

**WNC HOMELESS COALITION**  
**Regular Meetings -2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month**  
**April 9th, 2020 10:00 am -11:00 am**  
**Referral and Monitoring Meeting/RRH Selection Committee 11:00-12:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Destri Leger	HERE in Jackson County
Robert Cochran	HERE in Jackson County
Keri Guidry	Haywood Pathways Center
Tobi Adams	REACH of Cherokee County
Claudia Mathis	WNCAP
Derek Lancour	VAYA Health
Rhonda Blanton	Macon Community Resource Center
Nancy Chastain	Hulburn Johnson Friendship House
Reba West	REACH of Haywood County
Kevin McNamee	North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness
Jennifer Abbey	Meridian Behavioral Health (Haywood)
Sarah Lancaster	Vaya Health

**STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

- Introductions/ Attendance
- Review & Approval of March Minutes
  - Approved
- Balance of State Steering Committee Update
  - Top priorities for initial response to COVID-19 in homelessness system:
    - Safety and Health Supplies for Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered
      - CDC guidelines for homeless shelters to keep people healthy. Support the health of people living in unsheltered settings.
    - Medical Shelter
      - Provide quarantine and isolation options for people who are symptomatic or who test positive for COVID-19. Provide recovery or care options for patients experiencing homelessness to receive care for other health issues to preserve hospital beds.

- Housing Stabilization
  - Move people out of homelessness and into housing so they can follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines to reduce the spread.
  - Keep people at-risk of homelessness in their housing with the ability to stay-at-home.
  - Funding & Performance Subcommittee Priorities
    - Ensure essential infrastructure is in place (HMIS & CE)
    - Ensure adequate coverage of PSH
    - Increase availability for RRH
    - Ensure CoC funding is being used well, including potentially reallocating some funding from projects that have patterns of poor spending or poor performance.
    - Increasing RRH - tier 2 priority; Increasing PSH - tier 3
  - Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing project denied
- Coordinated Assessment Update
  - Coordinated Entry Evaluation - *postponed*
  - HERE now has a Coordinated Entry Project in HMIS and will begin moving towards conducting CE through HMIS.
- Rapid Rehousing Update
  - \$36,934.85 spent out of \$61,500 for the year. Increased allotments are expected to be received to provide response to COVID-19.
  - Waivers - ESG has requested a waiver from HUD to not apply the FMR cap for new leases signed for the next six months (or until October). *To place a client in a unit above FMR, you must first submit a completed Rent Reasonableness certification to HERE for approval.*
- Permanent Supportive Housing Update
  - Derek Lancour is the new Housing Specialist over Vaya's Permanent Supportive Housing. Current caseload is 49.
- Agency Report Outs
  - COVID-19 Response Report Outs by county
    - Regional
      - Thrift stores closing means limited unrestricted income for many agencies.
      - Vaya is conducting weekly calls with county leadership for updates on COVID response.
      - Rise in domestic violence calls.
      - Extremely limited housing availability.
      - Limited childcare availability.
      - Need for additional PPE
    - Clay County
      - Hotels are being utilized for quarantine.
      - Sheltering protocols in place include temperature reading upon entry, designated quarantine space for high risk populations, scheduled surface wipe downs, and having non-essential working clients shelter in place.
    - Cherokee County
      - Health department has established a quarantine location.
      - Hotels being utilized for additional sheltering.
      - Community resources are passing out bags of essential items to community members. 200 bags were distributed in March, 500 in April.
      - Shelter protocols include screening/temperature reading at the door, referrals to a medical provider for those who are symptomatic, having non-essential working

clients shelter in place, isolating those who have a cold or cough, and daily shelter cleaning.

- Graham County
  - Has partnered with Cherokee County to provide non-congregate sheltering.
- Jackson County
  - HERE is partnering with Jackson Emergency Management for non-congregate FEMA shelter.
  - Shelter protocols include having clients contact Jackson Emergency Management for initial screening, all services moved to remote when possible, PPE used when face to face meetings are necessary, quarantine location for symptomatic clients, having non-essential working clients shelter in place, and coordinating meal and food box delivery to clients at shelter.
- Haywood County
  - Currently has no quarantine hotels as none are willing to participate. Efforts are being made to coordinate with Buncombe County for hotel accommodations.
  - Pathways is not currently accepting new shelter clients.
  - Shelter protocols include using office space as quarantine space, referring symptomatic clients to Buncombe's non-congregate shelter program, having non-essential working clients shelter in place, increased chores, limiting volunteers, and not allowing non-shelter clients into the dining hall (to go places available outside).
- Macon County
  - WNCAP is still serving clients in front of their office and reports a significant increase in overdoses.
  - Macon New Beginnings advised via email before the meeting that they are coordinating with Macon Emergency Management for FEMA hotel sheltering.
- Madison County
  - Representation not present to report out.
- Swain County
  - Representation not present to report out.

## **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

**NEXT RAMM MEETING - April 23rd at 11 AM (via telephone only)**  
**Dial in Telephone:** 224 475 1422  
**Pin Number:** PIN 630 712 639#

**NEXT COALITION MEETING - May 14th at 10 AM**