



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Minutes

July 7, 2020

Regional Leads Present: Destri Leger, Emily Lowery, Gail Henson, Teena Willis, Melissa McKeown, LaTonya Penny, Marie Watson, Emily Locklear, James Mercer, LaTasha McNair, Michele Welsh, Jim Cox, Tharesa Lee

At-Large Members Present: Deena Fulton, Ellen Blackman, Anna Gray Watson (for Todd Rosendahl), Angela Harper King, Lisa Philips, Brooks Ann McKinney

SC Members Absent: Eric Edwards, Parker Smith, Michael Dineen

Interested Parties Present: Leone Lettsome, Leonard Tillery, Alison Azbell, Tandra Chamberlain, Leila McMichael, Melissa Eastwood, Michele Knapp, Renee Urban, Alyce Knaflich, Derek Lancour, Lenize Patton, Natasha Elliott, Arwen March, Bonnie Harper, Joshua Edwards, Michele Welsh, Brian Fike, Hamer Carter, Manuel Hyman, Teresa Robinson, Lakitra Claude, Lorelei Watts, Rebecca Snyder, Jefferey Rawlings, Joel Rice, Nicole Dewitt, Tonya Freeman, Mary Erwin, Kimberly Hemphill, Monica Frizzell

NCCEH Staff Present: Brian Alexander, Jenn Von Egidy, Debra Susie, Kevin McNamee, Ehren Dohler, Ashley VonHatten, Andrea Carey

Staff updates: Brian Alexander announced the departure of Jenn Von Egidy, who is leaving NCCEH to work with the Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness.

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 Pandemic Response

Brian Alexander went through the application process for securing funds through the Emergency Solutions Grant-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) for NC the Balance of State CoC, starting with the timeline. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) released a Request for Applications (RFA) on June 22nd with a final due date of July 17 to the NC

DHHS. Incremental steps towards the deadline were detailed on the presentation [slides](#). Twenty-three Crisis Response Project Applications were submitted, including 60% for emergency shelter (\$2,800,030); 22% for HMIS (\$2,000); and 18% for street outreach (\$584,107). The total ESG-CV Crisis Response requests came to over \$3.3 million.

NC DHHS requires that CoCs implement a 60/40 funding split, i.e., a minimum of 60% for Housing Stabilization and a maximum of 40% for Crisis Response and HMIS. The combined applications submitted for Crisis Response Projects represented 40% of the BoS CoC's total allocation, including 3 regions (Regions 2, 7, 12) that submitted Crisis Response applications representing > 40% of fair share. The Steering Committee was asked to consider two options:

- 1) Stay with 60/40 split at the CoC level (no justification letter required)
- 2) Stay with 60/40 split at LPA level (requires Regions 2, 7, 12 to submit a justification letter)

After discussion revealed substantial support for option #1, LaTonya Penny moved to take the 60/40 split at the CoC level. With a second from Gail Henson, the proposal passed by unanimous consent.

Given there is a shortfall in the NC BoS CoC HMIS budget, additional funds are necessary to continue providing HMIS at no cost to agencies for licenses and support. The state has indicated to NCCEH that funding may be available from another state resource to fill that gap. However, if the state is unable to access that resource, NCCEH would need to access future ESG-CV funding to fill the gap to maintain free access to NC BoS CoC agencies.

For ESG-CV applications through Back@Home, agencies have submitted requests for letters of support from NC BoS CoC, which will support *the agency* to apply for these funds, not its application. NC DHHS will review and select Back@Home rehousing agencies to provide prevention and rapid rehousing services. With 19 agencies requesting letters of support, these requests would provide coverage for all 79 counties comprising the NC BoS CoC.

The list of requests was outlined on slides, and Kevin McNamee presented each one for consideration and to hear any concerns. A common consent vote would follow. The following Steering Committee members abstained in advance from this vote: LaTonya Penny with Family Abuse Services, Lakitra Claude with Trillium Health Resources, Natasha Elliott with Central Piedmont Community Action, Melissa McKeown with Community Shelter of Union County, Destri Leger as subrecipient for Vaya, and E. Marie Watson with Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.

Volunteers of America's request—covering 42 counties--generated prolonged discussion. The primary concern was how to ensure the agency's participation in and coordination with the



Regional Committees covering those communities. It was stated that full coverage of NC BoS CoC's 79 counties is paramount, but coordination is also important. Two proposals were offered to address this:

1. NC BoS CoC would insert language in VOA's letter of support highlighting the expectation that VOA fully participate in coordinated entry through ALL of its rapid rehousing--including Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)--and in the Regional Committees going forward with which its coverage area overlapped.
2. NCCEH staff will identify overlap in VOA's service coverage area with counties not covered by any other applicants. A letter of support would be provided to VOA for only those counties.

Teena Willis made a motion to take the second option that provided NC BoS CoC's letter of support of VoA only for the areas that would not be covered by other applicants. After a second from LaTonya Penny, the motion passed by unanimous consent.

Ehren Dohler presented the following proposed updated language for the CE Written Standards:

"During a state of emergency, the North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care (NC BoS CoC) will be permitted to quickly change Coordinated Entry (CE) access, prioritization, and referral policies and procedures to respond to emerging needs and funding. Local CE leads may make changes to their regional systems without approval from the Coordinated Entry Council (CEC) but will be required to report changes to the CEC at the next scheduled meeting. The Coordinated Entry Council will approve changes without needing Steering Committee approval and will be required to publicly post any approved changes. Any changes to CE policies and procedures made during a state of emergency will only be effective until the state of emergency is rescinded unless the CEC proposes permanent changes to the Steering Committee and the Steering Committee approves said changes."

With no discussion or questions, LaTonya Penny moved to accept these as proposed. A second from Marie Watson was followed by a vote of unanimous consent.

Racial Equity Subcommittee

Jef Rawlings presented the subcommittee's updates:

- The subcommittee recommended and the Steering Committee approved additions developed through the CoC Scorecard Committee to ensure that funding processes include a racial equity component. The goal is to find ways to reward agencies for incorporating a racial equity lens into their operational procedures.
- The annual Racial Equity Assessment work has begun. NCCEH's Data Center is doing an initial data pull in preparation to meet with the Racial Equity Assessment Workgroup on July 17.



- The Subcommittee will be hosting a Racial Equity Dialogue Series about race and systemic racism. Dialogue will center on a facilitated panel with time for questions to the panelists. Invitations for the series will be released once panelists are confirmed. The following topics are proposed for this dialogue:
 - Police violence, anti-blackness, and community response in NC BoS CoC
 - Systemic racism and impact on homelessness
 - Racism in the justice system and re-entry
 - Racism and voting

Kevin tabled the 2020 PIT/HIC update until the August 2020 meeting.

Before ending the meeting, Kevin reviewed these meetings in July:

Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting, Wednesday, July 15, 9:00 A.M.

Presentation: <https://www.gotomeeting.me/NCEndHomelessness>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733

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

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

Coordinated Entry Council Meeting, Monday, July 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, July 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

COVID-19 Local Leadership Response Sharing Call, Every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 P.M.

Presentation: <https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733

The meeting adjourned.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, July 13, 12 PM (ESG-CV Crisis Response approval)

Tuesday, August 4, 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

