

North Carolina

Balance of State Continuum of Care

<http://ncbos.wordpress.com>

www.ncceh.org/BoS

Contact: North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness, bos@ncceh.org, 919-755-4393

Balance of State Steering Committee Meeting

2.9.10

Attendance:

Nancy Holochwost
Susanna Birdsong
Lynn Inman
Amy Modlin
William Parker
Kim Braxton
Wanda Feldt
Donna McCormack
Marcy Lewis
Jenny Connor
Teena Willis
Laura Hartman
Melissa Ledbetter
Albert Barron

Michele Steele
Tracy Campbell
Sharon Foust
Nancy Parks-Hunter
Tracy Asbury
Jane Motsinger
Shakirah Francis
Jennifer Olson
Bill Warren
Kristi Case
Laura McDuffee
Joel Rice
Vanessa Neustrom

Old Business

- Scores and scorecards were emailed out last week to agencies that applied for HUD Continuum of Care funding in 2009. Any applicant who has questions can contact NCEH to set up an appointment in the last week of February.
- A Participant Form must be filled out by every agency that participates in the Balance of State's regional committees. The information on the form is needed for the Exhibit 1 portion of the BoS' funding application to HUD. This form should also be filled out throughout the year for any new agencies that participate in meetings.
 - The form was emailed to the BoS list and is also available online at <http://www.ncceh.org/forms/25/BoSParticipants2010/>.
 - Regional Committee Leads should announce the form at their next committee meeting.
 - Regional Committee Leads should collect this information from any agency who participates in a Regional Committee meeting throughout the year.
- Point-in-Time Sheltered Count forms are overdue and should be turned in as soon as possible. Unsheltered and Housed & At-Risk forms are due February 12.

Balance of State: Structure

NCEH asked for feedback from BoS participants on how to best create structure within the CoC. Upcoming changes from the HEARTH legislation and in the 2011 CoC application make it especially

important that the BoS is organized and competitive. Several topics were opened for discussion, which will continue over the next few months. Decisions will be made based on suggestions from participants, and NCCHE can discuss particular cases with individual regions.

- Elected Regional Committee Leads
 - At the December 1 Steering Committee meeting, regional committees were asked to officially elect a lead contact to act as a liaison between the BoS and the Regional Committee and to be a voting member of the Steering Committee. Regions that have not done so should elect a lead at their next meeting and send the minutes from that meeting to NCCHE.
 - The responsibilities of the lead contact were discussed. Suggestions included having a back-up lead and having the lead either provide training to their region's agencies or link them to appropriate trainings.
 - It was discussed whether the lead contact should also be the chair of the regional committee. Some members felt it makes sense for both positions to be held by the same person, since there may only be one appropriate person available, and since he/she would then be well known in the region and could promote a consistent message. Other members felt it would be too much work for one person to hold both positions. It was proposed that each region should make its own decision, but if a region has two people, they either should both attend Steering Committee meetings or the lead should be responsible for conveying all information to the chair.
- Regional Committee Geography
 - The origins of the current BoS regions were discussed. Many regions are based on the LME catchment areas, which were decided by the State, and on continua that LME Housing Coordinators were asked to create.
 - The possibility of re-structuring geographical boundaries was discussed. Counties that do not currently participate in the BoS could be pulled in. Multi-county regions have difficulty getting members to attend meetings that are far away. While there are benefits to having multi-county regions, this need for greater collaboration needs to be addressed.
 - The potential benefits of requiring local government involvement in regional committees was discussed. Some regional committees do not currently have local government involvement. Making it a requirement for applying for funding may provide an incentive for local governments to participate.
- Regional Committee Webpages
 - RCs can have a page on the NCCHE website to post agendas, minutes, and important information. Anyone who is interested can contact Nancy Holochwest at nancy@ncceh.org.

Regional Committee Updates

- Onslow conducted a street count for the first time since 1987 and doubled its unsheltered count since last year. The Jacksonville PD helped throughout the 24 hours of the count and helped to move some camps off city property to a place they can stay.
- Piedmont's PIT count went very well and a lot of information was collected from the school system on Housed & At-Risk populations.
- Kerr-Tar's PIT Housed & At-Risk count went very well in the schools. Henderson also opened a men's shelter in January that participated in the PIT.
- Randolph found no unsheltered people this year, but the sheltered count more than doubled, leading them to hope that more people are coming in to shelter. The Regional Committee is also helping the local government register all veterans.
- Person-Chatham did not locate anyone in Chatham's street count, but did locate some in Person, where public safety staff were very helpful. Next year, the street count will be held later in the evening to try to capture more people. Vanessa Neustrom was invited to attend Person's United Way meeting, where she spoke about the housing coalition and made good connections.
- Foothills' PIT went better this year than in 2009 and they had great volunteer and law enforcement help with the unsheltered count.
- Mid-South reported lots of homeless families, but not enough programs to serve them.
- A discussion began about some organizations that would like to provide permanent supportive housing, but that are intimidated by receiving funding from HUD, since the reporting required is outside their realm of previous experience. The discussion will continue on the next Rural Homelessness Dialogue group.

Next Meeting: March 2 at 10:30 AM