin Kautz, Sylvia Ramirez, Rachel Kaiser, Arret Druley, Zach Stephen, Aurelius Leslie, Claire Bergman, Kayla Every, Beverly Priefer, Michael Etheridge, Brittany Thompson, Deja Mays

Board members not in attendance: Jasmyne Bass, Taylor Rozman

Staff: Torrie Kopp Mueller

Guests: Kristina Dux, Cass Robinson, Sarah Lim, Takisha Jordan

- Updates City, County, United Way, Lived Experience Council, Youth Action Board – YHDP, Voices of Dane County, Federal Impacts

City: working on contract for EHH, good news emergency solutions grant immigration status, and this does not apply because it is life saving

County: Affordable housing side capital budget funds were added and 3.9 million will be announced shortly.

United Way: did not get invited, fixed for the future

Lived Experience Council: Powerpoint slides

- The Lived Experience Council (LEC) is a group of individuals with lived experience of homelessness who provide leadership, insight, and accountability within the local homeless response system.

- In 2025:

- Four LEC members carried this work during the first half of the year
- Three LEC members carried this work during the remainder of the year



- In 2025, LEC was not only present in system spaces we were actively leading and supporting systems work.

#### LEC members:

- Participated consistently in LEC meetings, HSC committees, and workgroups to ensure lived experience voices informed planning and decision-making.
- Stepped into leadership roles when gaps existed to support system continuity and equity.

LEC members either served directly or acted on behalf of others as **chairs, co-chairs, and board leaders**, including:

- **Point-in-Time (PIT)** planning and preparation
- **Coordinated Entry (CE)** Re-Imagine work
- **Voices of Dane County**
- Filling Chair roles for:
  - **Nominating & Governance**
  - **Education & Advocacy**
- LEC member serving as **President of the HSC Board of Directors**
- Appointed LEC member serving on the **HSC Board**

*Lived experience is positioned directly within decision-making authority, not just advisory capacity.*

## Facilitation, Training & Capacity-Building

LEC members:

- Set agendas, facilitated discussions, and guided group processes to keep work grounded in **equity, access, and lived reality**.
- Hosted and invited community members to attend training on **Speaking from a Lived Experience Lens**.
- Participated in and led **public speaking engagements**.
- Facilitated and supported the creation of **trainings for Case Managers**, supporting more trauma-informed and respectful practice.

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## Community Engagement & Visibility

LEC supported community-facing efforts by:

- Helping plan and support Homelessness Awareness Month (HAM), with a focus on elevating people with lived experience as speakers and leaders.
- Conducting outreach to individuals with lived experience to encourage participation and ensure authentic representation.
- Sharing the community homelessness plan through presentations and direct stakeholder engagement, including centering lived experience while speaking to budget line items at CCHIC and other City and County meetings.

## Advocacy & Systems Accountability

Throughout the year, LEC engaged in advocacy related to local, state, and national policies impacting people experiencing homelessness.

This included lifting up how policies affect people in practice by:

- Supporting the creation and implementation of a **Glossary of Banned Terms** as a resource for agencies.
- Contributing to updates in the **HSC Quarterly Newsletter** to reflect lived experience perspectives.
- Supporting the **Funders Group** to raise awareness for funding needs related to the **first purpose-built men's shelter in Dane County**.

Actively supporting the creation of an **overflow shelter**.

• LEC also:

- Named and addressed gaps between policy intent and lived reality.

Advocated for more **equitable and trauma-informed approaches** across the system.

## Invisible but Essential Work

Much of LEC's impact in 2025 occurred **outside formal agendas**, including:

- Follow-up emails and clarification conversations to ensure lived experience feedback was accurately reflected.
- Emotional labor involved in revisiting personal experiences of homelessness to inform systems improvement.
- Relationship-building across agencies and stakeholders.
- Supporting fellow members through heavy and retraumatizing conversations.

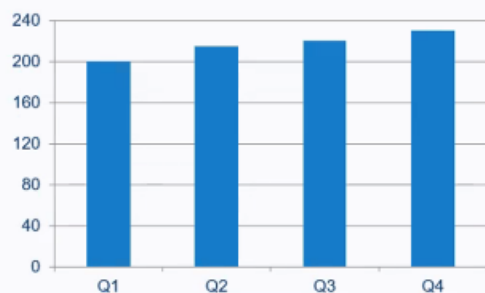
## Funding & Capacity Context (2025)

In 2025, LEC received **\$36,000 in funding from the City of Madison's Goal Planning Grant**, which supported the continuation of core LEC activities.

However, **capacity constraints remained**, limiting LEC's ability to expand membership or place consistent lived-experience representation in all of the system spaces where it was needed.

*This work was sustained despite limited capacity and inconsistent funding.*

## Year-End Contribution Snapshot



Total documented LEC hours in 2025:

**865+**

Excludes YAB contributions and untracked lived experience labor.

*With the new men's shelter and other upcoming projects, billable hours are projected to increase.*



Youth Action Board – YHDP: city contract working them to finalize this contract and determine 2026 actions, improvements

Voices of Dane County: Glossary will be shared after January meeting, how to engage the community/landlords, what are some of the barriers and how can they be addressed, create partnerships

Federal Impacts: Lawsuits going through process right now being heard together NOFO 2024/25, waiting for HUD to tell us what current agencies need to do to renew should hear by tomorrow which is when the extension was granted.

- **Vote to approve Minutes from December 3, 2025**
  - Minutes are passed
- Treasurer's Report
  - Torrie shared in absence of a Treasurer at this time
- Election for Board Executive Seats: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
  - Maximiliano D'Larentez for President or Vice President, Chara Taylor for President, Mid-term vacancy, Rachel Kaiser for Treasurer, Sylvia Ramirez for Secretary, Michelle Hemp for Vice President
  - Results below for 2026:
  - President – Chara Taylor
  - Vice President – Michelle Hemp
  - Treasurer – Rachel Kaiser
  - Secretary – Sylvia Ramirez
- Presentation: HSC Support Letter Policy – Torrie Kopp Mueller

#### Request for Letters of Support

Organizations may request a letter of support from the Madison/Dane CoC/Homeless Services Consortium. The Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors reviews and makes decisions on all requests. This includes but is not limited to requests for funding, services, waivers, recognition or any other situation in which a letter of support could be useful.

Organizations requesting letters or support must be members of the Homeless Services Consortium.

Requests for letters of support must:

- Be made at least 5 business days before the due date
- Include information on what the organization is seeking support for and any expectations of the CoC
- Include a template letter of support
- Be sent to [hsc@cityofmadison.com](mailto:hsc@cityofmadison.com)

Members of the HSC Board of Directors will review the materials, ensure the request follows the HSC's vision and is in the best interest of the CoC as a whole. If a request for a letter of support is denied, the reason(s) for the denial will be made in writing.

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- **Action:** Approve HSC Support Letter Policy.
  - **Likes 11 Live 2 Policy Passes**

Adjourn

Future Board Meetings, All meetings are 1-3PM

February 4 <sup>th</sup>	August 5 <sup>th</sup>
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	September 2 <sup>nd</sup>
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	October 7 <sup>th</sup>
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	November 4 <sup>th</sup>
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	

If you have topics you think the HSC Board should discuss, please email them to [hsc@cityofmadison.com](mailto:hsc@cityofmadison.com).