NC Balance of State CoC Funding and Performance Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
05.26.22

Members Present: Melissa McKeown, Bonnie Harper, Tonya Freeman, Sarah Lancaster

NCCEH Staff Present: Brian Alexander, Andrea Carey, Laurel McNamee
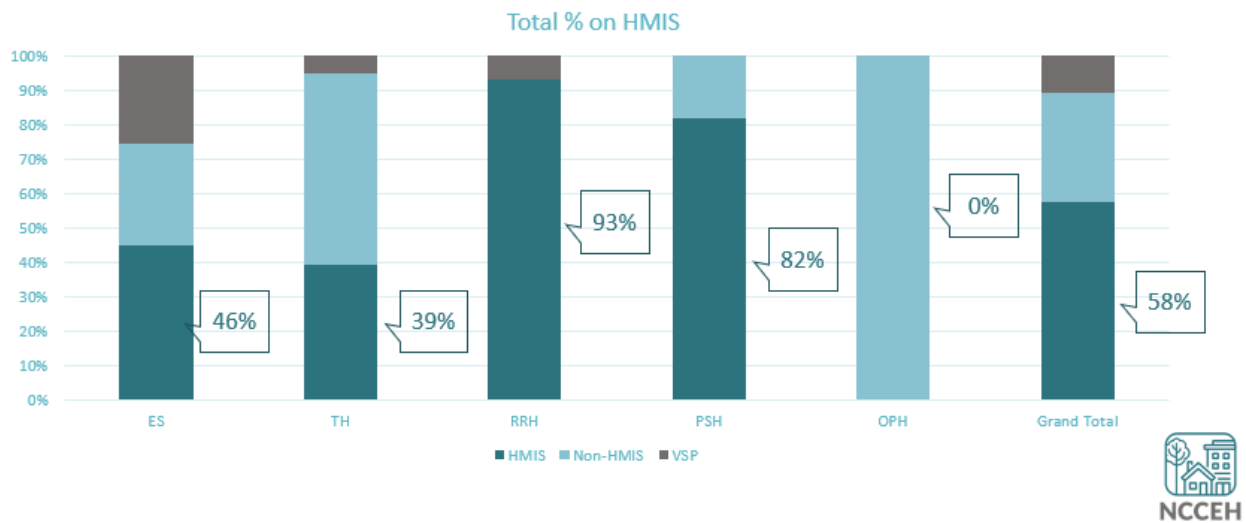
Minutes:
- Brian welcomed members of the subcommittee and highlighted the meeting agenda.
- Brian gave an update on HMIS recruitment activities
  - No reports were submitted this month.
  - Members gave some updates of current status.
  - Primary contacts will reach out to their assigned Regional Lead Alternates to get a recruitment update and reach out to NCCEH with any questions.
- Laurel introduced process to review CY23 ESG Funding Priorities with the hope to approve a recommendation for the Steering Committee to approve at their next meeting
  - Last month we covered:
    - Basics of the ESG program
    - History of ESG Funding Priorities and NC BoS CoC processes
    - High-level proposed changes to the ESG Funding Priorities document
      - Shifting the audience of the document to the Project Review Committee
      - Moving from 'encouraged' to 'eligible'
      - Measuring performance
      - Racial equity
  - Members provided valuable feedback that has been incorporated into the final document.
  - CY23 ESG Funding Priorities
    - Help the NC BoS CoC target ESG funding to specific local needs. These priorities provide guidance to help make decisions about how to use ESG to improve the homeless and housing system, rather than simply continuing ESG funding for previous grantees.
    - Coordinate goals and ESG funding across the whole CoC. These funding priorities aim to coordinate ESG funding to move the whole CoC toward common goals.
    - Improve ESG-funded programs. These priorities aim to ensure publicly funded agencies implement best practices by lowering barriers to entry, incorporating Housing First approaches, and following the NC BoS CoC's Written Standards.

These priorities help grantees and communities take steps toward expanding access to emergency and permanent housing.

