

Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition (Region 2 BoS)
February 7, 2019 - Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS), Hendersonville
Transylvania County by phone link - 9:30 AM

Facilitation in Hendersonville by **Trina Hill**. Regional alternate lead **Emily Lowery** by phone. Minutes for January 3 considered for acceptance as distributed by email. There were no stated objections, so the distributed draft was adopted as final by common consent.

January Balance of State (BoS) Steering Committee call (Jan. 8): Topics covered included [Back@Home](#) hurricane recovery programs, preparations for the January 30 Point In Time counts, including some online resources supporting the new App on-phone survey instrument. Balance of State is faced with a 2% cut from the 2018 funding for ESG programs. Our region had varied results from the latest funding cycle, with The Haven getting all of its ~\$35,000 request, Paths domestic violence shelter being denied funding, and Thrive getting about \$23,000 or half its request. Thrive appealed this but was denied. The State sticks closely to its awarding system, which carefully tracks spending draws as though conditions should allow level draws throughout a grant period. Our leads claimed this was a very unrealistic award criterion, but this was not agreed to. Paths DV did not appeal.

Balance of State has current funds that will not be claimed. These will be available for reallocation to eligible grantees that have exhausted their current program funds. More information is to come in March.

A new program, Schoolhouse Connection, to address needs of very young children, is expected to start up in August. Training webinars will be offered.

Leadership changes: **Trina** will be leaving to work in Buncombe County starting February 21. **Kristen Martin** is proposed to take up as Southern Mountains regional lead, and **Emily Lowery** will serve as co-lead. The proposed change was adopted by common consent. A new webmaster will be needed: The duties are currently to upload the Regional Coalition records (Minutes, ESG, CoC reports). Emily will do these uploads for now. Leadership will plan a conversation for how to take this over: Please talk to Emily and Kristen.

Coordinated Assessment: **Kristen** reported that goals have been sent to NCCEH. The conversion to use of the HMIS system is going well. There is a need to build reporting capacity among the whole range of providers, not just the funded partners. A big obstacle is the price of known rental housing. The assessed persons require affordable housing, so we need to work closely with all providers to determine what is built and available in our four counties.

Veterans Assistance: **David Carr** reported that as of the second quarter 61% of the assistance funds had been spent. This is for homeless-preventive costs, which are capped at \$1000 per case. They received CARF accreditation for three years. Part of the program is referrals for training: A useful source is training for CDL (commercial driver licenses) at Transtech. An individual trained in under 6 months for \$2765 and is now employed in Kentucky.

NC SERVES, a program with veteran services in the Carolinas, can help vet families. Contact Brandon Wilson, 828-398-6773. **Brenda Ploss** said there have been quick responses to requests across 13 counties, including in Charlotte. Legal and finance issues are part of the program.

It was asked about housing or training opportunities for women vets. Steadfast House in Asheville is available but is not equivalent to VRQ (veterans restoration quarters) in Oteen. WIOA, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, was mentioned. A 48,000 sq ft project is about to start on Hendersonville Road, "Transformation Village", pilings and cement work is going in. **Alyce Knaflich** reports Aura Homes work is moving forward.

Point In Time (PIT) count and HIC: **Emily** said the phone App recording technique helps, it will curtail the paper, and get rid of a number of duties! We do not have information of street counts – there appear to have been 18 volunteers. We have hopes for a good shelter count. Trina mentioned encountering one sleeping person, no interview was made. Suzanne said two people would not talk to interviewers, and there is no way to record observers' notes. Some may have felt intimidated; the practice is to send interviewers out in pairs, leaving encounters somewhat tricky. A Grace of God soup ministry may have difficulty in its screening criteria, which can misrepresent situations. Some speakers said to get better accuracy we need to screen year round. There is risk now that money will be misdirected. PIT is not a whole picture. David Carr said we'd need counts in other seasons. Tim Jones is reported as saying the Hendersonville Mission sees its higher numbers in the summer. Sara Kowalek said there was a valuable radio story about the count on NPR.

Coordinated Entry Meetings: Monthly: on second Thursdays (face-to-face meeting); and on fourth Thursdays, at 10 AM by phone.

Suzanne offered her thanks to Trina for her leadership of our Coalition.

Brenda reported ongoing training opportunities at career centers.

Carrington offered thanks to those who participated in PIT. We are now aware of folks sleeping in cars in Fletcher.

The next Southern Mountains Regional Coalition meeting is set for March 7, at 9:30, at Blue Ridge Community Health, community room, Hendersonville.

With respect, Chris Berg, secretary