

# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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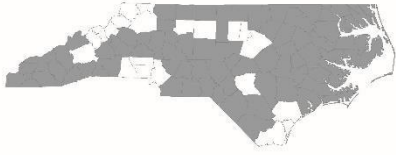
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## NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Consent Agenda and Updates

January 7, 2025

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## Section I. NC BoS CoC Steering Committee Consent Agenda

The following will be voted on at the January 7, 2025, NC BoS CoC Steering Committee meeting:

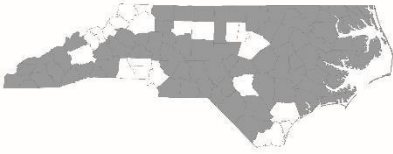
### **Coordinate Entry Written Standards**

NC BoS is requesting approval for the following addition to the Coordinated Entry Written Standards: “Rapid rehousing programs that would like to ‘step up’ a household into permanent supportive housing are required to complete an approved evaluation with the household to determine the ongoing needs of the household. The evaluation must (1) confirm the household is eligible for an identified permanent supportive housing project and (2) confirm the need for long-term financial assistance and supportive services.”

### **December 4, 2024, Steering Committee Minutes**

Available here: <https://www.ncceh.org/files/13853/>

*\*Any Steering Committee member may request to move an item off the consent agenda to be more thoroughly considered. Any such items will be discussed as a regular agenda item at the next Steering Committee meeting.*



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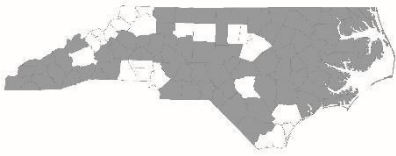
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## Section II. Updates

- **Lived Expertise Advisory Council**  
**Friday, January 10, 12 – 1 P.M.**  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481  
Passcode: qYqVY5
- **NC Local Leadership Response Call**  
**Wednesday, January 15, 1 – 2 P.M.**  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651
- **Funding & Performance Subcommittee**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2 – 3 P.M.**  
[Join Google Meet Meeting](#)



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## Section III. Meeting Minutes and Supporting Materials

### Coordinated Entry Council

#### December 2, 2024, Minutes

##### Attendees

Coordinated Entry Regional Leadership: Gretta Worley (Region 1); Audrey Dooley (Region 2); Kelley Hayward & Chasity Houck (Region 3); Erin Gaskin (Region 5); Priscilla Ward (Regions 7 & 8); Michele Welsh (Regions 11, 12, & 13)

At Large Members: Cassie Rowe; Karen Carroll; Nicole Wilson

Other Attendees: Bonnie Harper; Kisha Darden; Mira Sanderson; Rachele Dugan; Brian Alexander; Allie Card; Teresa Robinson; Ashley Von Hatten

##### Permanent Housing Expectations

Brian Alexander presented permanent housing expectations. CoC should set realistic expectations with permanent housing providers, as rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing agencies cannot house every household on the by-name list. ESG rapid rehousing grantees have RRH grantees have financial assistance to pay for housing costs ranging from \$23,476 to \$87,284 and CoC rapid rehousing grantees have financial assistance to pay for housing costs ranging from \$70,356 to \$226,128. CoC permanent supportive housing projects have little turnover of household over the course of the year, with CY23 turnover rate of only 15%. Due to the limited resources of ESG and CoC grantees, coordinated entry leadership and other stakeholders should engage other permanent housing resources to participate in coordinated entry. Case conferencing meetings should be used to provide other housing resources for referrals, allow participating partners to discuss potential property providers, discuss engagement plans with non-participating partners, brainstorm difficult cases, and facilitate discussions and agreements amongst providers of housing responsibilities.

##### Unsheltered Access Coordination

Ashley Von Hatten provided an overview of the unsheltered access coordination framework –

- Work to identify, connect, and house people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is a year-round effort!
- Regional Committees need to work collaboratively to meet their goals – no single person or agency can do this work alone.

- UAC should include a mix of assertive & passive outreach at regular intervals
- Identified people should be assessed & referred to the CE system by-name list.
- Someone should be assigned to regularly check-in with each person identified & help them navigate to the services they need.

