



WNC
HOMELESS
COALITION

Regular Meetings -2nd Thursday of the month

October 8, 2020 10:00 am -11:00 am

Referral and Monitoring Meeting/RRH Selection Committee 11:00-12:00 pm

<http://bit.ly/WNCHC>

MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Toby Adams | REACH of Cherokee County |
| Rhonda Blanton | Macon Senior Resource Center |
| Destri Leger | HERE in Jackson County |
| Derek Lancour | Vaya Health |
| Brooke Smith | Mountain Projects |
| Keri Guidry | Haywood Pathways Center |
| Veronica Murphy | REACH of Macon County |
| Jill Carter | Veteran Services of the Carolinas |
| Jennifer Turner-Lynn | REACH of Macon County |
| Pat Meeks | Hulburt Johnson Friendship House |
| Reba West | REACH of Haywood County |
| Dan Ferriera | Four Square Community Action |
| Monica Frizzell | Department of Health & Human Services |
| Stephanie Almeida | Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction |
| Sarah Martin | REACH of Clay County |

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

- Review & Approval of September Minutes
 - Keri motions, Rhonda seconds, Motion carries
- Balance of State Steering Committee Update
 - October's Steering Committee short summary can be found at <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1vIqFcxPqn79kmvZVsvRQQDMnMcL8u-Ti>
- Coordinated Entry Update
 - HERE is continuing to work on converting the coordinated entry waitpool to the by-name list in HMIS. The deadline for completing this task is the end of November.
- Rapid Rehousing Update
 - Annual Rapid Rehousing funding is still exhausted. New funding is expected to be available January 2021.
- Back@Home Update

- HERE and Vaya Health are still waiting for contracts for Back@Home to be presented. Because the contract is above \$200,000, there are additional measures that must be met at the state level before contracts can be released.
- Permanent Supportive Housing Update
 - Derek reported that the PSH program currently has 46 members enrolled including 39 housed and seven homeless but looking for housing. The program is currently serving 95 individuals including the two households accepted in September. There are three households with pending referrals to the program; one referral self-resolved and secured their own housing. Because of the number of households looking for housing, the program is currently below its spending goal. Derek will be filling one more vacant slot during today's Referral and Monitoring Meeting.
- Agency Report Outs
 - Jennifer Abbey has a friend starting a podcast on homelessness and substance use. She is interested in making connections for those who may like to be interviewed.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- ESG Annual Competition
 - Final applications are due to the state ESG office on **October 16th by 5 PM.**
 - This section of the meeting was facilitated by Keri Guidry. Representatives from ESG applicant agencies presented the contents of their application to the group.
 - Jennifer Turner-Lynn reported on REACH of Macon County's application for \$16,000 in emergency shelter operations. REACH provides emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. She stated that the agency has seen 100% increase in shelter requests since the start of COVID-19. The requested shelter operations funds be used to create shelter and recreational spaces that adhere to social distancing measures.
 - Destri Leger reported on HERE in Jackson County's \$82,204 application. This request included \$19,069 in Emergency Shelter Operations which are used to provide non-congregate shelter to those experiencing homelessness. For Rapid Rehousing, \$55,635 was requested in Financial Assistance and \$3,000 in Services. HERE originally had asked for less in RRH so that the region may have more access to Emergency Response funding. When the regional requested funding did not meet Fair Share, Balance of State's Funding & Performance Subcommittee applied the difference to RRH Financial Assistance. Finally, \$4,500 was requested for HMIS.
 - Sarah Martin for REACH of Clay County reported on their application for

\$18,925 in Emergency Shelter Operations. REACH asked for \$5,000 more than their previous annual allotment because they had not requested CV-1 funding. Shelter costs have increased because of the amount of domestic violence cases and an increase in severity of cases. Because their shelter is older, maintenance and utility costs including heating tend to be higher. This funding will also be used to upgrade heating & air systems.

- Reba West from REACH of Haywood reported on their \$10,000 application for Emergency Shelter Operations. The agency provides emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. Requests for shelter as well as shelter operation costs have increased in the last year. Additionally, barriers to safe escape from abuse have increased. Receiving this funding will increase case management efforts and allow REACH to increase permanent housing outcomes.
- Keri motioned to approve all presented applications and set priority levels to high, Stephanie Almeida seconded, Motion carries.
- Leadership Positions Election
 - Next month the coalition will hold annual Leadership Elections. The group had a preliminary discussion and identified the following member to fill leadership roles:
 - Destri Leger, Regional & Coordinated Entry Lead
 - Keri Guidry, Regional Alternate Lead
 - Sarah Martin, Point In Time Count Lead
 - Denise Bean, HMIS Lead
 - Available positions include Secretary/Webmaster and regional representative for the Funding & Performance Subcommittee & Project Review Committee. Monica & Sarah Martin expressed interest in the subcommittee roles.
 - Jennifer Abbey expressed interest in future leadership roles after receiving training.
 - Official elections will be held at the next meeting in November.

NEXT RAMM MEETING - October 22nd at 11 AM

<https://meet.google.com/uyf-yptn-vde>

Dial in Telephone: (224) 475 1422

PIN: 630 712 639#

NEXT COALITION MEETING - November 12 at 10 AM

<https://meet.google.com/aeb-dvvg-mqu>

Dial in Telephone: (475) 441-4532

PIN: 795 144 354#