

Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition (Region 2 BoS)
August 1, 2019 - Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS), Hendersonville
Eleanor Meloun Community Room, 9:30 AM

Facilitation was by Co-leads **Kristen Martin** and **Emily Lowery** in Brevard.

Continuum of Care (CoC) funding proposals: North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH) set a deadline for new proposals to file an Intent To Apply by July 17. We have not been advised of proposers in our area.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding: A number of benchmarks are expected to be used in setting funding or qualifying for it. These include access to emergency shelter, access to rapid re-housing, effective outreach strategy, and homeless prevention resources. The state ESG program wants new applicants to consider the written standards.

Surveys of VI-SPDAT as used to direct clients to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH).

The Balance of State Steering Committee will meet August 6. Kristen indicates the favored applications for funding will be those which do not insist on prerequisites for clients: Those that do not set rent, do not require sobriety, those that do not address client chore responsibilities. These programs are considered 'low-barrier', but they may encounter difficulties regarding matters such as safety and clear sustainable roles for staff and volunteers. Be that as it may, the guidance indicates HUD priorities. Our area is seen as needing Rapid Re-Housing qualifying programs, and could benefit from a 'flexible financial assistance' provision, which allows varied support for clients based on their needs and/or opportunities which may appear. The applications demand a great deal of detail. Kristen will share links to the specifics to anyone intending to apply.

Suzanne Porter is not present as she's now participating on a related webinar. She has said that with three on the funding committee review work will be heavy, and it would help for one or two more to join in. It was noted that Thrive and The Haven would be subject to how the committee recommends funding to the ESG office. **David Carr** said he would volunteer to join the ESG project review process.

Continuum of Care: **Alyce Knaflich** is serving on the BoS project review committee. She expects to participate in training on August 12 (and will update us about all that). It is expected to cover how applicants should respond to the RFP, and how to communicate with Brian and Jen at NCCEH to move this forward. There are ten members on the BoS Project Review Committee. They will be expected to use the scorecard developed earlier this year, and work together on the evaluations ultimately through phone conferences as needed.

Application deadlines are set in two weeks, after which these submissions will go to the Project Review committee. Thrive is the only applicant from Region 2 (Southern Mountains) that we know of. (Any new people considering applying are asked to please stay in touch and look at next year's competition).

NCCEH was to have all materials ready for this year's PIT count by July 19. We have not yet seen that data.

No report was offered about Schoolhouse Connection, as the team are currently on summer break.

Coordinated Entry: Kristen reports that 262 households have been confirmed on the list as needing housing (literally homeless or in shelters). All the info (such as ages, race, gender, evaluation of safety, domestic violence situation, disability) has been transferred to HMIS. There remains a need to do outreach. The goal is to train volunteers (identified by T-shirts etc) to go to campsites, and known parking spots, to connect with gifts of hygiene supplies, non-cook prep foods, to build rapport. These volunteers would not be alone, there would be support as for PIT counts.

We will also be adding Domestic Violence specific updates (we understand these shelters are essentially full at all times). So, John Laughter will be asked to report on Safelight in the future, etc.

Veterans: David Carr reports working with Johnnie Black at the Mission. The program (SSVF) has had no funds since May, but somehow 'accounting' has identified \$170,000 as support. He's working with a Transylvania vet – but is lately not getting calls answered. A shelter in Spindale has reopened. 'Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program', or

HVRP. There was discussion that Dept. of Labor mandates that if one is enrolled, there must be co-enrollment with NC Works.

Alyce Knafllich is trying to assist a female vet in Bat Cave; there is a dilapidated mobile home and it is a DSS concern.

Brenda Ploss said HVRP is an old program from NC Works. IAM (Interfaith Assistance Ministry) is said to do this service well, and they give out a resource sheet (there may be a need to check compliance at other sites). Forms also go to the Caring Committee. Brenda will get the same information to Thrive to be included in Coordinated Entry work.

The Southern Mountains Coalition **will next meet September 5.**

With respect, Chris Berg, secretary

Added notes for Henderson County updates:

The ACT team is being reestablished at Family Preservation Services. The situation had involved a cut in state funds which led to no insurance. Medicaid resources for this may now be accessed. Jeremy Patton serves as team lead and therapist (phone 828-606-7724); please call if there are questions about how to get services.

Coordinated Entry group will meet at this room at BRCHS, August 8th at 11 AM. There will also be a telephone conference on the third Thursday (August 20).

Ben introduced himself as a Hendersonville summer city intern. This month he has been working on a homelessness resource guide, in pamphlet form. This work is on the agenda for tonight's City Council meeting.

There is preliminary word of an effort to acquire a building for use by nonprofits. The expected proposal would go to the city's planning and zoning department; followed by a public announcement and initiation of fund raising.

John Laughter reported that Safelight's building elevator is no longer repairable. This will cause changes in that non-stairs users will have to be referred out.

Trisha Ecklund introduced herself as a Blue Ridge Health Systems staff coordinator for vulnerable populations. She'll be working with HMIS cases and medical services via clinics in all four counties.