

Notes for Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition online/Zoom meeting
Region 2 in the N.C. Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) for Homeless
March 2, 2023, 9:30 AM The Haven hosting/Thrive account

Persons on the call: Regional lead: Emily Lowery.

Emily Lowery (The Haven of Transylvania County); **Gracie Leonhardt, Nickie Kilgore, Madison Laws, Rachelle Dugan** and **Josh Shelton** (Thrive); **Makala Perez, Haley Simons, Kenett Melgar** and **Trisha Ecklund** (Blue Ridge Health); **Amber Story** (Partners housing specialist); **Jenny Simmons** (NCCEH staff); **Micky Robinson** (Isaac Homes); **Rachel Ingram** (Hendersonville Connection Center); **Kelly Landaverde** (WNCAP); **Philip Williams** (NC Works- Buncombe job center); **Robert Hooper** (WNC Source); **Trina Rushing** (Henderson County Library); **Alyce Knaflich** (Aura Home Women Vets); **Jennifer Drum** (NC Works, Rutherford-Polk); **Michael Absher, Kim Fletcher** and **Christine Craft** (Only Hope WNC); **Catherine Beaver** (Henderson County DSS); **Joel Rice** (Vaya Health housing specialist); **Beth Branagan** (N.C. Homeless Education Program); **Elena Keller** (Eleanor Health Foundation- HOP program); **Morgan Abendroth** (Safelight); **Cpt. Sherrie Stokes** (The Salvation Army); **Jessica Ownbey** (Henderson County Schools); **Chief Tom Jordan** (Brevard Police); **Kat Carleton** (Henderson United Way); **Patrika Lathan; Grace Rauch; Katie Ruth; Chris Berg.** See also the **appended Chat**.

Emily Lowery facilitated. She went over our ground rules statement; please see our Agenda.

Minutes of our February online meeting were deferred as just sent minutes ago. Before the close of the meeting they were taken up, with Alyce moving approval and Rachelle Dugan seconding.

Emily couldn't attend the **BoS Steering Committee**, and Regional Lead Alternate Kristin Dunn has left Thrive. Emily recounted the February Steering Committee minutes from NCCEH.org: Letters of support were approved for SSVF (veterans) proposals, and for Ada Jenkins Center (serves Mecklenburg, Iredell, Lincoln counties).

\$315 million new Federal funds for NC to serve unsheltered and rural homeless people are assigned to NC Office of Recovery and Resilience. They will offer funds to regional providers, but Request For Proposals details aren't out yet.

Registrations are due today for Continuum of Care 2023 fund applications. Our Region's email list got notices of two related webinars, for new applicants and renewers; both recordings are linked at ncceh.org site. A worksheet is pending, and the NOFO is expected, likely in mid-March. Regions need representation on **Scorecard Committee** for CoC, and **Trisha Ecklund** has agreed to serve for us. Jenny Simmons said that though that Committee may still be shorthanded, Region 2 can't send a second rep.

The data Quality Plan was reviewed and some updates were made. Agencies on HMIS are working to correct issues for required reporting on Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) cases. Amber Story was on the call and said the HMIS workgroup requests will be voted on at Tuesday's March Steering Committee meeting. The workgroup sent forms requesting feedback to regions – if you use HMIS please review these.

Regional Lead Alternate: Emily asked for volunteers to replace Kristin Dunn. **Michael Absher** offered to serve. The group voted to confirm Michael as our new Regional Lead Alternate to BoS Steering Committee.

PIT Outreach: Cpt. Sherrie Stokes and a team went out at 7:30 PM on count night and surveyed 15 tent sites that evening, and others on Thursday, winding up about 2 PM.

Trisha said final data corrections are due tomorrow. She can't connect well, see the **Chat** for her report. Coordination and outreach both have gone well. Reminder that hotel vouchers are available in all counties.

Resource Fairs: Sherrie said last spring's homeless resource fairs were quite productive, and should be repeated soon. She offered the Salvation Army space in Hendersonville as a site available Fridays in May,

similar to last year. Trina Rushing, Alyce Knafllich and Sherrie were the organizing committee, and they are asked to get a similar Fair underway this spring.

