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**COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD ANNOUNCES SHAUN GUNNELL
AS NEW DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Community Shelter Board announced today that Shaun Gunnell will serve in the new role of Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the non-profit organization. Gunnell worked at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio from 2017-2022 where he most recently served as the Director of Multicultural Student Affairs. He held leadership roles at the University of Rio Grande, including as an adjunct professor for health sciences.

“Shaun has a deep understanding of institutionalized oppressive systems and is skilled at designing and implementing effective diversity and inclusion programs,” said Michelle Heritage, executive director. “This is an important step forward in our mission, since we know that homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color.”

Gunnell will join CSB beginning February 28. He will be part of the senior management team and will work within the organization, as well as across its system of 20 partner agencies, to challenge current structures and policies to ensure that systems, programs, services, and training support true equity and inclusion.

“Diversity, equity and inclusion work is very important to me because of my lived experiences as an African American man,” said Gunnell. “I pride myself on fighting against systemic inequalities that people from marginalized backgrounds face every single day, and I look forward to continuing that same work with CSB.”

A first-generation college graduate, Gunnell earned his master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the University of Rio Grande. He is originally from the Weinland Park neighborhood of Columbus and is a proud graduate of Linden McKinley high school.



Community Shelter Board leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home. We bring together 20 agencies across the community to work together as a cohesive system for change, driving effective strategy and productive collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for people facing homelessness. With the support of a compassionate community, our system of care served 15,000 people last year with homelessness prevention, shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the United Way of Central Ohio, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Ohio, and many other public and private investors.