

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

January 25, 2022; 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting *and*

1 Smithfield St, Pittsburgh, 15222 (HSB, Lower Level)

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend to Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of persons and families who are homeless.

HAB Members¹

Nicole Anderson (P)	Andy Halfhill (P)	Christy Pietryga (P)
Breanna Benjamin (P)	Knowledge Build Hudson (P)	Diana Reichenbach (P)
Damian Butler-Buccilli (P)	Anna Kudrav (P)	Lea Etta Rhodes
Jane Downing (P)	Joe Lagana (P)	Katie Stohlberg (P)
Laura Drogowski	John Lovelace (P)	Gale Schwartz (P)
Stuart Fisk (P)	Jennifer McCurry (P)	Kyona White
Pete Giacalone (P)	Susie Puskar (P)	Bethany Wingerson (P)

In addition to the below notes, the [meeting recording can be accessed here](#).

Minutes

1. Welcome—Gale Schwartz

Gale Schwartz welcomed all HAB members and CoC participants. Ms. Schwartz also welcomed Andy Halfhill to the HAB. Mr. Halfhill manages the Housing and Homelessness Analytics Unit in Allegheny County Department of Human Service's Office of Analytics, Technology and Planning. In this role, he oversees the team of analysts working across housing related data research, evaluation and analyses. Mr. Halfhill and his team collaborate very closely with the Bureau of Homeless Services, and he is well situated to support the HAB/CoC during a time that will include both reviewing progress of the existing strategic plan and moving forward with continued service development and planning. Mr. Halfhill has been appointed by the HAB Executive Committee to finish the remain two years of Cynthia Shield's term.

2. Allegheny County Continuum of Care (CoC) Overview

An annual overview of the homelessness system, Allegheny County Continuum of Care (CoC), and Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is provided to ground discussions and planning for the year ahead. The overview slides are included in Appendix A, and cover:

- Contextualizing the CoC
- Homelessness System Review
- HAB Overview

3. Current HAB Business—Gale Schwartz

November Meeting Minutes

November Meeting Minutes were approved by HAB vote. All participating HAB members voted in favor.

Allegheny County CoC Governance Charter

The Charter is reviewed and approved annually. While the HAB can make necessary changes to the Charter at any time, with a HAB vote, this annual review builds in a recurring opportunity to assess updates. All CoC

¹ (P) indicates HAB members who were present for the meeting.

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members received a copy of the Governance Charter with proposed changes highlighted through track changes. The proposed changes included:

The distributed version used track changes to highlight the proposed revisions. The proposed changes are:

- Updating to person first language throughout;
- Updating names of Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) office names (e.g., DARE became ATP);
- Adding a Unified Funding Agency (UFA) description to the terminology section; and
- Removing a reference to the Committee's being limited to 15 members each.

The Allegheny County CoC Governance Charter was approved by HAB vote. All participating HAB members voted in favor.

Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures

The Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures are reviewed annually. Prior to the January 2022 meeting, no changes were requested or suggested. During the meeting discussion a request was made to update the document so that "Magistrates" were accurately referred to as "Magisterial District Judges." No HAB members, or meeting participants raised objection to the proposed revision.

The Allegheny County CoC Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures document, inclusive of the update to include "Magisterial District Judges" was approved by HAB vote. All participating HAB members voted in favor.

HAB Membership

Each Fall, the CoC opens a nomination period to seek new HAB members. Nominations are received through November 30th and from the nominations the Executive Committee proposes a slate of members to be voted on by the full HAB at the January meeting. The proposed slate of members was distributed to the full CoC in advance of the meeting, and can be found in Appendix B. No public comment on the slate was received.

The HAB 2022 Membership Slate was approved by HAB vote. All participating HAB members voted in favor.

4. Engaging Lived Expertise—Gale Schwartz

Ms. Schwartz informed attendees of the Executive Committee's decision to establish a working group to explore approaches for the CoC to better integrated the voice and expertise of people with lived experience into the planning, design and structure of the CoC. This decision reflects both the broad importance of systems growing and evolving together, and the specific importance of engaging with the people how have come in contact with the homelessness system. Chase Archer Evans and Michael Yonas, who both would voted onto the HAB with the previous HAB vote, agreed to take lead roles in developing recommendations on how the CoC can build better engagement.

