



# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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## NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Minutes

September 1, 2020

**Regional Leads Present:** Destri Leger, Emily Lowery, Gail Henson, Teena Willis, Melissa McKeown, LaTonya Penny, Marie Watson, Emily Locklear, James Mercer, LaTasha McNair, Lakitra Claude, Jim Cox, Lenise Patton

**At-Large Members Present:** Deena Fulton, Parker Smith, Ellen Blackman, Anna Gray Watson, Angela Harper King, Lisa Philips, Brooks Ann McKinney

**SC Members Absent:** Eric Edwards, Michael Dineen

**Interested Parties Present:** Arwen March, Bonnie Harper, Leonard Tillery, Renee Urban, Teresa Robinson, Lorelei Watts, Rebecca Snyder, Joel Rice, Nicole Dewitt, Tonya Freeman, Kimberly Hemphill, Monica Frizzell, Kecia Robinson, Brian Fike, Isaac Sturgill, Catrina Martin, Derek Lancour, Laura Spivey, Mary Erwin, Tujuanda Sanders, Leone Lettsome, Chipper Long, Alyce Knaflich, Amy Modlin

**NCEH Staff Present:** Brian Alexander, Debra Susie, Kevin McNamee, Ashley VonHatten, Andrea Carey

### 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.

Teena Willis raised her concern about the sharing of HMIS data in the consent agenda. Brian clarified that HMIS update information is not part of the consent agenda. Teena requested a venue for discussing this further at another time.

### ESG Updates

Brian Alexander shared the list of awarded NC BoS CoC ESG-CV-1 projects. A detailed list of recipient agencies and amounts can be reviewed in the full presentation [here](#).

- Crisis Response awards totaled: \$2,268,316
  - 24 street outreach and emergency shelters awarded funding

- Back@Home awards totaled: \$5,807,323
  - 16 agencies awarded rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention funding
  - Currently, three counties in Region 10 have no B@H funding. NC DHHS is negotiating with an awarded program to take Duplin, Wayne, and Sampson Counties

The NC ESG Office released the 2021 ESG RFA on August 17<sup>th</sup>, which will fund activities in calendar year 2021. After feedback from the Steering Committee and Regional and ESG Leads, staff proposed following a similar process to the ESG-CV-1 funding process. This requires approval by the Steering Committee since the process is defined in the NC BoS CoC Governance Charter. Staff also proposed not changing the Governance Charter until after the process.

The following slides illustrate changes to the review/selection process, the role of regional committees, and an appeals process.

The review/selection process will add an extra layer of oversight.



Regional Committees will play a similar role, providing priorities and recommendations.



Staff have incorporated an appeals process.



This proposed funding process incorporates other aspects of the ESG-CV-1 process:

- 60/40 split
  - Minimum 60% for Housing Stabilization
  - Maximum 40% for Emergency Response
- Target 'Fair Share' per region with flexibility and approval of regions
- One Regional Application and Budget completed by NCCEH staff
- Project Applicants submit directly to NC DHHS after approval
- Regional Leads relay relevant competition information to committee members and interested agencies

Brian reviewed the timeline:

### Proposed timeline

Date/Deadline	Activity
September 1	Present ESG Annual Allocation Funding Process for Approval to SC
September 2-4	Publish Project Application and Regional Committee Instructions
September 2-4	Send Regional Leads acknowledgement letter on SC-approved funding process through DocuSign
September 15	Project Applications Due to NCCEH
September 16 – September 24	Project Application staff review
September 16	Send Regional Leads Priorities/Recommendation Sheet
September 29	Regional Committee Priorities/Recommendation Sheet Due
September 29	Acknowledgement letter due
October 1	PRC selection meeting
October 6	Steering Committee Meeting: Project Application Recommendation Approval
October 6-9	Finalize Regional Application and Regional Application Budget Templates
October 6	Staff inform agencies of approval/denial of Project Applications
October 8	Appeals Due
October 9	PRC Appeals meeting, if needed
October 12	Steering Committee Meeting to consider appeals, if needed
October 16	Project and Regional Applications Due to NC DHHS



Melissa McKeown moved to accept all of the proposed changes to the 2021 ESG Funding Process; Joel Rice seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next steps are to finalize and post instructions; email Regional Leads information about the process to be shared with stakeholders; and work on project applications to meet internal CoC deadline.

