

**Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition** (Region 2 BoS)  
May 2, 2019 - Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS), Hendersonville

Facilitation in Hendersonville by **Kristen Martin**. Support from Brevard by Co-lead **Emily Lowery**.

Minutes for April 4 considered for acceptance as distributed by email. There were no stated objections, so the distributed draft was adopted as final by common consent.

The **May Balance of State (BoS) Steering Committee** call will be held next week, so no report today. We'll cover May and June calls at the next SMHC meeting.

**Coordinated Entry** update: The CAC call will be next week so there will be an update in June. There is statewide work by North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH), to contract with the 211 system to complete entry into the CE system. We hope that will overcome issues we've had in Region 2/Southern Mountains, that 211 service intakes generate a double upload. Anyone who has concerns or questions, or wants to comment, please email Kristen. NCCEH is also considering revision to Vi-SPDAT.

**Chris Berg** asked about the conversion of Assessment data to HMIS reported last month. Kristen said that work is complete.

**Schoolhouse Connection:** **Beth Branagan** said there was a good turnout on Monday, about 40 people, to hear Grace Whitney and Patricia Julianelle, 'a McKinney-Vento expert' speak on the McKinney-Vento programs, how HUD and our Coalition could be involved in creating and running a committee to further collaborate for this population. The audience broke up into groups to speak about the barriers and gaps they see, and to brainstorm about an action plan. A subcommittee is to meet May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am at BRH to discuss goals and naming of the committee. Attenders were added to a mail list to address child, youth, and family centered work.

Kristen congratulated the local leadership. She will forward to SMHC when Beth sends out more info.

**Veterans:** **David Carr** thanked **Alyce Knaflich** for assisting with a Haywood County ABCCM case, who, though not eligible for a voucher, is now housed in Haywood and 'loves the place'. The Henderson vet staying in a storage unit is to move in today to an apartment and is starting a job – rather than imposing a background check, they gave the vet a chance immediately. There is a Rutherford vet in the caseload (where they also need affordable homes for such people)

Alyce said it was good to work with ABCCM on the Haywood situation, though she still has questions about the HUD-VASH ineligibility finding. The Aura Homes property in Hendersonville has gotten renovation plans prepared and approved.

**ESG:** Thrive has spent all of its current ESG budget. Emily said The Haven has spent all its (25%) budget for the shelter, and for rapid re-housing, but continues to spend on daycare (allowing residents to work). Kristen reported that ESG managers had decided to leave some of the application unfunded, because Thrive's ESG was 'slow to start' - which she attributes largely to absence of affordable housing. Thrive is covering these cases with other funds.

Emily reported that The Haven has already had an ESG site visit.

**Suzanne Porter** (Funding lead) said we have questions about how to deal with affordable housing shortages. There is no leeway allowed for new programs: For example no funds were available to help a PATH shelter.

There was no further business brought to the Regional meeting. The session was declared adjourned and phone connections closed.

Additional notes based on discussion by participants in Hendersonville:

**Brenda Ploss** said Henderson now reports 3.5% unemployment, second-low for the state (which has 4.1% overall); Buncombe is lowest at 3.2%. Several events are anticipated; an employer symposium – search [aarp.event.com](http://aarp.event.com) for 'Asheville Works'; a May 6 "50-plus Works" event (10 AM-1 PM) at Mission's AV Tech space, covering volunteerism and local employment; a May 8 Career Fair (1-4 PM) at Asheville's Edington Center (Livingston St), and also May 8, a 'reverse Job Fair' (11:30-1) at the Doubletree Hotel in Biltmore Village.

A recent event at the Ag Center – Davis building attracted 700 high school students, billed as a UNC Career Expo. Another such event is to be held there on October 17.

Opportunities for those in rehab, or in reentry or from college, for apprenticing: email [apprenticeshipnc@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:apprenticeshipnc@nccommunitycolleges.edu) . The programs include offerings for veterans.

**Trina Rushing** said the proposed social worker at the Library is unlikely to get County funding. She seeks further input from our providers on connecting to her patrons. Kristen mentioned work toward a resource fair, and possible use of a pamphlet on low-barrier services. **Stephanie Gilliam** said it can be useful to her clients to get a verification letter (often from a friend) confirming a person's homeless status.

**Homes for Youth** reported that 2018 was its first full year of operations, and served 11 girls/teens from 8 to 18 in foster homes. Stays ranged from 5 days to a full year, with most sheltered for a least a month. They partner with DSS and Crossnore to help train foster parents. Homes for Youth is looking for a facility for boys.

**Housing Assistance Corporation** (HAC) offers a home repair program in Polk, Transylvania and Henderson. They are holding a fund-raiser at Southern Appalachian brewery on Thursday May 9, at 6:30. Their in-progress market study was discussed: It is to be completed at the end of May. Kristen asked that a report be made of the study in August (We will have visitors in June and do not plan to meet in July).

Kristen mentioned another initiative underway but not ready for disclosure.

The next Southern Mountains Coalition meeting is June 6, at 9:30 AM, at Blue Ridge Community Health, community room, Hendersonville. This is expected to be an **in-person** meeting featuring State visitors.

With respect, Chris Berg, secretary