

Notes for Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition online/Zoom meeting  
Region 2 in the N.C. Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) for Homeless  
June 4, 2020, 9:30 AM Kristen Martin hosting

**Persons attending:** Kristen Martin and Emily Lowery (Regional co-leads), Stephanie Gilliam, Alyce Knafllich, Jen Van Egidy (NCCEH), John Lauterbach, Carrington Cosby, Nickie Kilgore (Thrive), Grace Whitney, Chris Berg, Beth Branagan, Bri Griffin, Teena Willis, Trisha Eklund, Micky Robinson, Renee Urban, Madeline Offen (Pisgah Legal), Traci Corn, Jessica Rice (Owenby), Brenda Ploss, Sarah Kowalek, Trina Rushing, Adam Jahnke (VA social worker), Matthew Gruebmeier

**Announcement:** Kristen (and Emily) stated the Coalition express concern about the conditions of our country. This is a hard time. This call needs to be a safe place irrespective of race, age, color, sex, disability, marital status, national origin, veteran status or religion. Services provided by this Coalition are to provide hope, healing, to fight injustice, and to dismantle systems of racism. The leads ask anyone who has concerns with this, or feels any coalition person or service does not support this, to contact either of them [chat contact info: Kristen-- [kmartin@thrive4health.org](mailto:kmartin@thrive4health.org) 828-697-1581 ; Emily-- [Emily@havenoftc.org](mailto:Emily@havenoftc.org), w 828-877-2045, c 828-384-9018.]

Kristen asked Chris whether he could identify all our attenders for minutes. Chris said yes.

Kristen as facilitator cited our ground rules, which have lately been well observed. They are on the agenda.

**Minutes** of May 7 meeting: Kristen asked for any corrections or comments on those minutes of the Coalition, as distributed, especially items you may have spoken to. None were offered, so the distributed version was adopted by common consent.

**Balance of State (BoS) Steering Committee** has had several 'confusing' calls; Kristen and Emily have both joined but have difficulty summarizing. An ESG workgroup reviewed how/if the most recent competition went well; what changes may apply this year. One meeting suggested that the CoC and ESG competitions this year will be very different. Dealing with COVID restricts what HUD can handle. They plan to continue funding current funded work. New applicants would compete in a process, but it's unclear how. HUD's NOFA came out about July 4 in 2019, but Kristen guesses the competition will be canceled or delayed this year -the latter may cause fund problems for annual grant holders expecting fall renewals.

The group updating ESG-funding process may table work for a year; scorecard development assumes a competition, which may or may not occur. Kristen thanks our participants in that work despite all these uncertainties.

Weekly COVID-19 meetings are underway. Fund sourcing and amounts are not yet clear. Administration may be through the state ESG office. Activities covered may go beyond sheltering or rapid re-housing to 'back at home' (like hurricane-damage relief) temporary housing. This will demand more complex allocations; Kristen will forward details as she gets them.

Continuum of Care new applicants, or any expansions of current grants, will require Intent to Apply forms be submitted. Kristen sent these out a while back, but if you are considering CoC and need the form she will resend it to you.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Kristen will put details in Chat (appended below); those phoning in can also get detail on the five monthly meetings by calling Kristen or Emily.

**Racial Equity subcommittee:** Stephanie said the last meeting came before 'remoting', so the goals may change, or be added to. She will update us about that. The next meeting is June 17, 9-10 AM.

Anyone interested in joining may get an invite from Stephanie, or could email Balance of State to be added to the workgroup. Sample questions from BoS were discussed at the last call, for the Scorecard.

Two aspects were discussed that providers should address to heighten equity.

1. Removal of physical barriers to access coordinated entry, or housing programs, by advertising in relevant languages, by supplying any forms in non-English languages as needed, Braille. Also, look at demographics of youth homelessness (per McKinney-Vento broader definition, which our programs may not address).