5. Public Comments/Announcements

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Continuums of Care (CoC) to conduct an annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness. While usually set for the last Wednesday in January, the Allegheny County CoC, like many CoC's across the country, requested a date deferment in response to the recent increase in COVID spread. The request was granted, and the Allegheny County CoC PIT count is now scheduled for Wednesday, February 23rd
- Two advocacy avenues were shared from the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania:
 - PHARE—also known as the state housing trust fund—expands opportunity for people in need and revitalizes communities. It supports a range of locally driven housing and community development priorities. In 2019, legislators from both parties answered the call to raise the funding cap for PHARE due to the great success of the program. Now, with above average Realty Transfer Tax revenue, and many PHARE project applications left unfunded, now is the time to

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- advocate for increased funding. The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania invites you to join their Raise the Cap Campaign kickoff webinar on February 3rd (10:00am) to learn more.
- Last week, President Biden confirmed a strategy to advance and enact a scaled-back version of the Build Back Better Act that only includes the components approved by all 50 Senate Democrats. Other components would be repackaged into separate bills that need to go through regular order, meaning they would require additional floor time and the votes of 10 Senate Republicans—virtually guaranteeing that they will not pass this year. New [reporting from the Wall Street Journal](#) suggests that housing is not included in the current set of priorities for a reformulated reconciliation bill. Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania is urging people to [call and email their members of congress](#) and voicing the need to protect and advance the bill's historic investments in rental assistance, public housing, the Housing Trust Fund, and LIHTC as part of any reconciliation bill that advances.

Next CoC Meeting

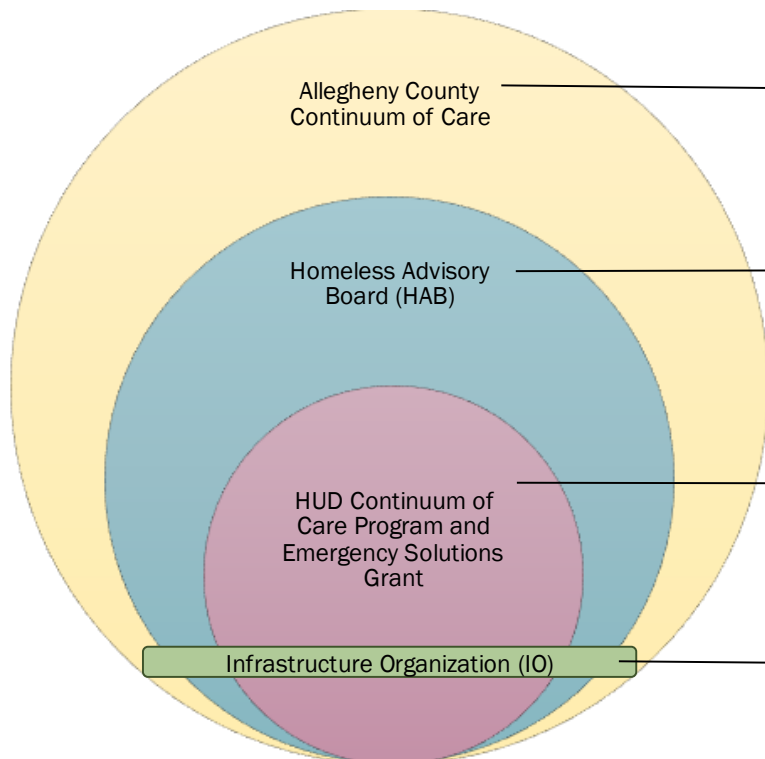
March 29, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting *and*
1 Smithfield St, Pittsburgh, 15222 (HSB, Lower Level)

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Appendix A Allegheny County CoC Annual Overview

Allegheny County Continuum of Care Overview

January 2022



Allegheny County Continuum of Care

- County's community-based homeless assistance program planning network
- While the CoC's work will focus, at a minimum, on those services funded through HUD's Continuum of Care and ESG programs, its work is intended to be generally inclusive of all housing and services for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, regardless of the funding source associated with the services

Homeless Advisory Board

- Working board that acts on the behalf of the Allegheny County CoC—fulfilling the responsibilities of (1) operating the CoC, (2) designating an HMIS for the CoC, and (3) planning for the CoC.