Roles in the region include the Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC), who facilitate the regional plan to identify and connect people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to services and housing and the Coordinated Entry Lead, who work closely with the UACs to implement the local plan to collect data and connect unsheltered households to the by-name list.

Households can be counted for unsheltered Point in Time (PIT) by using the by-name list and verifying each household has (a) a current living situation listed as a place not meant for habitation AND (b) a current living situation date of the date of PIT.

The timeline for unsheltered PIT is as follows:

- October and November: UACs are planning outreach and recruiting and/or identifying agencies for data collection and data input
- December: UACs and CE leads are reviewing the BNL for unsheltered households and outreaching to those households
- January: UACs are providing training on outreach, data collection, and data input
- January 29: PIT NIGHT – Identify unsheltered households and collect data
- January 29 – February 5: Continue to identify households where were unsheltered on January 29 and collect data
- February 12: All data for households experiencing unsheltered homelessness on January 29 is entered into HMIS

### **B005 Unsheltered Contact Report**

Ashley reviewed the B005 Unsheltered Contact Report. The report pulls contact information for unsheltered clients; unsheltered clients are determined based upon the most recently recorded Current Living Situation. Coordinated entry leads, unsheltered access coordinators, and front door providers should work together to contact the households on the report. If the household reports they were in a place not meant for habitation on the night of January 29, 2025, the provider will:

- Back date mode to 01/29/2025
- Add an interim update to their project
- Record Current Living Situation for place not meant for habitation
- Save & Exit

### **Reminders**

- December 31, 2024, is the last day VI-SPDAT scores will be visible on the by-name list.

- January 20, 2025, Coordinated Entry Council meeting is cancelled.

## Veteran Subcommittee December 9, 2024, Minutes

*Member Attendance:* Amanda Teater, Charessa McIntosh, Jean Eastwood, Genean Hill, Jessica Rice, Kecia Robinson

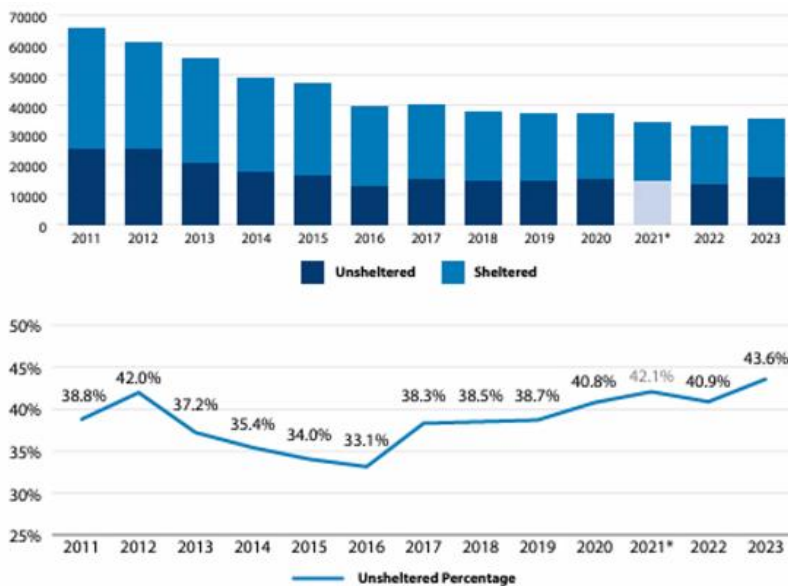
*NCCEH Staff Attendance:* Allie Card, Mira Sanderson

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### 1. Intros

### 2. VA Unsheltered Veteran Plan

#### Veteran PIT Count Trends



\*An average of the 2020 and 2022 Unsheltered PIT Count was utilized to represent the 2021 Unsheltered PIT count.

#### VA Response Plan for Homeless Encampment Closures

- Plan aims to support unsheltered Veterans living in encampments by:
  - o Providing them with same-day access to interim housing
  - o Connecting them to all necessary supportive services to obtain and maintain permanent housing
  - o Preventing them from entering the criminal legal system
- To accomplish, plan to build upon existing strategies:
  - o Develop a nationwide inventory of current encampments
  - o Activate national and local response teams
  - o Disseminate national guidance on strategies to inform local action

**How is the response playing out across NC? Are response teams already forming? How can these efforts partner with CoC to better inform the PIT count and ongoing street outreach?**

Genean brought up sweeps and was wondering if any communities had been swept and if they had been asked to leave.