2. Show that staffs attend anti-discrimination or racial equity training, including states and names of attending staff.

Other aspects are harder to handle, such as percentages of staff or governing boards that are non-white. Stephanie believes other items may come up in future. Let her know if you're interested.

Kristen said the BoS call also touched on any possible offer of quality, evidence-based training on this. This is an important area, but it's not easy to access good offerings.

Carrington spoke of one ongoing effort, 'Dismantling Racism' (apparently renamed), put out by Juvenile Justice. It is a two-day program which can travel to a locality/region to conduct (based on demand and funding; it is not inexpensive). It puts systemic racism into context, it teaches vocabulary for further discussions in the community. It is a valuable program, an excellent resource in NC. Kristen will get (via Jen and otherwise) the specifics to NCCEH to see if it could be supported there, or by backers in this area. Carrington said it's a website 'Race Matters for Juvenile Justice' but is being revised now; the program is now called Racial Equity Workshop.

Alyce said Aspen Institute is also strong on racial equality and has training resources.

**Children and Youth Homeless Action Coalition 'CYHAC':** Beth said on May 14 it met as a Zoom round table of about 20, sharing activities and resources, or about distributions. Minutes went out soon after, and it was a valuable exchange. They will next meet September 18, probably at 9 AM. The means of gathering will be set closer to time. It's best to keep up in the meantime through the Facebook page (its name is as above; a link will be in chat or in the minutes).

Kristen reminded us that homeless families **are entitled to essential daycare/school services** just as 'essential' workers are. She was not immediately aware of that right, and feels it needs to be foregrounded in our messaging. She hopes the providers involved can produce printed matter to make offerings clear. She will forward these to this coalition.

**Coordinated Entry update:** The next meeting is the 15<sup>th</sup>. The last meeting discussed how families could access congregate vs. non-congregate shelters under COVID. This was the central discussion, so the planned development of CE evaluation is still pending. The NCCEH staffer working with CE is moving on to other employment, so a pause is likely there. Locally there are not notable new numbers, as we are under the eviction moratorium. There are potential cases coming. There are expected funds to help also, but may lead to a challenge in finding units despite having funding. This is part of the RFA process being developed for COVID response resources. How or if the RFA may be targeted to providers is really confusing. We'll just have to see.

Our regional council did approve a process change for submission to the state. It adds a COVID vulnerability priority to the vulnerability assessment already in place. The state has approved this. Specifically, that includes those 65 or older, plus those noted as at heightened COVID risk by the CDC at the time of assigning for an opening. These diagnoses have been a frequently changing list.

Our next CE meeting is Thursday, June 11, 11 AM. Anyone not already on the invite list but wanting to participate, let Kristen know and she will invite you.

**Veterans Updates:** Jessica says the Asheville office is being staffed. Funding for hotel rooms via an emergency category is available, for literally homeless veterans, and a 45 day cap has been made more

flexible. Prevention funds are available- if there are any subject to late notices (with implied eviction) VA can help those veterans, so please refer those cases, or any sleeping outside also refer, and family. Ben Mattson (Hope program) and case manager Tara Jabs are doing outreach and SSVF work also.

Alyce said no one wants to move given COVID. Aura Homes has space for women vets. The Governor has stayed evictions to June 20<sup>th</sup> and utility disconnections are stayed to July 29<sup>th</sup>. These bills are not waived, so paying what you can helps, but after the stay arrears can be paid over six months.

Kristen added these stays apply also to non-veterans. The funding conversations have touched on ways to resolve post-stay due amounts as 'prevention'. We will have to pass on more information about this as it comes.

Brenda confirmed that she's emailed fliers for a WNC Virtual Career Expo and for Division of Public Services, in the next two weeks. She is just returning from work on the unemployment staff.

Adam Jahnke introduced himself as a new homeless staffer in the Asheville VA. His contact info is in Chat. He works with Amanda Stancil.