HUD CoC and ESG Programs

- CoC Program: HUD funding stream supporting permanent supportive housing for disabled persons, rapid re-housing, supportive services, and the HMIS
- ESG Program: HUD funding stream, granted by formula to city, county, and state governments, providing resources for renovation and operation of emergency shelters and related services, homelessness prevention, and re-housing activities

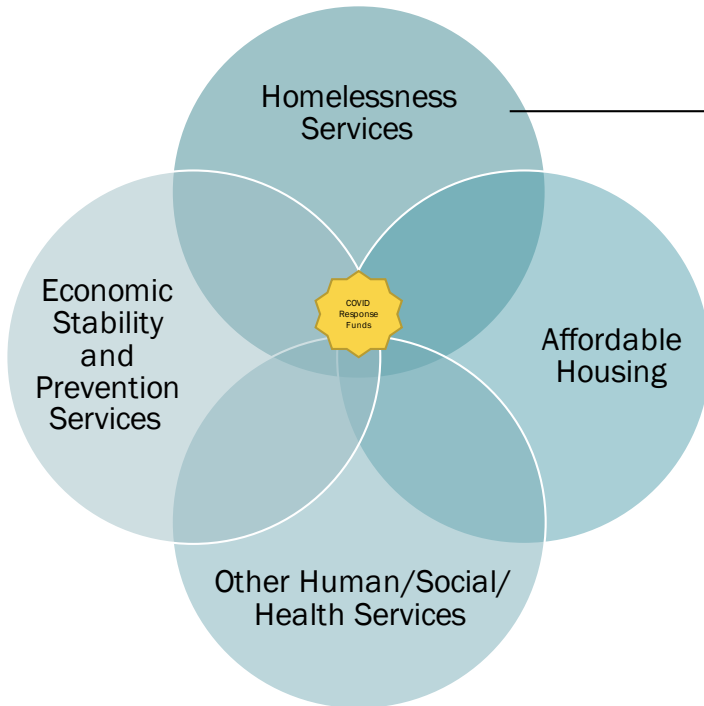
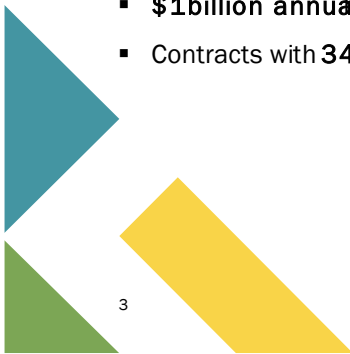
Infrastructure Organization

- The HAB has delegated to the IO (DHS) the day-to-day and operational responsibilities that fulfill the core duties of the CoC

Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS)

