

Northeastern Homeless Coalition Committee Meeting  
*Region 11*

*September 10, 2024*

**Minutes**

**Those Present:**

- *Asha Joel - Trillium*
- *Bethany Buttram – Perquimans Emergency Services*
- *Cherri Brunson – ARHS*
- *Gretchen Hilburger – Hampton VA*
- *Kanisha Mercer – Perquimans DSS*
- *Kisha Darden – Trillium*
- *Lakitra Claude – Trillium*
- *Latoya Smith – Trillium*
- *Marti Chick-Ebey – Hampton VA*
- *Michele Welsh – Trillium*
- *Raymar Virgo – VOA*
- *Stacia Billups – Pasquotank DSS*
- *Shelia Perry – FVCC*
- *Tawonya Morgan – FVCC*
- *Tonya Rollins – River City CDC*
- *Treneece Vaughan – Chowan DSS*
- *Willie Smith III – Gates DSS*
- *Athena Chasteen – Currituck Schools*

**Introductions**

- The meeting was held virtually. Those present introduced themselves and stated what organization they were representing.

**Consideration of August’s Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes from August’s meeting were not ready and will be sent to the committee at later date.

**Updates/Reports**

- BoS Steering Committee
  - HUD released a new funding opportunity for construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation in a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) called CoC Builds.
  - Interested agencies should complete an intent to apply form by September 27<sup>th</sup>; applications are due to NCCEH via a Smart sheet Form by October 10<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm
  - NSPIRE (National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate) will replace the traditional Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspections for CoC Programs and minimum habitability standards inspections for ESG Programs. HUD is expected to provide training on NSPIRE before October 1, 2025.
  - The Balance of State is seeking individuals with lived homeless experience to serve on the advisory council. Individuals that participate on the council will receive a small stipend.

- The Balance of State is offering an Anti-Discrimination Policy Training on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm – 3:30pm. The training is free and will be held virtually. The training is required for agencies receiving CoC and ESG funding

### **Community Resources and Agency Updates**

- Department of Social Services
  - Gates – Gates County DSS will be hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Community Baby Shower on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Gates County Community Center (130 US 158, Gatesville, NC)
    - Supplies such as diapers, wipes, bottles, formula, etc. will be distributed during the event
    - RSVP by October 5<sup>th</sup> by email ([gatesdss@gatescountync.gov](mailto:gatesdss@gatescountync.gov)) or calling (252) 357-0075; for expecting mothers and children under age 2
  - Pasquotank – has Crisis Intervention funding to assist with utility bills due to the heat (cooling emergency). The agency was provided a second allocation to continue to assist anyone (who has not already received Crisis and is eligible) in an emergent cooling need. All questions can be directed to Wendy Overton, Family Support Services Supervisor at (252) 338-2126, ext. 6143. Also, Wendy or her unit are the point of contact for any questions regarding subsidized child care. At the time, there is no wait list, but it is anticipated that a wait list will be implemented. Until then, DSS will determine eligibility and assist with care.
- Coordinated Entry
  - We have to have HART scores on the by-name list when we meet for case conferencing. Please submit new referrals via the Smart Sheet no later than the Friday before the meeting since it takes 24 hours to get the data for the meeting. People cannot be referred to Rapid Re-housing without having an HART assessment.
- School System(s)
  - Currituck – Currituck is one of the systems that is piloting a new student information system that was purchased by the Department of Public Instruction. Waiting to see how the new system impacts homelessness. The data for the county will be shared at a later date once it is determined how that data is collected with the new system.
- County
  - None at this time
- Faith and Victory
  - None at this time
- SHIP

- The organization will be hosting a Housing First Seminar on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm – 7:30. The event is free and it will be at the Senior Center in Elizabeth City (located on Water Street).
- ARHS/HOPWA
  - There will be a quarterly region 9 meeting on tomorrow from 10:30am – 12:30pm. The meeting will be held virtually.

### **Housing Program Updates**

- River City CDC
  - Still waiting on a sprinkler system for the shelter
  - A landlord contacted the office informing them that she has purchased properties in Elizabeth City and will be setting up a transitional house and will be charging \$700. She will also have some homes coming available soon
- Trillium Health Resources
  - There may be 1 or 2 slots available for Back@Home
- Hampton VA
  - They are not allowed to consider a Veteran’s Disability income (service connected disability income) in terms of eligibility for the HUD VASH program. If a Veteran receives money from the VA due to an injury/illness, it’s not supposed to be an eligibility factor. It will still be considered income and will have to pay 30% of their full income towards their rent.
- Volunteers of America
  - Things are going slow in Hertford County. If anyone comes across any homeless veterans in that area, refer them to Mr. Virgo

### **Success Stories**

- River City shared a success story of one of their clients. They were able to move a family into housing in Gates County on yesterday.

### **Announcements**

- The next meeting will be held virtually on October 8, 2024 at 1:00pm.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:36pm