

Detroit CoC Governance Charter Public Comments and Governance Charter Review Committee Response

October 27, 2021

The Detroit CoC opened the proposed revisions to the Governance Charter up for public comments from September 27 – October 22. Below is a list of the public comments received and responses drafted by a workgroup formed of CoC Board Members and members of the Detroit Advisors Group. You can reference the proposed revisions that are being responded to by [clicking here](#).

Public Comment or GC Change	Governance Charter Review Committee Response
Comments Regarding "Overview" Section (Page 2-3).	
<p>1. “If the Continuum of Care Board is elected by the general membership, why does the general membership have the final vote on issues affecting our continuum? If there is a topic that needs a vote shouldn't the general membership be given all the information and vote first and then the board vote to accept or reject the general vote. If the vote is rejected, the board representatives should be able to explain why. How do the collaborative applicant, lead agency, HMIS and CE lead agencies get chosen? Do these entities get lifetime agreements?”</p>	<p>The General Membership and CoC Board are two distinct entities. They each have different tasks they are responsible for which are outlined in the Governance Charter. Beyond what is federally mandated, the General Membership can assign tasks to the CoC Board. There are a number of tasks that the Board has been delegated to champion. See the chart on pg. 15 for more details on the delegation of responsibilities. As the Board is elected by the General Membership, it is accountable to the decisions of the General Membership and not vice versa.</p> <p>The designated entities were elected by the General Membership. They are approved for 3-year terms upon election. At the end of the 3-years, the CoC should conduct an evaluation and determine to re-elect or bid the position out to alternative agencies.</p>
<p>2. “The MoUs are referenced even though they haven't been revisited and are outdated.”</p>	<p>You are correct. The Executive Committee had been working to finalize these prior to the pandemic and these efforts were paused in March of 2020. The Executive Committee is committed to resuming work on these MoUs after the Governance Charter is updated. They will prioritize it in the next year.</p>

Public Comment or GC Change	Governance Charter Review Committee Response
Comments Regarding "Continuum of Care Background" Section (Page 2-3).	
3. "Once the charter is finalized, I recommend we start work on finalizing the MOUs referenced on page 2."	We agree with your recommendation. The Executive Committee is committed to resuming work on these MoUs the Governance Charter is updated. They will prioritize it in the next year.
4. "the way this is written it is just referencing the HUD pieces and history comes up a lot, maybe we can think about how to better outline the local history of the local CoC. It doesn't have to be included in the document, but maybe link to a webpage where the history can live?"	Thank you for this idea! Any history that is written and developed will be posted here: https://www.handetroit.org/continuum-of-care . For more information on the CoC, it's history, and function, please reference this linked document in the interim.
Comments Regarding "Establishing the Detroit Continuum of Care Board: Board Membership" Sub-Section (Page 8-10).	
5. "I appreciate naming the priority for BIPOC, LGBTQ+, etc. In addition to ensuring that there is always a youth with lived experience, there should always be a service provider whose focus and target population is homeless minors and young adults."	We agree with this recommendation. We will update the language in the governance charter to promote one Homeless Service Provider seat being filled by a youth-serving organization.
Comments Regarding "Establishing the Detroit Continuum of Care Board: Responsibilities" Sub-Section (Page 13-14).	
6. "Under Executive Committee responsibilities, there should also be language that states the Executive Committee has the authority to take action on behalf of the full board in between regularly scheduled board meetings."	We will add this language to this section.
7. "For the description of the composition of the Executive Committee, the CoC Lead/Collaborative Applicant/HMIS Lead are all one bullet point under "key system partners". If the prior edit to the charter is approved that separates out representation of the HMIS Lead and the CoC Lead/Collab Applicant, it is recommended those roles be separated out in this section as well."	Thank you for catching this. We will modify the language to be consistent in both sections.

Public Comment or GC Change	Governance Charter Review Committee Response
Other Comments	
<p>8. "I'm not sure where this fits in the charter, but I recommend a section be added that states that in instances when technical assistance providers or consultants are hired or contracted to do work for the CoC (regardless of the source of funding to support that work) that these technical assistance providers/consultants be required to share with the CoC Board their work plans and progress being made on those workplans. Too frequently we have technical assistance providers or consultants doing work for or on behalf of the CoC with no clarity or accountability on what the individual is doing, why he/she is doing the work, and progress being made on the work."</p>	<p>Thank you for this recommendation. We agree that it would be good to have mutual accountability for all entities conducting work within this CoC. We will add language in the "Responsibilities of Continuum of Care Entities" Section about the expectations for Technical Assistance partners who are engaging with our CoC.</p>