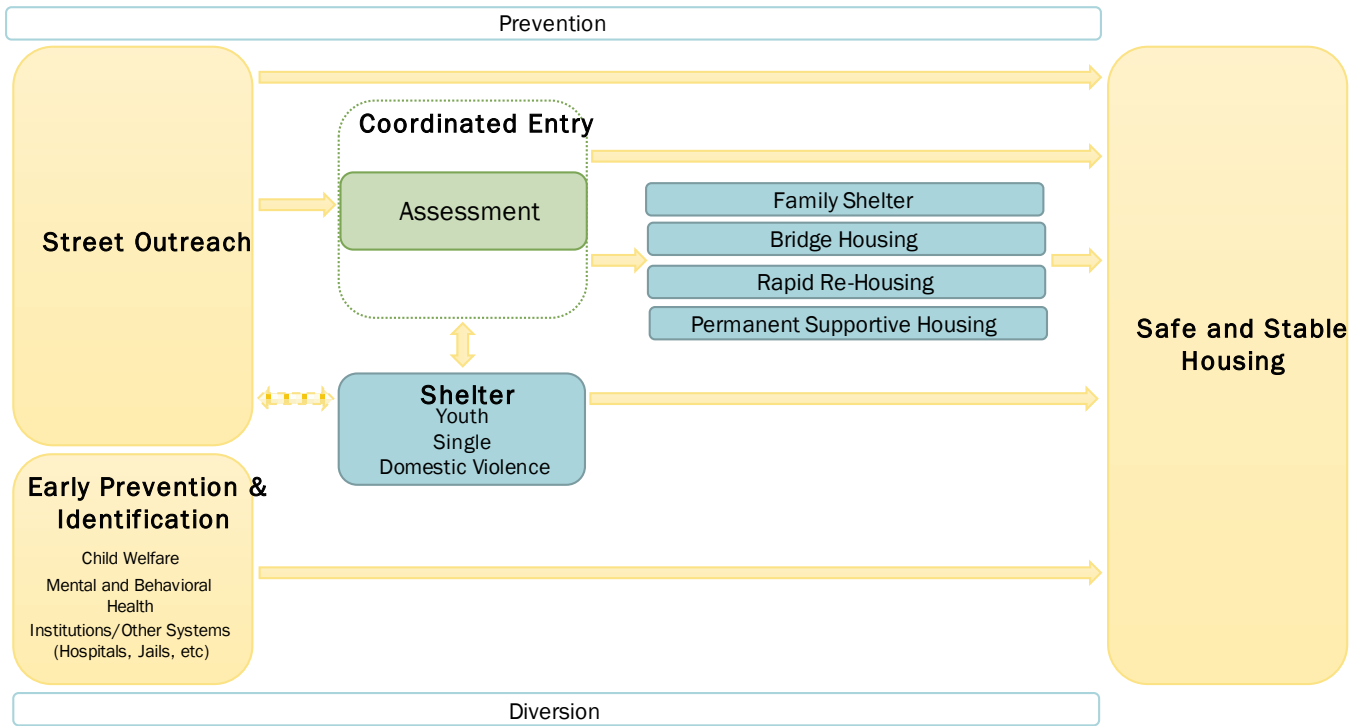
- DHS is responsible for **providing and administering publicly funded human services** to County residents.
- Serves 200,000+ people each year. That's **1 of every 5 County residents**
- **\$1 billion annual budget**
- Contracts with **340 human services providers**

Program Offices	Area Agency on Aging
	Behavioral Health
	Children, Youth & Families
	Community Services
	Developmental Supports
Support Offices	Administration
	Analytics, Technology & Planning
	Equity & Engagement

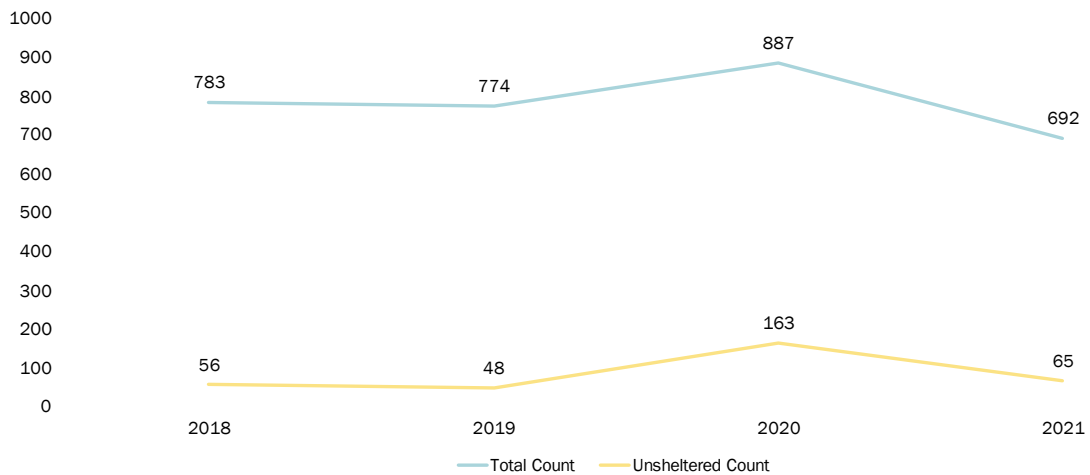


- CoC Program - \$22 million**
HUD: PSH, RRH, YHDP, some HMIS, some CE
- HAP - \$9 million**
State: Bridge housing, Case management, rental assistance, ES, Innovative Support housing
- City and County ESG \$2.4 million**
HUD: Street Outreach, ES, Prevention, some HMIS, some CE
- HOPWA - \$1.2 million**
HUD: persons with HIV/AIDS, rental assistance
- VA - \$6 million**
Veterans: prevention, transitional, RRH, service grants
- PHARE and Home4Good \$850k**
Flexible, 1-year grants
- Foundations, Private Fundraising**

