

.0. Reaching Home: Community Advisory Board on Homelessness Minutes

DATE: September 18, 2025

Chair: Sonyia Taggart-Mint

Staff: Niveria Oliveira

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

P = Present, A = Absent, R = Regrets, O = Observer

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE:		NAME:	ORGANIZATION:
R	Chair	Sonyia Taggart-Mint	Stepped Care Solutions
R	Lived Experience	John T.	LECOH
P from 10:19	Funder	Naomi Woodland	United Way British Columbia – Southern Interior
P	Provincial Government/Health	Sandra Robertson	Interior Health Authority
P	Housing/Shelter	Liz Talbott	NOW Canada
R	Provincial Government/Youth	Tracey Martin	Ministry of Children and Family Development
P	Housing/Shelter	Zandi Moyo	NOW Canada
R	Mental Health	Mike Gawliuk	Canadian Mental Health Association
P	Provincial Government/Housing	Ana Frias	BC Housing
P	Front Line Youth	Sarah Mackinnon	Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
P	Municipal Government	Colleen Cornock	City of Kelowna
R	Seniors	Ian Gerbrandt	Seniors Outreach Society
P	LGBTQIA2S+	Wilbur Turner	Advocacy Canada: LGBT
Non-Voting Members:			
P	Funder	Kristine Bugayong	Community Entity/Central Okanagan Foundation
P	Funder	Niveria Oliveira	Community Entity/Central Okanagan Foundation
R	Funder	Rob Bullock	Indigenous Community Entity/Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
P from 10:24	Funder	Karen D'Souza	Housing Infrastructure Communities Canada
Alternates:			
P	Seniors	Meghan Mckenzie	Seniors Outreach Society

AGENDA ITEM**1. Land Acknowledgement**

Sonyia offers a land acknowledgement recognizing that we are on the traditional and unceded lands of the Syilx Okanagan People and she also shares that the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is happening in a week and a half in hopes that members of the CAB will make the effort to engage in learning and doing with respect to reconciliation.

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2. Welcome and Introduction

Sonyia welcomed everyone. She thanked Janet Bertrand for her service and introduced Ana Frias as Janet's Alternate and now standing, CAB member representing BC Housing. Sonyia then introduced Zaidi, the new Executive Director of NOW Canada, who is observing this meeting. Sonyia thanked Liz Talbott, former Executive Director of NOW Canada, for over a decade of service to the Community Advisory Board. Sonyia also informed the CAB that Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, the Indigenous Community Entity, has a new Executive Director, Rob Bullock, who, unfortunately is unable to join the meeting today. Lastly, Meghan Mckenzie joined as Ian Gerbrandt's Alternate representing the issues facing seniors with respect to homelessness and housing.

3. Approval of September 18th, 2025 agenda

Sonyia asks if there are any amendments to the September 18th, 2025, agenda, as presented.

None noted.

Sonyia requests a motion to accept the September 18th, 2025, agenda.

- Motion to accept: Sarah; Seconded: Colleen; Carried.

4. Approval of March 20th, 2025 minutes

Sonyia asks if there are any additions/edits or comments/concerns to the March 20th, 2025, minutes.

No additions/edits.

Sonyia requests a motion to approve the March 20th, 2025, minutes.

- Motion to accept: Wilbur; Seconded: Sarah; Carried.

5. Alignment Project Update- Niveria

Summer 2024 federal and provincial partners delivered the local standards for governance and systems mapping to the local partners: City, COF, KFS and BC Housing local staff. The standards are focused on the local implementation of the coordinated access approach and HIFIS. Coordinated access refers to coordinating access to housing inventory and services across the community of Kelowna and its purpose is to support community members in accessing these supports with ease. Over the next week, the local Backbone Team will begin to meet, with the support of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness to develop the collective impact strategy for this work. The Backbone Team consists of representatives from the City of Kelowna Social Development department, BC Housing local and provincial staff, Central Okanagan Foundation and Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society. Over the next few weeks, the Backbone Team will share information, and the CE will continue to share information regarding the CAB's role in the Governance model and ongoing funding working group responsibilities.

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Colleen shared that a continuous learning and improvement framework is being developed to guide the systems transformation through Coordinated Access. Fourteen different interest groups and nine organisations including people with lived and living experience have been engaged to inform this work. Consultants, Graham and Laing, will be engaged in this work going forward with Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. A few key dates are approaching in the month of October and discussion on how to incorporate the Strategic Working Group from Heart and Hearth into this work so that community is not being asked to attend multiple meetings.

Sonyia asked how the CAB will be informed and involved. Niveria shared that the CAB will be updated on the Alignment Project through quarterly communications and in ongoing work related to existing CAB related meetings, funding calls and the future roles within the Governance structure.

6. Call for Proposals - Niveria

The Designated Community Entity is launching a Reaching Home call for proposals to support project funding over the fiscal years of 2026-2027, 2027-2028. CAB members will be invited to join working sessions to provide input into the application questions, format and process. The call will be announced by mid October with applications due back a month afterwards. Adjudication will take place in the latter part of November with funding announcements in early December. The Reaching Home Directives and eligible activities will guide the focus of the call as in past years. The Community Plan will also need to be revisited to determine if we need to revisit the distribution. The CAB will be involved in the application adjudication with conflict-of-interest procedures in place to manage the process. Members expressed their support for this approach as it is meaningful work that engages the members' expertise.

7. Community Homelessness Report and PiT Count

The Community Homelessness Report is approved and posted on Central Okanagan Foundation's website. CAB members were thanked for their contributions to the Report.

The Point in Time Count for 2025 has begun with a Coordinator hired and the first Steering Committee meeting happening this week. This year is enumeration only and will occur in November. The Point in Time Count for 2024 was completed with the support of City of Kelowna Social Development department. Heart and Hearth sites

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are not included in all communities across BC and different Governments define the Heart and Hearth sites differently which impacts the interpretation of the Point in Time Count numbers.

8. Community Roundtable

A Way Home Canada – Community of Practice and intention is to understand the root causes of youth homelessness and prevention through a community-based understanding. The DCE is one of ten CEs across Canada as part of a national cohort receiving coaching through A Way Home Canada. Sarah explained that this is a unique opportunity for community wide learning and knowledge regarding natural supports and root causes.

Liz shared about NOW Canada's housing and transitional housing updates. A successful application to continue operating the Gordon shelter for October 1, with gradual entry, focusing on women and children. NOW Canada is also waiting on BC Housing to know if they will be successful in building new housing on Wilkinson.

Sonyia shared her experience with the A Way Home Canada team and the training.

Sonyia asked about updates from the Backbone Team and Niveria shared that will be forthcoming. Naomi shared their experience in other communities and the principle to provide as much information up front as possible. Sonyia agreed with Naomi given timelines, workload and readiness for non-profit organisations. Sonyia asked if timelines were short in other communities and Naomi confirmed that they are in the communities they are working within. Niveria shared that the local Backbone Team needs to have an opportunity to meet before communicating broadly. Colleen shared that the Backbone Team does need to have a solid understanding before engaging others in the work and that they are the sub-project of the CE working in partnership with the other Backbone Team members. Niveria then reiterated that the Backbone Team will meet the following week and information will then begin to flow out to community.

9. Final Summary

Sonyia summarized the meeting, the future work of the Point in Time Count and the upcoming Alignment Project. Sonyia acknowledged that the CAB members provided valuable feedback to the CE and that we will be having an in-person meeting once the CE has additional capacity.

12. Next Meeting & Adjournment

TBD Meeting adjourned at: 10:56 AM