Jean (representing the Winston-Salem area) didn't see any intentional sweeps through encampments, but law enforcement will get involved if something unsafe is happening (violence, robbery, heavy drug use...etc.) Other than that, there has been notice from law enforcement allowing the community to come together to dismantle and replace the encampments.

- The collaboration has been a process but has shown an effort from law enforcement.
- Law enforcement is a part of the CoC and wants to work with partners.

Charessa noted they are having issues with rural areas. A kinder county subcommittee will be made and hopefully, work to get the needed data.

Jessica notes that relationships with law enforcement have created a buffer allowing them to contact the CoC before going to criminalization allowing time for intervention. Encampment sweeps have been done due to public safety, but it is mainly a transfer and isn't closed. Mostly positive collaboration, more outreach teams have formed. With the larger outreach teams, hopefully, more data will be collected with the PIT count.

Allie asked if the members are in contact with their region leads/coordinators and if there is anything NCCEH can do to assist. Many of the members indicated that they did not know there were coordinators/leads. Allie will email out a list of unsheltered access coordinators.

Jessica noted that she would like to see a marketing strategy for PIT, specifically about getting volunteers.

### **3. HMIS Access**

**Where are your VAMCs in the process? What else do you need to move forward? NC BoS hopes to open visibility and sharing by mid-2025.**

Kecia said that for her region (Salisbury) it is still with leadership and notes that it is a slow process. HVAC director has forwarded the information, and they are currently waiting for a response.

Charessa does not have an update regarding Fayetteville's timeline.

Allie notes that as providers in HMIS, you can only see the households you put in. Other providers cannot see that information. It can be somewhat difficult to coordinate differences...however, NC BoS hopes to open visibility and enable seamless partnerships (specifically with HUD-VASH) by mid-2025.

### **4. 2024 Wrap-Up and 2025 Planning**

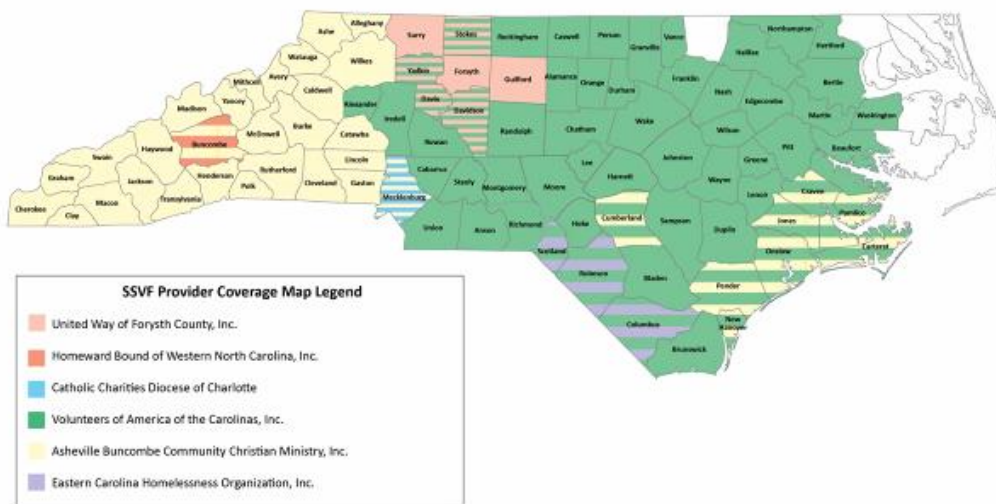
**2024 Veteran Subcommittee Accomplishments**

- Data
  - o 23% decrease in Veteran homelessness from 2023 to 2024 PIT count

- Successes
  - o Committed membership
  - o Committed to finding partnerships
  - o Beginning conversations of VAMC HMIS access
- Areas for Improvement
  - o CE integration
  - o Special population data

**Updated SSVF Coverage Map**

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Provider Coverage Map



**NC BoS Veteran Resource Guide Updates**

- Draft will be sent the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>
  - o Review your sections
  - o Email Allie with any edits
- The final version will be sent out to all NC BoS providers the week of December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**2025 Planning and Goals**

- Meeting Schedule
  - o Zoom Poll was sent out to attendees - a consensus of keeping meeting time on first Mondays at 11 AM
- Focus Areas
- Goals
  - o Membership extension – civilian input? Guest speakers/experts?