### Racial Equity Subcommittee Update

- The Racial Equity Subcommittee and NCCEH have finalized a contract with C4 Innovations to provide racial equity training for the Steering Committee and the Racial Equity Subcommittee. Two 90-minute trainings will be held on Nov. 10 and Nov. 17 from 12:30-2:00pm. Invitations and registration information will be sent out in the coming weeks.
- Racial Equity Dialogues:
  - The August 26<sup>th</sup> dialogue, "Systemic Racism and Impact on Homelessness," was attended by over 30 people.
  - The third Racial Equity Dialogue will focus on "Racism and Homelessness in the Justice and Re-Entry Systems." The dialogue will be held on Tuesday, September 29th at 12:00 P.M.
  - The fourth dialogue will focus on Racism & Voting - October 20, 12:00 P.M.

## **Racial Equity Assessment Update**

Brian Alexander explained that HUD requires CoCs to conduct a Racial Equity Assessment annually to understand disparities. The Racial Equity Subcommittee recommends the following Racial Equity Assessment to the Steering Committee for approval.

Andrea Carey reviewed HUD's CoC Assessment Tool, which compares PIT data to population estimates from Census Data to understand the distributions of people living in poverty and for people experiencing homelessness by race, ethnicity, age, as well as family and Veteran status. The tool helps determine who the CoC serves within the context of broader state populations and people in poverty. The PIT data demonstrates that Black or African American populations are overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness while Hispanic or Latino individuals are underrepresented. Disparities are even more pronounced among families experiencing homelessness.

Andrea also reviewed the National Alliance to End Homelessness's Race Equity Tool designed to determine who accesses permanent housing within the CoC. Using HMIS data, the tool helps communities measure whether the outcomes of their system vary depending upon the race or ethnicity of a person or family experiencing homelessness. Disparities persist here as well. Although approximately 1 in 5 (19%) individuals within the NC BoS CoC identifies as Black or African American in the Census, nearly half (51%) are identified as Black or African American in the HMIS's client-level data for the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness.

The Racial Equity Subcommittee proposes the following three areas of action with specific tasks:

### *Collaborative and inclusive dialogue and action*

- Recruit new members to improve representation
- Use the expertise of the RE Subcommittee to guide discussions
- Adopt a decision-making tool to guide governance, policy, and decisions
- Host dialogue calls on RE to engage CoC stakeholders
- Recruit and foster partnerships led by POC to increase opportunities for investment in projects

### *Robust data collection and assessment*

- Encourage and support better data entry, allowing more detailed evaluation
- Include age, ethnicity, and gender in analysis to understand their intersection
- Conduct qualitative research

- Develop additional questions using existing data sets such as BNLS, VSP programs, and CE
- Study agency staff demographics versus people they serve
- Use *Stella* platform to understand how POC access the system and their outcomes.

*Training and support*

- Include RE and the CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy as a topic in presentations throughout the CoC
- Incorporate RE questions and checks in funding process scorecards and program monitoring oversight
- Hire professional facilitators experienced in RE to provide training and coaching to set a baseline understanding of racial disparities and equity in the CoC
- Share resources on RE with CoC stakeholders and offer time to them for dialogue and questions

Although a vote of approval is not required by the Steering Committee, the Racial Equity Subcommittee requests a vote, thereby signifying the CoC’s commitment to reaching these goals toward racial equity. Melissa McKeown offered a motion to approve the document. Lisa Phillips seconded the motion, followed by unanimous approval. The Racial Equity Subcommittee will now begin the process of prioritizing and operationalizing each action area.

