

Facilitation was by Co-lead **Emily Lowery** in Hendersonville. She reviewed ground rules for the meeting: Personal conduct to be professional; disputes to be aired outside of the meeting.; only one speaker at a time.

**December 5 meeting minutes:** **Emily** asked for review comments on the distributed minutes. None were offered. The distributed version was approved by common consent.

**December Balance of State Steering Committee Call:** **Emily** highlighted the proposal for a Racial Equity subcommittee. BoS is asking for volunteer members. **Kristen Martin** discussed how the issue shows up in our region: Our served population reasonably matches census-reported overall population by race, but shows little or no support of Hispanic or Latino persons. This could be related to Federal requirements that served persons have Social Security numbers. **Stephanie Gilliam** has agreed to serve on the State committee. We expect to create a separated related committee for our region. We hope True Ridge and other Latino-oriented providers will assist with this. **Alyce Knaflich** suggested calling our local effort an 'Equity Committee', which might look at all discrimination issues for protected classes – age, sex, sexual orientation, etc. We would carve out separate populations (Veterans, particularly, with different resources available). **Kim Guice** thought this approach made sense. **Beth Branagan** suggested calling for a 'Minority Equity' subcommittee or an 'Underserved' subcommittee. **Alyce** wondered if Muslims or Ukrainians could be considered. **Kristen** repeated that non-match to Census is the guiding concern. **Carrington Cosby** thought the group could try to identify systematic barriers – to understand why population patterns don't match. **Stephanie** will give a report on the first goal.

The steering committee reviewed the PIT and HIC (housing inventory count) processes. Notably, at last PIT there were 26 or 27 counties reporting zero unsheltered persons. It was emphasized that the plan for unsheltered counts must identify places where homeless people might attempt to shelter, with guidance from those having had that experience. The Steering committee conducted elections for its at-large seats.

**January 7 Balance of State Steering Committee Call:** **Kristen** went over how the BoS Racial Equity subcommittee will be organized: There will be regular meetings, they will set their own schedule; they will provide an annual Racial Equity assessment; they will be provided with 'data informed action steps' (given to Steering) and there will be work assigned in response. The overall goal will be use of any data collected toward limiting homelessness to being rare, brief and non-recurring. **Emily** distributed conflict-of-interest forms to those present, with a reminder that all officers must submit these forms; participants in funded programs cannot take regional committee positions involving funding. This includes people that may apply for any BoS CoC or ESG funding.

Our Schoolhouse Connections group will be known as the Children and Youth Homeless Action Coalition. They are creating a Funding and Performance subcommittee; membership in that is optional. **Beth Branagan** said they have a Facebook page, for 'CHAC' = **Children Homeless Action Coalition**. They will meet second Fridays in odd months (but not January). The upcoming service events at Henderson and Transylvania libraries will be promoted by offering gift cards to families that come – and complete surveys. While it's realized that the PIT count would use the HUD homeless definition, the CHAC work will try to address McKinney-Vento relevant data, including contacts with all our counties. **Kim Guice** will obtain numbers from Head Start programs. The aim is for a truer picture of homelessness. The next meeting will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at Family Place in Transylvania. Contact **Kim** at [chac@gmail.com](mailto:chac@gmail.com). **Kristen** expects CHAC to enable access to grant funds. It was moved (**Chris** moved, **Carrington** second) to make **Beth Branagan** a member of the regional leadership team to ensure this particular group were involved in regional visioning, etc. All agreed.

**Coordinated Entry (CE):** The coalition has its CE list, but not enough funding to help those affected. We're considering how to recruit other resources to assist those listed. This may begin with a separate email list, to enable annual surveys of affected persons and families- how they are affected by lack of timely rehousing opportunities; how they feel about their situations. Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing provides must survey their case loads. **Alyce Knaflich** said that we have to deal with the SPDAT – it is an imperfect assessment tool, but required for the by-name list. Given that Veterans assistance is often through specified 'carve-out' funds, eligible vets then go onto

**Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition** (Region 2 Balance of State or BoS)  
January 9, 2020 - Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS), Hendersonville  
Eleanor Meloun Community Room, 9:30 AM

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