- o Ensure people experiencing homelessness in the CoC have access to low barrier, housing-focused shelter, rehousing assistance, and supportive services.
    - The CoC should only fund projects able to operate in full compliance with relevant NC BoS CoC Written Standards.
    - The CoC should fund street outreach in counties that currently have people living unsheltered.
    - The CoC should fund rapid re-housing (RRH) that covers every county in the region. Regions may achieve full geographic coverage by funding one or multiple programs.
    - The CoC should only fund homelessness prevention programs if accessible, low-barrier emergency shelter or street outreach and rapid re-housing assistance are available in every county. Homelessness prevention should be used solely for return homelessness.
    - The CoC should promote service coverage to all 79 counties in the CoC geographic area. Agencies willing to cover gaps in coverage should be prioritized for funding. Appendix 1 highlights which counties lack services by project type.
- o Only applicants with the financial capacity to administer public dollars should be funded.
    - Agencies must have the capacity to operate a reimbursement-based grant and have the administrative infrastructure to spend their dollars in a timely manner throughout the year.
- o Coordination at the regional level ensures the best results for people experiencing homelessness.
    - Applicant agencies should regularly participate in their Regional Committee and attend at least 75% of Regional Committee meetings.
    - Applicant agencies must demonstrate that they fully participate, or will fully participate, in the local coordinated entry system and should plan to regularly attend case conferencing meetings.
- o Measuring and improving performance at the agency, regional, and CoC levels is a priority for the CoC. Timely, accurate data collection is imperative to this priority.
    - Utilization of HMIS or a comparable database is required for all ESG-funded agencies.
    - Applying for funding to support agencies to achieve timely, high-quality data entry should be encouraged.
    - Performance should be regularly reported and monitored through CAPER data.
- o The NC BoS CoC is committed to impacting outcome disparities seen across marginalized communities.
    - Agencies committed to advancing racial equity should be prioritized for funding.
    - All agencies must be in full compliance with the NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy to be eligible for ESG funding.
- o The NC BoS CoC is committed to consistency and transparency in decisions regarding funding for the ESG program. The Project Review Committee and NCCEH staff use the following established precedent when making funding recommendations.

