

Guiding Idaho Committee House Idaho Collaborative Board

Meeting Minutes Monday, September 23, 2024, 3-4:30pm MST

Chair	Brady Ellis, Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Vice Chair	Larry Riley, St. Vincent de Paul of North Idaho, Region 1 Representative
Secretary	Heidi Sellick-Diaz, Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Voting Members Present	Becca Stinson, St. Vincent de Paul of North Idaho, Region 1 Proxy Autumn Shafer, Family Promise of the Palouse, Region 2 Representative Betsy Bowling, CATCH, Region 3 Representative Randy Wastradowski, Valley House, Region 4 Representative Dena Skinner, CLUB, Inc., Region 6 Representative Casey Mattoon, Boise/ADA Co. CoC Board Representative Mandy White, The Housing Co., Lived Experience Representative Erin Anderson, The Housing Co., Housing Developer Representative Tony Tenne, ID Dept. of Commerce Representative Daina Drake, ID Dept. of Correction Representative Jennifer Palagi, ID Dept. of Health and Welfare Representative Rico Barrera, ID Dept. of Labor Representative Anna Johnson-Whitehead, ID Dept. Veterans Affairs Representative
Voting Members Absent	Larry Riley, St. Vincent de Paul of North Idaho, Region 1 Representative Jared Mangum, City of Pocatello, Region 5 Representative Patty Wheeler, Safe Passage, DV Representative Jamie McDonald, HIV/AIDS Org. Representative Emily Kesler, ID Dept. of Education Representative
Advisory Members	None at this time
Others in Attendance	Cynthania Clark, Engaging Idaho Chair Jamie Simpson, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Erika Switzer, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Joe Hightower, Idaho Housing and Finance Association John Gibbons, Idaho Housing and Finance Association Sonali Thombare, Idaho Housing and Finance Association

Brady welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting at 3:03pm. Heidi conducted Board roll call.

SECTION A: Homeless or Housing Anecdote – Mandy White

Mandy shared concerns that case managers or providers seem out of touch. Mandy asked the Board to consider that homeless people are in survival mode and remember their humanity. The further one is from homelessness, the more privileged they are.

The Supreme Court approves citing homeless camping even if there is not suitable shelter. No city in Idaho has changed their written policy yet. The Mayor of Boise acknowledged they will not change their position. Our Path Home, BSU, and Idaho Policy Institute plan to research this. Brady asked Casey to follow-up with him about the study.

SECTION B: Resolution 24-9-01: Approve Prior Meeting Minutes - Brady Ellis

Minutes from June were submitted to the House Idaho Collaborative Board for approval.

Motion:	Mandy White
Second Motion:	Betsy Bowling
Vote:	None opposed
Motion Approved	

Resolution 24-9-01 meeting minutes were accepted without changes.

SECTION C: Resolution 24-9-02: Written Standards Update Approval- Joe Hightower

Joe shared the changes to the Written Standards. ESG Payment Requirements were changed; damages caused by participants are only covered under CoC. IHFA will announce that ESG cannot cover damage charges.

The NSPIRE (National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate) implementation date was moved back to October 1, 2025. NSPIRE is the replacement for HQS for housing inspections. OPH and the Idaho Alma Group are hosting trainings on NSPIRE. IHFA will select the correct training to share with the HIC.

Additionally, the Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response section was changed to add links to the CDC, NAIAD, and HUD on this topic.

The *Written Standards* were submitted to the House Idaho Collaborative Board for approval.

Motion:	Mandy White
Second Motion:	Betsy Bowling
Vote:	None opposed
Motion Approved	

Resolution 24-9-02 was approved with these changes: IHFA will notify subrecipients that ESG does not cover damage payments anymore.

SECTION D: HIC Committee Reports – Committee Representatives

HIC Committee Reports were shared by Committee Representatives and can be found in the Board Book. Items of note from the Committee reports are as follows:

Informing Idaho is 75% complete with a data improvement survey. The Gaps Analysis will begin soon. Mentorships between providers who score high in data quality and providers who score low in data quality are available. The PIT Count full Report is on the HIC's website. HMIS checklists for ESG and CoC projects are available.

Housing Idaho will help Regional Coalitions collect information for the CoC Application and take on the role of looking into grant opportunities. Housing recommends that PSH, RRH, TH clients need to have case managers assisting them in conversations with landlords. This has been a successful method. Emergency shelters need to improve privacy and pet policies. FMRs increased in September. Agencies rely on partial rental fees from households to operate. If agencies pay more and receive less, operating costs become a struggle. Additionally, data shows that clients need to be housed within a year to successfully stabilize; programs are struggling to keep clients housed for a year. Casey will send his questions for Housing Committee to discuss. OPH is addressing these challenges with HUD.

Engaging Idaho announced nominations will be open from October to March for Regions 1,3, and 5, as well as for the Board Vice Chair and Lived Experience Representative. Elections take place in April. They discussed Strategic Planning happening after April when elections take place. Heidi asked for input. Regions 1,2,3,5, and 7 are receiving 10k each from the Department of Education ARP-HCY funds. Regions 4 and 6 are not participating which allows for 20k in additional funding available. This is a one-time grant. Email Heidi to request more funding. Region 7's free event can be registered for here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-path-home-fall-2024-membership-meeting-training-tickets-1014094974367?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

The PIT Count subcommittee has begun and IHFA is releasing PIT Count stipends to the Regional Coalitions. Reach out to Hannah and John if interested hannahc@ihfa.org; johnng@ihfa.org.