CoC Homelessness System Pathways



Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count



Homelessness System Capacity and Service

Since increasing permanent housing resources in 2017, the CoC has maintained its inventory of beds and number of households served

System Bed Capacity (as of 1/18/22)		2021 Households Served
Emergency Shelter	680 beds	6,169 households (rental assistant/homeless prevention, street outreach, shelter, bridge/transitional housing, RRH and PSH) 10,514 households served with Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
Transitional Housing	174 beds	
Rapid Rehousing	1014 beds*	
Permanent Supportive Housing	1988 beds	

*Includes ESG beds, which are calculated by use

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Homelessness System Performance

Rare

- Increase in number of first time homeless from FY19 to FY21
 - Number of first time homeless slightly increased from 88% to 89%
- Total number of individuals served from FY19 to FY21
 - Total clients served decreased from 9367 to 7550

Brief

- Length of time homeless from FY19 to FY21
 - Average LOT has increased from 64 to 74 days
- Length of time in program from FY19 to FY21
 - Average LOT in RRH has increased from 402 to 455 days
- Exits to permanent destinations
 - RRH exits to PH decreased from 85% to 83% from FY19 to FY21
 - PSH remaining in or exiting to PH decreased from 99% to 92%

Non-recurring

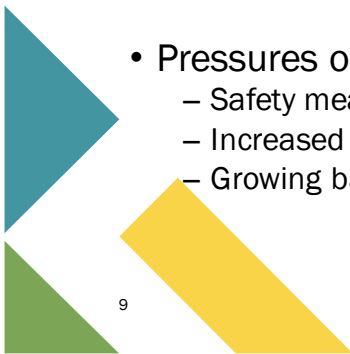
- Recidivism for those who exited increased from FY19 to FY21
 - PSH recidivism for individuals exiting to any location increased from 1% to 2%
 - PSH recidivism for individuals exiting to a HUD defined PH destination increased from 0% to 1%



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COVID Impact and Current Realities

- Individuals' weariness
- Staffing strains
 - Physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
 - Growing turnover and vacancies
- Pressures on capacity
 - Safety measures impacting physical capacity and required resources
 - Increased insecurity raising need
 - Growing barriers to successful exits



Population Initiatives



Veterans Homelessness

- Veterans Bootcamp
- Functional zero

Chronic Homelessness

- Chronic homelessness prioritization
- Case conferencing for individuals who are unsheltered

Youth Homelessness

- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
- YHDP Continuous Quality Improvement Workgroup
- By-name case conferencing

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Family Homelessness

- By-name case conferencing

Intimate Partner Violence Homelessness

- Women Shelter and Center Shelter Pilot Program
- Domestic Violence Unified Project

Homeless Advisory Board

- Responsible for planning, coordinating and operating a system in Allegheny County to meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- 21 members across stakeholder groups
- Committees are designated by the HAB to advise on the progression of CoC priorities

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Committees

CoC Analysis and Planning Committee

Provide ongoing analysis to support the planning of the CoC, at both the provider and system level

YHDP CQI Workgroup: Evaluates quantitative and qualitative performance for YHDP

Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee

Address the complex issues and challenges faced by people who are unsheltered

Communication and Education Committee

Develop and distribute messaging regarding the needs and experiences of people experiencing homelessness and the homelessness system, and facilitate avenues for community engagement

Provider Committee

Capture the experiences and perspectives of providers in order to inform CoC planning and processes

Executive Committee

Drive the strategic direction of the HAB and the Allegheny County CoC, based upon data, best practices/evidence-based practices and establish priorities.

Comprised of HAB Chair, Vice -Chair, Secretary, Committee HAB Chairs, and IO Representative.

Establish additional Ad Hoc Committees when necessary to carry out special initiatives.