- Any remaining funds in a regional allocation, after all project applications have been reviewed, will be allocated to rapid re-housing financial assistance. If there is more than one RRH project in the region, the remaining funds will be allocated to the most effective RRH programs as determined by the Review Tool performance criteria.
- Allocate funding to agencies that submitted project applications after the established deadline only if funding remains available in the region after all other project applications had been scored.
- With each project application, PRC members and NCCEH staff will review funding requests in the current application compared to the awarded funding from the previous year.
- The CoC will default to funding renewal applicants, placing conditions on those with difficulty meeting written standards requirements.
  - Appendix 1: Grid of service coverage by county and project type
    - This grid demonstrates which counties have service coverage using public funding through Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) or Continuum of Care (CoC) programs and highlights where regions may be experiencing a gap in coverage for a given project type. The CoC will prioritize expanding coverage to counties not currently being served.
    - Emergency shelter projects may include both general population shelters and domestic violence shelters. Shelters not funded by ESG or CoC funding do not appear on this grid.
  - Laurel asked for member questions and feedback:
    - How will 75% coverage in Regional Committee attendance be measured?
      - Staff/PRC will use meeting minutes first and then go to Regional Leads/Webmasters to collect information.
    - Was there a question in last year's ESG application about racial equity that will be used to evaluate agencies? How will racial equity information be measured?
      - There was a question in last year's application, but it wasn't very helpful. Brian is participating in a planning group with Partners For Impact who are overhauling the ESG RFP and process. The latest draft application has three equity questions that are better suited to evaluation. As in the CoC process, the instructions may ask applicants to provide additional documentation beyond the application.
    - Please use the CAPER due dates the ESG office uses to evaluate performance so that funded agencies do not have multiple submission deadlines.
      - Likely, we will ask applicants to submit a calendar year CAPER for the competition. While staff may ask for CAPERs during the year in the future, we do not currently have plans and will be mindful of ESG office CAPER dates.
    - How will the lack of HMIS participation and the ability to pull CAPER data affect new applicants in the competition?
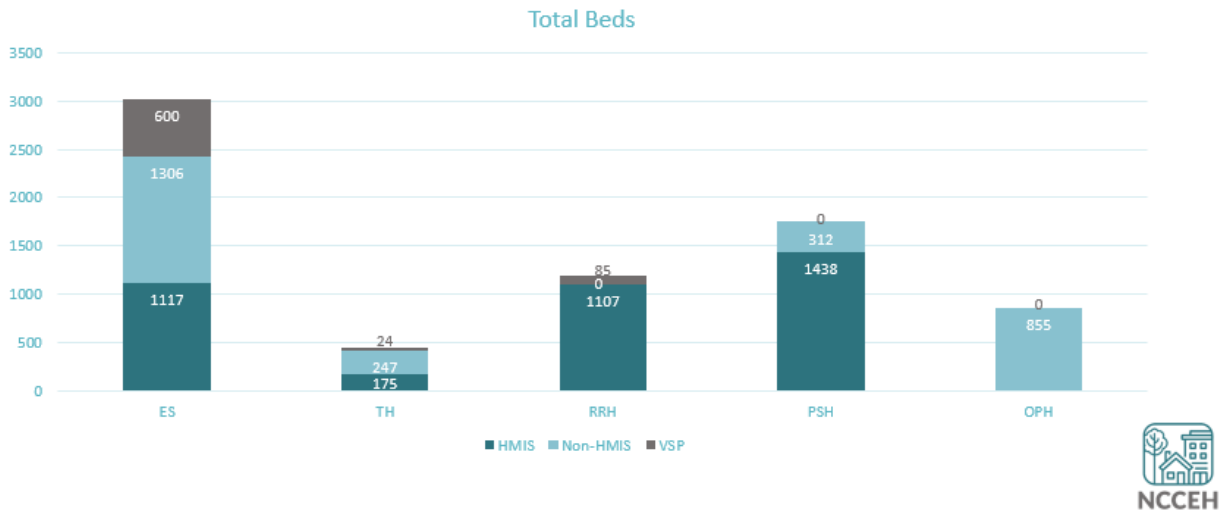
- New applicants may have the ability to provide CAPER data if they already operate a like project. However, new applicants will not be required to produce a CAPER for the competition. They will be evaluated on program design, experience, and capacity.
  - o Melissa motioned to approve the presented CY23 ESG Funding Priorities document. Bonnie seconded. Members unanimously approved to recommend the document to the Steering Committee for consideration at their next meeting.
- Andrea provided a preliminary look at the 2022 Housing Inventory Count.
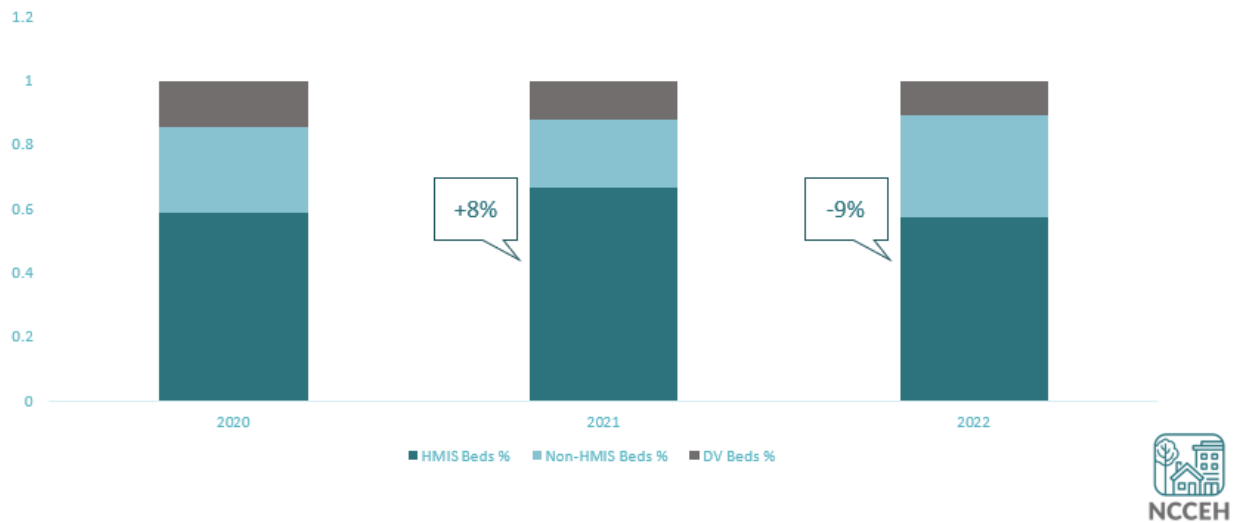
HMIS Bed Coverage

