

Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition (Region 2 BoS)
October 3, 2019 - Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS), Hendersonville
Eleanor Meloun Community Room, 9:30 AM

Facilitation was by Co-lead **Emily Lowery** in Hendersonville. Emily reviewed ground rules for the meeting.

September 5 meeting minutes: Chris Berg said Alyce had corrected the first sentence in “Continuum of Care Grant (CoC)”:- changing a reference from ‘ranking of ESG project applications’ to ‘ranking of CoC project applications’. The revision will be distributed with these minutes. Alyce Knaflich moved adoption of the September minutes as distributed with this correction, Carrington Cosby second, adopted.

Balance of State Steering Committee (Emily):

The Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) has applied for \$10.4 million for the next fiscal year. NCCEH staff submitted the application to HUD last Friday (Sept. 27). The projects contained in the application totaled \$10.4 million. Emily noted that projects were to be posted by Sept. 24; see <https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/files/c48aa1e2/fy-2019-coc-priority-listing.pdf> . [In our region, includes Pathways to Permanent Housing in Henderson, \$181,855; same, #3, \$59,838]

Emily also indicated that our region will be submitting two projects for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. These are due Oct. 11th. Our sponsors are Thrive in Henderson County and The Haven in Transylvania County.

Regional Leadership: The BoS is requiring that regions submit names for leadership positions for 2020. Positions available (and required) to be designated are:

Regional Lead

Regional Alternate lead

Webmaster

Coordinated Entry Lead (Kristen Martin plans to continue)

PIT lead

ESG funding committee leadership

CoC: a representative for the Project Review Committee of NCCEH BoS (Alyce Knaflich is available)

Secretary

NCCEH will limit nonprofit staff to two positions per agency.

Further information on the Steering Committee meeting is on the NCCEH website. See <https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/files/d8765980/bos-steering-committee-agenda-october-1-final.pdf> .

Nominations: Emily said we should get a head start on the PIT (point in time count) lead as organizing for PIT is a lengthy process, involving training and insuring that each county has or can obtain what it needs to count. Alyce Knaflich moved and Beth Branagan seconded nomination of Emily as regional PIT lead. Likewise, Carrington Cosby moved and Trina Rushing seconded nominated Emily to serve as regional Lead (to represent us at BoS meetings).

A more completed update on the PIT for January will be on the November regional agenda. No date has been set for the balance-of-state-wide count as of yet.

Schoolhouse Connection: **Beth Branagan** reported a regional meeting on Sept. 20 at Children and Family Resource Center in Hendersonville. There was an overview given of the hosts’ programs. Michael Absher also announced the Only Hope WNC youth shelter would again sponsor a SleepOut overnight on Nov. 9 at the County Courthouse front.

Trina Rushing said that the Henderson County Library will host a resource fair (oriented to homeless people) on the Friday of the week designated for PIT count.

Beth and Kim Guice spoke about a goal to develop a resource directory. This would include obtaining info on child-care subsidy workers. Briana Trabel is getting out minutes. The regional group intends to meet bimonthly (Sept-Nov etc) with the next meeting on November 15 (regularly on third Fridays) at Polk County school; the January meeting at Family Place in Transylvania.

It was suggested that the SleepOut event attenders be approached to volunteer for PIT count.

Point-In-Time: Carrington plans to work with Stephanie to reprise the 2019 Henderson team, augmented by connecting with some of those with lived experience in local homelessness.

Coordinated Entry: Kristen is tied up with rapid re-housing activities this week and has not provided a report.

Veterans: Today is a job fair elsewhere, and David Carr is not available. He has reported that the VA is now working with a \$30 million program to assist the *formerly* homeless veteran population.

Alyce reported placing a female vet into housing (or better housing), with that woman staying in Henderson. She's also working with a woman vet in Bat Cave area who is going to get an apartment but needs help moving gear from a trailer. Alyce is concerned that the county Veterans Service officer is only at the office two days a week. (Contrast Buncombe, where there are 3 full-time staffers and two also at the VA Medical Center.) Alyce is aware of two vets on a waiting list...she hopes that PIT (which gives good information) gets better coverage.

Brevard College was mentioned as holding a Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Fair Housing Training: Alyce said that training will be offered at VAYA Health in Asheville, including tenant rights, on Nov. 13. There will also be an event at Goodwill November 14 with housing and service providers.

Coordinated Entry: October meetings of this group will be here, on Thursday Oct. 10 from 11 to 12; and by phone (call-in) on Oct. 22 from 10 to 11.

Fund-raiser: Thrive sponsors a Oct. 14 event "Brews and Blues" featuring Eric Cofton, with Bryan Bird of 'the Q' as emcee. Please contact Stephanie at 697-1581 for details.

Affordable Care Act: It was noted that the Patient Navigator insurance assistance program is cut to two days/wk. for BRCHS Polk facility. However, there will be a new night clinic for dental. This would also serve migrant workers, but with Tuesday and Thursday accepting children only.

Resource Fair: Trina Rushing hopes to hear from agencies that may want to participate in the January fair; and also to understand what supplies the participants may be offering or using. Carrington offered to contact the past volunteers for PIT for this.

Homes for Youth: This shelter and fostering organization received \$3100 in a recent fundraiser. They support a licensed foster home in Laurel Park which has cared for five adolescent girls in the past two years. They have set a goal of purchasing a second home (for boys).

Beth Branagan said that there were 53 young people on the McKinney Vento service list.

Emily said the Haven Family House is full, with a waiting list. The Haven Thomas House had to expand the women's section. Eight people have been placed at the housing authority and other area apartments. They are preparing for a 'Paws 4 Humanity' event October 12 in cooperation with Transylvania Parks and Recreation. Eric Edwards, that was featured on WLOS as a homeless advocate with lived experience will emcee; there is a pet photo contest on FaceBook, a frisbee and agility contest, and 'best dog trick' competition.

Thermal Belt (Childrens' Dental) in Polk has gotten a grant to serve homeless children without Medicaid coverage; \$50 for the first visit. This is an evening clinic, 5:30 – 8, Tuesday and Thursday. Brevard (Tuesday night) and Spindale also have the service.

The Southern Mountains Coalition **will next meet November 7, at BRCHS in Hendersonville, at 9:30.**

With respect, Chris Berg, secretary