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HAB Directions

Past System Visioning

- Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Housing First
- Prioritizing services to the most vulnerable
- Data-informed decision making
- Coordinated Entry

HUD CoC Program NOFO Decisions

- Targeting bonus funds towards PSH and RRH programs that utilize health care collaboration and resources
- CoC Program Project Rankings
 - Performance Outcome Tool and Ranking Approach
 - Appeals Response
 - Final Ranking
- Allegheny County CoC Consolidated Application Submission



Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness



Provide access to year-round low barrier emergency shelter



Establish a centralized rental housing locator (navigator)



Increased supply and access to affordable housing



Ensure that outreach resources are sufficient to cover the entirety of Allegheny County



Develop a communications plan that includes broader dissemination of information



Expand and develop partnerships to pilot new programs and help with school responsibilities under ESSA

Resources Links

- [Allegheny County Analytics Webpage](#)
 - [Allegheny County Annual Point-in-Time Homelessness Count, 2009-Present: Interactive Dashboard](#)
 - [Clients Using Allegheny County Homelessness Programs: Interactive Dashboard](#)
 - [Allegheny County Analytics: Homelessness Reports](#)
 - [Allegheny Housing Assessment \(AHA\) Information](#)
- [Allegheny County CoC Webpage](#)
 - [Documents](#) (*Governance Charter, Strategic Plan, HUD CoC Program NOFO Responses*)
 - [Performance Management Plan and Quarterly Performance Reports](#)

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Appendix B 2022 HAB Membership Slate

Pursuant to the CoC Governance Charter and HAB By-Laws a nomination period for HAB membership was open throughout November 2021. During this period 7 nominations were received for 6 HAB seats; 7 HAB seats were open, representing members whose term is ending, however one seat was attributed to the Provider Representative, elected through the Provider Committee Process. The 6 members on the slate below were selected by the Executive Committee based on considerations of diversity, in both demographic characteristics and in organizational and sector representation, experience, and leadership background of the candidates. This slate is to be voted on by the HAB on January 25, 2022.

Name	Affiliation
Chase Archer Evans	Community member
Brian Knight	Manager of Community Engagement, Homeless Children's Education Fund
Gale Schwartz*	Associate Director, Policy & Strategic Initiatives, Housing Alliance of PA
Kevin Progar	Project Director, UPMC health Plan Center for Social Impact
Jeffrey Upson	Sergeant, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
Michael Yonas	Vice President, Public Health, Research and Learning, The Pittsburgh Foundation

**Indicates a HAB member who will be starting their second term.*

If approved by the HAB, the above slate will be joined by Alyssa Sciulli, Director of Housing Solutions at Community Human Services (CHS), as the third elected Provider Representative, and will be joining the following sitting HAB members.

Name	Affiliation
Nicole Anderson	Region 4 Coordinator, AIU
Breanna Benjamin	HOF Program Coordinator, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Damian Buccilli	Planner/Zoning Officer/EEO Officer, Municipality of Penn Hills
Laura Drogowski	Critical Communities Initiatives Manager, Mayor's Office, City of Pittsburgh
Stuart Fisk	Director of Strategy, Center for Inclusion Health; Principal Investigator, Ryan White Grant/Positive Health Clinic; Medicine Institute, AHN
Pete Giacalone	HUD Program Coordinator, NLP of WPIC
Knowledge Build Hudson	Government Relations Liaison & Special Project Coordinator Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Diana Reichenbach	Director of Supportive Housing, Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Susie Puskar	Chief Program Officer, Partner4Work
Christy Pietryga	Chief Operating Officer, Veterans Leadership Program and Western PA
Katie Stohlberg	Executive Administrative Assistant, Allegheny County Housing Authority
Kyona White	Program Manager, Sojourner Housing MOMS
Bethany Wingerson	Director of Domestic Violence Services, Center for Victims

The following individuals will be completing their terms with the HAB with the January 25, 2022, meeting. The time and attention they have given to the HAB is greatly appreciated and has been invaluable to the progress of the CoC.

*Jane Downing
Anna Kudrav*

*Joe Lagana
John Lovelace*

*Jennifer McCurry
Lea Etta Rhodes*