SECTION E: HIC Grant Updates – Joe Hightower

Joe shared HIC grant updates. Current ESG ends September 29th and the next ESG begins October 1st. 1.17M was received and is 88% spent. IHFA predicts all ESG funds will be spent as usual. ESG covers Emergency Shelter (ES), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and Homeless Prevention (HP). The typical funding breakdown is 41% to ES, 31% to RRH, and 20% to HP. Next year, due to input from the LEP and HIC, increase to shelter and both RRH and HP receiving 38%. Budgets and grant agreements are being completed. Idaho's 5-year Consolidated Plan (HOME, CDBG, ESG and HTF funds) requests HIC feedback. The survey and roundtables can be found in the Board Book.

The HIC's CoC Grant received 295k more (over 4M) on July 1. The next CoC grant subrecipient applications will be scored in 2 weeks. The FY24-25 CoC Application requests HIC feedback by October 18th. Links and information are in the Board Book.

Idaho Department of Education ARP-HCY Grant ends January 18th, 2025. Cynthania shared about the Regions participating in collaboration with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and McKinney Vento Liaisons.

IHFA was awarded the Foster Youth to Independence vouchers from HUD last week. IHFA applied for 25 and was awarded 17 vouchers to help youth aging out of foster care. IHFA's Rental Assistance branch offices will work with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and Access Points to distribute these vouchers.

The HIC recently was awarded \$368,545 for the Youth Homeless System Improvement (YHSI) grant to address youth and young adult homelessness. The work will be led by the Youth Action Board (YAB) and Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. IHFA is still waiting to hear about their application results for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant. This would develop a Coordinated Community Plan to end youth (under 24yo) homelessness. It would provide funding for RRH, transitional housing (TH), TH-RRH, permanent supportive housing (PSH), supportive services only (SSO), and Host Home Projects.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) is being disbanded due to lack of subrecipients. IHFA is finishing the APR to close the grant.

Region 3 requested TH-RRH projects be added to the CoC grant application. Adding TH-RRH projects to the CoC would not increase CoC funds but redistribute CoC funds. The *Written Standards* and Grant Agreements will need to be updated to include TH-RRH projects if the HIC receives the YHDP grant or votes for this addition. TH-RRH has been shown to work for youth, substance abuse, and incarcerated individuals. If a program does not have enough RRH for those exiting TH there is a bottleneck. The LEP and Board see value in all project types. Joe submitted an AAQ to HUD about the definition of TH and will send the answer to Betsy. VA only has 42 TH beds. OPH only has SHIP TH funding for the substance abuse population. The Board would like IHFA to prepare a presentation at the next Board meeting on what is TH-RRH, what the data shows, and how to balance the needs of clients.

SECTION F: HIC Admin Agency Quarterly Reports – John Gibbons

John shared the HMIS/CE Quarterly Report which can be found in the Board Book. Highlights include: a 38% decrease in permanent housing destinations from shelters, unhoused clients in RRH increasing, and a decrease in permanent housing destinations from CE.

Joe shared the HIC Grant (CoC and ESG) Quarterly Report which can be found in the Board Book. Highlights include: ES and RRH as the highest spending programs, but the new CoC grant began which skews the numbers.

SECTION G: Roundtable – Brady Ellis

Anna shared a Veteran eligibility amendment to the character of discharge 38 CFR 3.12 which began June 2024. Veterans who were previously ineligible for VHA and VBA benefits due to dishonorable discharge might become eligible for VASH vouchers and other benefits. Contact VBA for referral and enrollment. Anna clarified that service-connected benefits come up in the matrix for eligibility screening.

Becca shared St. Vincent de Paul has their Soupport Fundraiser for the warming shelter on October 3 and hope to raise 25k. Their hot rods and hot dogs fundraiser raised 16k. They helped over 100 families with back-to-school items and their shelters are full.

Jennifer shared that Idaho Department of Behavioral Health's contract with Magellan started July 1st and is going well. They are increasing services for adult and youth including substance use disorder and crisis needs. Optum is no longer under contract.

Rico with the Department of Labor shared that youth graduating high school can be eligible for Idaho Launch program. The Launch program covers up to 8k for secondary education in Idaho. The Launch program opens October 1 and goes fast! <https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/launch>

Randy shared the Region 4 warming center subsumed into Valley House. Valley House can provide funding for staff and volunteers. Region 4 held a fundraiser which raised 23k. They also have some grants which support the center.

Brady promoted Avenues for Hope. Nonprofits register here: <https://www.avenuesforhope.org/>

SECTION H: Data Transparency - Brady Ellis

Brady shared Informing Idaho Committee analyzes data quality and cannot see agency names on reports and would like to have them revealed. They discussed the option of revealing agency and project names to better coach, guide, and improve data quality. Autumn shared their data quality is weak, but she believes they should be held accountable. She believes revealing names will help our HIC improve. Betsy mentioned this would help Regions take more responsibility in addressing data quality. As long as there is no PII being shared, the Board has no problem sharing the names. IHFA and Informing Idaho will reveal agency names.

SECTION I: October Semi-Annual Membership Meeting - Brady Ellis

The HIC's semi-annual meeting is Thursday, Oct 17th from 9-noon. The Board is expected to attend or provide a proxy. Be on lookout for emails to give feedback to Heidi. Additionally, IHFA needs feedback on Strategic Planning Session in the spring. Heidi will send questions about facilitator, topics, participation, and time of year. Please provide feedback to Heidis@ihfa.org.

IHFA announced Ken Corder as the HPF Philanthropy Director. KenC@IHFA.ORG

IHFA is looking for human interest stories, updates, data, ect. for the *State of Homelessness Repot*.

Brady thanked everyone for coming. He adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.