**Eviction Diversion Strategies**

At-large member, Parker Smith, together with Isaac Sturgill of Legal Aid of North Carolina presented information about eviction diversion strategies employed across the state in the context of COVID-19. Strategies reflect the needs and resources of each community, but generally they comprise three components: connecting tenants to resources, connecting tenants with attorneys, and mediation programs. Three models were presented.

<b>City of Asheville/Buncombe County</b>	<b>Mecklenburg County</b>	<b>Durham</b>
Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) plus CDBG funds from the City	Partners with Courts, Crisis Assistance Ministry, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership	Partnership between Duke Civil Justice Clinic and Legal Aid of North Carolina, in cooperation with the Durham County Department of Social Services & Courts
PLS reviews eviction docket and calls for defendants	Information sheets sent with every summons and complaint re: how to present a defense, help w/referrals for financial assistance	Flyer is served to the tenant with each eviction summons with contact for DSS to participate in the program or to come to the clinic

Partners with local mediation provider for upcoming filings	<p>Courthouse clinic: Magistrate announces LANC's presence and gives tenants an opportunity to talk to us before calling their cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispute Settlement Forum offers tenants an opportunity to settle rent disputes with property owners to avoid an eviction (including applying for financial assistance through community resources)</li> <li>• The Dispute Resolution Hotline (September) pairs mediators and rental assistance for tenants at eviction appeal stage</li> </ul>	<p>DSS social workers refer applicants to Legal Aid when conducting emergency assistance screening; housing questionnaire filled out.</p> <p>Legal Aid helps identify legal defense and negotiate settlements with landlords and conducts weekly walk-in housing clinic at Durham courthouse.</p>
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Legal Aid of North Carolina also coordinates a statewide eviction diversion project for communities within the NC BoS CoC.

- Legal Aid trained 200 volunteer attorneys to advise tenants facing eviction and negotiate settlements with landlords.
- Legal Aid provides expert support/mentorship to those volunteers.
- If volunteer cannot resolve case, tenant will either receive advice or representation from a local Legal Aid office.
- Tenants call 1-866-219-5262.

### Upcoming Meetings and Reminders

The Steering Committee was directed to review the following meetings and reminders for September.

#### COVID-19 Local Leadership Response Sharing Call

*Alternating Wednesdays, September 2, 16, and 30 at 1:00 P.M.*

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

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

#### Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting

*Wednesday, September 16, 9:00 A.M.*

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

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

### **BoS HMIS User Meeting**

*Thursday, September 17, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.*

Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1445/>

### **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting**

*Monday, September 21, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.*

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

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

### **Deadline for 60-day Public Comment on proposed change to HUD's Equal Access Rule**

*September 22, 2020*

Comments can be submitted through the “Housing Saves Lives” portal:

<https://housingsaveslives.org/>

### **Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting**

*Thursday, September 24, 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.*

Presentation: [uberconference.com/brianncceh](https://uberconference.com/brianncceh)

Audio: 401-283-4752 Access Code: 13939

### **Racial Equity Dialogue Series: Racism and Homelessness in the Justice and Re-Entry Systems**

*Tuesday, September 29, 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.*

Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1449/>

### **CoC Competition Update**

*Awaiting information from HUD regarding plans for the FY20 CoC Competition.*

HUD released the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The GIW collects all projects eligible for renewal in that year’s competition and sets the CoC’s Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Staff reviewed the GIW and worked with renewal applicant agencies to ensure information was correct. Staff submitted the GIW Change Form to the HUD Field Office for final review on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff have no other information on the status of the competition. For agencies interested in applying for new CoC funding, please fill out an Intent to Apply form. Staff will follow-up with agencies once we have clarity on next steps.

- CoC Funding Priorities: <https://www.ncceh.org/files/10673/>
- CoC Intent to Apply form: <http://bit.ly/2TrvcKu>

### **The meeting adjourned.**

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.