Emily said Transylvania had piggy-backed the Hendersonville model, many of the same outfits were present, Alyce brought slides, etc, and she hopes that can recur.

Amber said Rutherford plans something similar, covering housing and other projects. She'd like help getting word out.

Coordinated Entry (CE): Rachelle Dugan said the February 16 meeting made some data and process corrections but did not really discuss PIT. New data is pulled every week. The total homeless for Balance of State reported to the February meeting was 1,127 – that is up 350 from January 2022. The CE core team has a goal, to get 95% of homeless/household assessments (whether using the VI-SPDAT 30 question tool or a prevention/diversion intake) properly entered into HMIS.

They are working with the Lived Experience Council (biweekly meetings) to go over the questions to meet equity concerns. The hope is to reduce intakes to about 12 to 15 questions. That may help get our records more accurate.

Equity: Balance of State's records show about 15% of those most targeted for service (with high SPDAT scores) are nonwhite; but the BoS area has about 43% of residents nonwhite. That is a problem.

Rachelle said CE meetings are Mondays at 9 AM, with the next being Monday March 20. The veteran-specific CE meetings are on the 15th. Others can attend CE meetings by contacting Rachelle. Alyce pointed out attenders must agree to privacy/disclosure restrictions (Kristen Martin knows the details); Rachelle agreed.

Racial Equity (RE) subcommittee in February discussed confusing questions in Scorecards, interpretation needs, possible racial equity training, conferences, land acknowledgements, and setting up equity dialogs in 2023. Kenett Melgar said dialogs will be held April 18, June 20 and October 17. Registrations for these (especially April) will be out soon. They aim for more interactive sessions. Please attend.

RE is working with CE to update their assessment of service delivery by the end of 2023. They are revising the stakeholder list by the end of March; there will be a pilot developed (April to June); and a progress session given at the Bringing It Home Conference on May 2-3.

Children and Youth Homeless Advisory Council, CYHAC: Beth Branagan said given similar missions at CYHAC and the Early Childhood Task Force now at work, plus low attendance at CYHAC sessions, she asks us to table CYHAC for now. The Early Childhood Task Force meets next week, with its goal of better integrating Homeless and Early Childhood assistance systems. One task is to identify barriers – nor everyone can access the full range of relevant programs. Invitations will go out soon in each county, for focus groups to look at this. Christine Craft asked if others such as CYHAC people can join? Beth strongly agreed. CYHAC and its future will be reviewed at the end of 2023.

Lived Experience Advisory Council (LEAC) will meet at noon, March 10. LEAC will have a featured session at Bringing It Home conference, May 2 at 9:45 AM. Alyce said their Bill of Rights draft is done and will go to Steering Committee March 7 at 10:30. The group looks forward to an expanded role in setting Scorecards. NCCEH staffer Laurel McNamee is the Council lead.

Veterans: Alyce confirmed the Coordinated Entry session for vets will be March 15, 9 AM. There will be a Balance of State Veterans meeting *in person* in Greensboro on April 19 or 20. One concern is a CoC veterans' service plan drafted in 2015, but apparently not adopted or updated since then. Updates would include inserting the current housing programs for vets. Contact Allie Card at NCCEH to get involved.

Emily asked if representatives for ABCCM and the VA were present, but got no response.

Other resources: Bringing it Home Conference: Emily has forwarded the invitation to register, and urges us to attend.

Landlord/Tenant: Alyce said NCCEH had Legal Aid and Orange County housing dept. present on ‘reasonable accommodations’ and ‘reasonable modifications’; also the distinctions around ‘service dog’, ‘emotional support dog’ and ‘pet’, with good updates. These were recorded, and worth reviewing.

Lead Paint Hazard: Alyce said NCCEH also had programs to cover Lead-based paint concerns in shelters and in housing, including how to get certified to identify presence of this hazard. This applies to some paints made prior to 1978.

Tenancy Background Checks: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Federal Trade Commission seek public comments on these checks, both from anyone implementing checks and from anyone subject to checks. The Legal Aid presentation above also concerned these practices and their effects, including criminal record checks, as a risk to equity under the Fair Housing Act. Alyce links this in [Chat](#).