## Lived Expertise Advisory Council

### December 13, 2024, Minutes

*Attendance: Melissa H., Von N., Elliot Rhodes (Staff), Laurel Benfield (Staff), Mira Sanderson (Staff)*

#### **Debrief on Organizing Training, and Next Steps:**

Von noted that she didn't feel any specific way, she is accustomed to speaking about her experience and appreciates sharing her experience and encourages the team to learn and grow from LEACs. Von felt better about sharing in a short period of time. Overall, it was more of a learning process and wasn't necessarily uncomfortable but notes that she does have these types of conversations on a daily basis.

Melissa liked the training for the most part. Acknowledges that she doesn't like to talk or share. She stayed with what she was comfortable sharing and noted that she wasn't uncomfortable until she saw the video that was shared that triggered her. Melissa felt that the portion of her story she shared was comfortable and appreciated learning about talking strategically (from the training).

Laurel asked about what Billy trained those on, was it strategically powerful? Was it the correct way to go about asking LEAC to share personal stories in order to convey to others the importance of our work?

- Melissa thinks it was right. She believes the training helped develop her skills to speak to others.
- Elliot notes how difficult it can be to present himself as someone who works in a profession to combat homelessness while also recognizing his past as someone who was homeless. Laurel suggests finding something to help ground those when sharing their stories to help create context.

Laurel asks if Von and Melissa could practice what they learned from the training with each other?

- Melissa recognizes that it's hard for her to talk about her past with people who she isn't close with, which is why her immediate answer was "no". Laurel asks if Melissa could practice with her instead. Melissa said she could probably do it but that as of right now, due to the holidays, she is trying hard not to do anything to trigger her and would prefer to do something after the holidays. **Laurel will send Melissa a text sometime in January following up.**
- Von feels comfortable telling her story and is planning on trying out what she learned from the training into a speaking event she is attending soon. **Laurel will reach out to Von in January to follow up.**

#### **Equity Scorecard Review:**

Scorecards guide decision making for which applicants get awarded funding for two different competitions – ESG and CoC Competition. Both competitions are required to have published

transparent scorecards for the committees to review and then determine which applicant gets funding. In 2020, the Racial Equity Committee added questions that aimed towards a more equitable framework, LEAC eventually also added questions to the scorecards. The questions have evolved over the years, but the language has overall been similar. Laurel went through the CY2025 scorecard with the attendees, providing an overview and explanation. Regarding either changing or providing feedback, no attendees mentioned anything. All changes will need to be made by January 31, 2025.

**W9 Tax Forms:**

YaKisha has requested W9s from all LEACs. Laurel sent the forms as an attachment via email on 12/13.

**Update on Jaime:**

Jamie is out of prison and is in a rehab facility. He wanted everyone to know that he really likes where he is at and that he is okay and hopes to return.

**Update on PIT Count/UAC:**

NCCEH is meeting with unsheltered access coordinators to discuss the process for post PIT count. Elliot thinks it would be cool to include the LEACs in this process (if they are interested). Elliot was hoping LEAC could be involved in improving and reviewing the PIT count process.

To think about the future – Von notes the importance of how to ask questions and when to stop asking questions. How can we train others how to approach people and ask invasive but important questions. Von suggests possibly having workshops before the PIT count to make volunteers more comfortable. Right now, NCCEH is training unsheltered access coordinators, and the coordinators are training the volunteers.

**WhatsApp Group Chat:**

Von created a WhatsApp community (since people noted that others aren't comfortable sharing personal information). Von incorporated it into the Trauma Healing Institute and has had an overall positive effect. She is asking if NCCEH/LEAC members want to join as it is a good place to provide resources and reminders. Von will be contacting those whose numbers she has but she could also send Laurel/LEAC community a QR code to join if they feel comfortable.

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**Next Steering Committee meeting:**

Tuesday, February 4, at 10:30 A.M.