Total % on HMIS

- o The chart shows the bed coverage in HMIS for different project types inclusive of victim-service providers who cannot use HMIS.
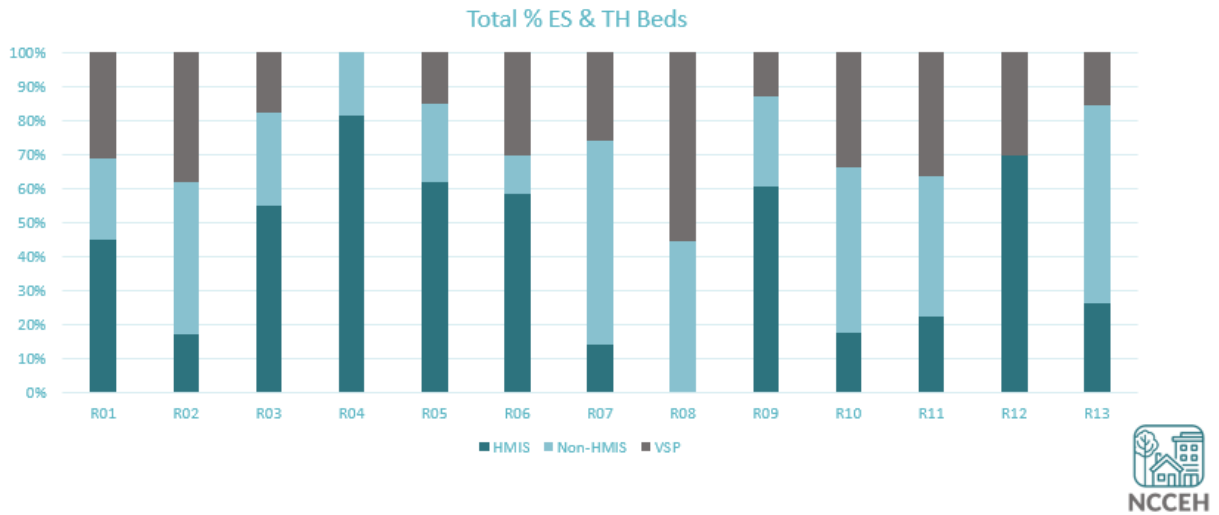
HMIS Bed Coverage

- o   The chart shows HMIS bed coverage by total beds.

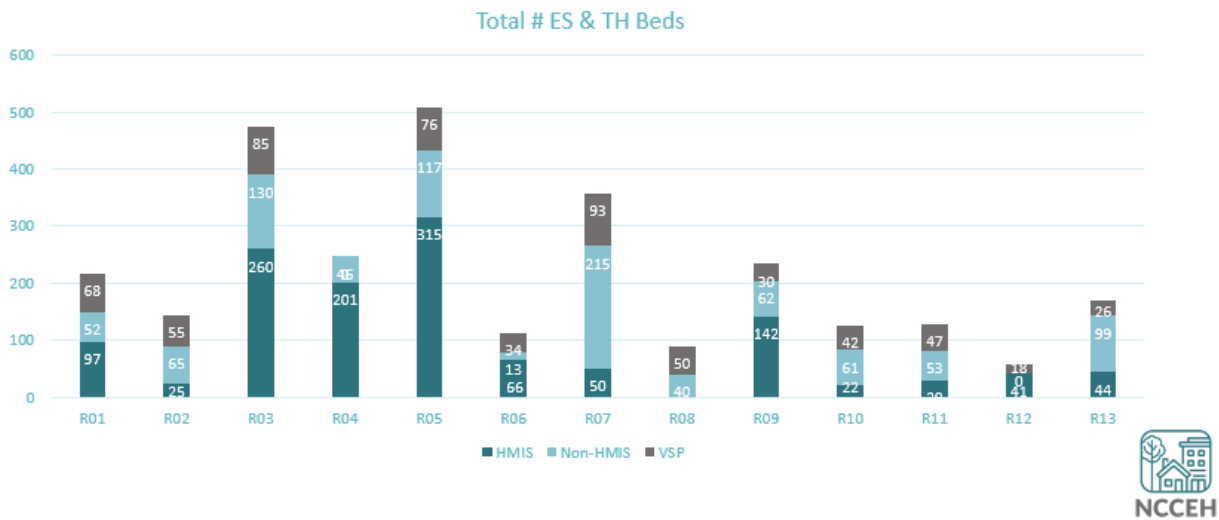# HMIS Bed Coverage – changes since 2020

- o   The chart shows trending data for HMIS bed coverage since 2020.

2022 HIC HMIS Participation by Percent

Total % ES & TH Beds

- ○ The chart shows a regional breakdown of the percentage of HMIS bed coverage inclusive of victim-service providers beds which cannot be in HMIS.

2022 HIC HMIS Participation by Beds

Total # ES & TH Beds

- ○ The chart shows a regional breakdown by total beds of HMIS bed coverage.

- Next meeting: Thursday, June 23 at 11 AM