



# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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## NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Minutes

April 7, 2020

**Regional Leads Present:** Destri Leger, Kristen Martin, Gail Henson, Teena Willis, Melissa McKeown, Natasha Elliott, Marie Watson, Emily Locklear, James Mercer, LaTasha McNair, Melissa Eastwood, Jim Cox, Tharesa Lee

**At-Large Members Present:** Eric Edwards, Deena Fulton, Parker Smith, Ellen Blackman, Todd Rosendahl, Angela Harper King, Lisa Philips, Brooks Ann McKinney

**SC Members Absent:** Sabra Rock, LaTonya Penny Michael Dineen

**Interested Parties Present:** Bonnie Harper, Tujuanda Sanders

**NCCEH Staff Present:** Brian Alexander, Jenn Von Egidy, Debra Susie, Kevin McNamee

### Approval of Consent Agenda

- The consent agenda was sent out for review prior to the meeting and is posted at: <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/steeringcommittee/>
- The consent agenda was voted on as a whole at the beginning of the meeting. Without changes or objection, the consent agenda was approved by common consent.

### COVID-19 Response

NCCEH is working to coordinate a statewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic by:

- Convening leaders and distributing information as best practices emerge;
- Supporting leaders and providers in NC BoS CoC regions to implement preparations and procedures to respond effectively and keep clients and staff safe; and
- Working with state and federal partners and local leaders to prepare for federal stimulus money through the CARES Act

Our top priorities for initial response to COVID-19 in the homelessness system:

1. Safety and Health Supplies for Emergency Shelter and People Living Unsheltered:
  - a. Meet CDC guidelines for homeless shelters to keep people healthy
  - b. Support the health of people living in unsheltered settings
2. Medical Shelter:

- a. Provide quarantine and isolation options for people who are symptomatic or who test positive for COVID-19
  - b. Provide recovery or care options for patients experiencing homelessness to receive care for other health issues to preserve hospital beds
3. Housing Stabilization:
- a. Move people out of homelessness and into housing so they can follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines to reduce the spread
  - b. Keep people at-risk of homelessness in safe housing with the ability to stay-at-home

The NCCEH website: [www.ncceh.org](http://www.ncceh.org) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NCEndHomelessness](https://www.facebook.com/NCEndHomelessness) are being used to post relevant information for COVID-19 response.

### **CoC Competition Updates**

HUD released full FY19 CoC awards on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and all Tier 1 projects were awarded along with:

- 1 new project: Trillium RRH in Region 13 at \$198,767
- 1 renewal project defunded: SHAHC PSH in Surry County
- CoC planning grant funded at \$349,452
- Neither DV Bonus project was funded.
- Total initial award: \$8,941,246

Contracts for FY19 CoC grants will be executed in the coming few months.

HUD announced the initial steps of the FY20 CoC competition, and NCCEH staff have begun preparations for this year's competition, including:

- Renewal Applicant slide deck with helpful hints
- First Submission-Renewal Applicants: CY19 HMIS APRs due March 31, 2020
- Intent to Apply process launched

The Intent to Apply form, which is mandatory for all agencies applying for new CoC funds, has been posted to the NCCEH website at: <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/>. The submission deadline is two weeks after the NOFA is released.

The Funding and Performance Subcommittee (FPS) reviewed the FY19 CoC Funding Priorities document and made updates reflecting current HUD and CoC priorities. FPS proposed the updated document (<https://bit.ly/2xKXtnL>) for approval by the Steering Committee. A motion to approve was offered by Lisa Phillips and seconded by Marie Watson. The CoC Funding Priorities updates for 2020 were approved unanimously.



Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, staff have rescheduled Scorecard Committee meetings for 2:00 on three consecutive Friday afternoons next month: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>. The Steering Committee will likely consider approval of scorecards for both new and renewal applicants at its June 2020 meeting.

### **2020 Anti-Discrimination Policies and Procedures**

A draft of policies and procedures designed to ensure safety, dignity, and well-being of all individuals and families served by programs in the NC BoS CoC are posted at <https://www.ncceh.org/files/10682/>. The NC BoS CoC's Anti-Discrimination Policies and Procedures apply to staff, volunteers, and contractors at all partner agencies and are mandatory for agencies that receive CoC and ESG funding. James Mercer made a motion to approve the proposed policies and procedures; Kristen Martin seconded the motion; and the SC voted to approve the policy unanimously.

### **Racial Equity Subcommittee Update**

The subcommittee held an introductory webinar on March 11th and a kick-off meeting on March 27th. Members opted for 60-minute monthly meetings to occur during the 3rd week of the month. The meeting date/time gives the subcommittee time to prep materials ahead of the monthly Steering Committee meetings. April's meeting will focus on how to ensure racial equity is being considered in the COVID-19 responses. Upcoming topics include how to incorporate racial equity into the NC BoS CoC scorecard and recruitment for the Racial Equity Assessment work team.

### **Emergency Solutions Grant Workgroup**

The first meeting of this workgroup was held on March 26th with representation from Regions 4, 5, 6, 10, and 12. Three pain points were identified for the workgroup to address:

1. Reduce the burden for regions by expanding the timeline and reducing the jargon
2. Sync communication by creating recommendations for the Steering Committee and sharing pain points with other stakeholders
3. Expand funding across the NC BoS CoC by exploring ways to make the application easier for new applicants and by advocating for a plan to redistribute unused funds

The workgroup's next steps will be to:

- Draft talking points from NC BoS CoC for the NC ESG office
- Draft survey for other NC CoC's input
- Email drafts to workgroup to get edits, changes, comments (week before the end of April 30 meeting)
- Get Alan's feedback about the process as a newbie
- Invite ESG office to a workgroup meeting



## **Upcoming Meetings & Reminders**

The annual, statewide *Bringing it Home: Ending Homelessness in NC* conference scheduled for May 20-21 has been cancelled in response to the restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic. The following monthly meetings and an Anti-Discrimination Policy webinar are scheduled for this month:

### **BoS HMIS User Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.**

Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1379/>

### **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting, Monday, April 20, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.**

Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621

### **Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting, Thursday, April 23, 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621

### **Anti-Discrimination Policy Webinar, Wednesday, April 29, 10:00 – 11:00 A.M.**

Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1404/>

## **The meeting adjourned.**

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