**Legal:** Kristen asked Madeline Offen to update the Pisgah Legal work. Madeline noted that the Governor's order prohibits late fees in connection with evictions after the stay is lifted. There is supposed to be a six-month forbearance to repay afterward. But no one knows what will be the situation, if the stay will be again extended. The Administration Office of Courts has a new affidavit form that will be required of owners who file for evictions, re the Federal funding (or not) of mortgages on these rental properties. Such properties, as well as voucher assisted units are subject to the CARES Act through July. The tenant can request delay of eviction or dismissal if federally backed funding is in the unit. She can send on this form, but it highlights how lawyers will be needed to resolve these issues. Kristen asked if a tenant is 'advised' that eviction will be sought when allowable, should they call Pisgah Legal now, and Madeline said that's appropriate. Pisgah is preparing for such expected cases.

**COVID updates:** None were offered, beyond waiting to see what happens past Phase 2.

**Next Coalition Meeting:** July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> were discussed. Kristen and Emily will talk and advise the group.

--Chris Berg, note-taker, Southern Mountains (Region 2) coalition

## Chat Messages

00:21:48 Kristen Martin: kmartin@thrive4health.org 828-697-1581

00:22:44 Emily Lowery: My contact information is email: Emily@havenoftc.org and my phones are: w -828-877-2045 / c - 828-384-9018

00:28:03 Chris.Berg: One attender is identified only as '18282' and another as phone-in from 704-787-5052; please identify your names in chat. Thanks.

00:28:40 Renee Urban: Sorry I am late. I had to do an update on Zoom- Renee Urban

00:28:59 Adam J: Just to share, Adam Jahnke LCSWA, adam.jahnke@va.gov. New Homeless Outreach Social Worker.

00:34:09 Kristen Martin: Coordinated Entry Council for all BoS June 15th 10-11:30am  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621> Audio: 646-749-3112 access code: 791-696-621

00:34:47 Adam Jahnke: Are invites emailed as well ?

00:35:05 Kristen Martin: Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting: Wednesday June 17th 9am  
<https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness> Audio: 646-749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733

00:35:24 Kristen Martin: Chris- the 18282 is Nickie from Thrive

00:38:19 Kristen Martin: Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting: Thursday, June 25 11am  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621> audio: 646-749-3112 Access code: 791-696-621

00:39:36 Matthew Gruebmeier: Hi, Kristen. Sorry I'm late. Double/triple booked this morning.

00:41:24 Jessica Ownbey: REI - the Racial Equity Institute in Greensboro also provides great trainings to the community

00:41:28 Carrington Cosby: [rmjj.org](http://rmjj.org) is the website. the training is called Racial Equity Workshop (formerly known as Dismantling Racism workshop)

00:42:18 Kristen Martin: Thanks Jessica, Alyce, and Carrington for those resources!

00:42:24 Matthew Gruebmeier: We in HCPS appreciate you, Beth!

00:44:18 Carrington Cosby: REI is the group that presents the training I was referencing. Thanks Jessica!

00:45:56 bbranagan: Children and Action Homeless Action Coalition Facebook link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/485323535451829>

00:49:21 Brenda.Ploss: I will forward Virtual Career Fair Fliers on WNC Career Expo and DPS Virtual Fairs to Kristen.

00:53:29 Brenda.Ploss: NCWorkss VCA: Sent moratorium info across along with Virtual Fair Info.

00:55:19 bbranagan: CHAC - next meeting 9/18/20 - 9:00 a.m.- location TBD (possibly Zoom, depending on COVID restrictions.)

00:56:46 Adam J: Adam Jahnke LCSWA, Homeless Veteran Outreach.  
[adam.jahnke@va.gov](mailto:adam.jahnke@va.gov). Thank you.

01:01:48 Sarah Kowalak: 9th better for me

01:01:50 Jessica Rice: either is fine

01:02:14 Matthew Gruebmeier: To the extent appropriate, HCPS has opened up our daycare options to folks beyond school, health care, and first responder families. \$195 week, space permitting.

01:02:19 Emily Lowery: either is fine with me