HOME ARP: – Michael Absher said a draft of Housing Priorities from the City of Asheville, a HOME consortium lead, is to be released Monday. Their priorities will affect HOME ARP housing applications in Henderson. See a link in [Chat](#). Only Hope WNC plans to apply – see next item.

Shelter Expansion: Michael said the Henderson County permit department has approved permit(s) for Only Hope WNC to begin its proposed four new buildings, which would increase our resources by 32 shelter beds.

The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, April 6, at 9:30 AM** on Zoom.

- With respect, Chris Berg

Chat:

09:33:38 From Micky Robinson: Micky Robinson, Isaac Homes @ Micky@isaachomes.org serving Transylvania and Rutherfordton County

09:33:53 From Jessica Ownbey: Jessica Ownbey, HCPS

09:34:05 From Kim Fletcher: Kim Fletcher, Only Hope WNC

09:34:16 From Chief Jordan: Chief Tom Jordan, Brevard Police Department
BPDChief@cityofbrevard.com

09:34:17 From Trina Rushing: Trina Rushing, HC Public Library

09:35:16 From joel rice: Good Morning I am Joel Rice Housing Specialist covering for Jessica Joyner

09:36:36 From Christine Craft: FYI: Saving Chats -- you have to enable this ahead of time in your main account Zoom settings. Hosts can automatically save all in-meeting chats so that they do not need to manually save the text of the chat after the meeting starts. Before automatically saving in-meeting chats, hosts must enable the Meeting Chat - Auto-save setting.

09:37:30 From Jenny Simmons (she/her), NCCEH: It was a Special Notice of Funding Opportunity Award Announcement

09:46:54 From Amber Story (her/she): I nominate Alyce! 🥰❤️ she's always there! And a force to be reckon with!

09:47:23 From Jenny Simmons (she/her), NCCEH: I just got confirmation that another Scorecard Committee member is not needed for Southern Mountains Region.

09:48:20 From Jennifer Drum: Jennifer Drum-NCWorksw Veteran Services in Rutherford/Polk

10:00:14 From Chief Jordan: Hopping off for my next meeting. Take care everyone!

10:00:34 From Trisha Ecklund: Let me chat

10:02:16 From Trisha Ecklund: For PIT We are waiting for final data corrections to be submitted to the state tomorrow. We should have a better sense of those final numbers next week.

10:02:44 From Trisha Ecklund: Outreach is going well we have had a lot of CE coordination with the salvation army lately. They have been great!

10:04:02 From Trisha Ecklund: We have the outreach referral form on our BRCHS website now. Still fine tuning those details to make it easily accessible for those requesting assistance.

10:04:48 From Trisha Ecklund: Just a reminder we still have the hotel voucher in all four counties that we can assist with a temporary stay please reach out to me if you have questions or a hotel voucher need.

10:15:14 From Alyce Knafllich: https://www.militaryconsumer.gov/blog/tenant-screening-practices-ftc-wants-learn-more?utm_source=govdelivery

10:16:13 From Elena Keller - EHF: Elena Keller, Eleanor Health Foundation

10:16:28 From Kelly Landaverde (she/her): Kelly Landaverde- WNCAP. Sorry I forgot to put this earlier.

10:16:32 From Kat Carlton - United Way of Henderson County: Kat Carlton, United Way of Henderson County

10:16:42 From Madison Laws, Thrive: Madison Laws, Thrive

10:16:45 From Christine Craft: I don't think I'm on the distribution list yet, please add me, Christine Craft, ccraft@onlyhopewnc.org

10:17:01 From Morgan Abendroth: Good morning! Morgan Abendroth - Safelight

10:18:26 From joel rice: Joel Rice VAYA Housing Specialist/ Community covering for Jessica Joyner Housing Specialist

10:18:48 From Jenny Simmons (she/her), NCCEH: 1978

10:20:49 From Michael Absher: <https://www.ashevillenc.gov/projects/HOME-ARP/>

10:21:45 From B_BRANAGAN: Congratulations Michael!!! Wonderful news!