NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee
Minutes

Feb 2, 2021

Regional Leads Present: Destri Leger, Kristen Martin, Arwen March, Teena Willis, Andrea Merriman, LaTonya Penny, Marie Watson, Emily Locklear, James Mercer, LaTasha McNair, Lakitra Claude, Tharesa Lee

At-Large Members Present: Ellen Blackman, Angela Harper King, Brooks Ann McKinney, Cassandra Rowe, Isaac Sturgill, Kelly Benton, Jefferey Rawlings, Pamela Atwood,

SC Members Absent: Tiffany Gladney, Eric Edwards, Lisa Phillips

Interested Parties Present: Joshua Edwards, Chipper Long, Melissa McKeown, Tonya Freeman, Derek Lancour, Carolyn Anderson, Bonnie Harper, Monica Frizzell, Peggy Owens, Toyia Burgess, Samantha Hall, Kimberly Hemphill, Peter Peedin, Emily Lowery, Manuel Hyman, Joel Rice, Teresa Robinson, Rebecca Snyder, Michele Welsh, Tameka Joyner, Teena Willis, Kielana Ham, Trishonda Roberson, Elle Peterson, Lori Watts, Mary Erwin, Caty Martin, Leone Lettsome, Ursulla Gauthier

NCCEH Staff Present: Brian Alexander, Debra A. Susie, Kevin McNamee, Andrea Carey, Ashley VonHatten, Adrianna Coffee

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 at the beginning of the meeting. Without changes or objection, the consent agenda was approved by common consent.

Public Policies Impacting the NC BoS CoC

Debra Susie started the meeting by introducing Issac Sturgill from Legal Aid of NC. He shared that the primary issue affecting clients of Legal Aid of NC right now is the lack of affordable housing and housing instability due to income loss during the pandemic. Most families are over $5000 in debt to their landlord and the amount of rental assistance currently available is not enough to meet to the need. The CDC moratorium has been extended, and while the moratorium is helpful, it is not robust enough. The biggest issue is that it is not automatic but

requires tenant action. Many families are not using the moratorium because they do not know how it works. Landlords are finding loopholes, and judges are interpreting it to mean only evictions due to non-payment, so landlords are filing eviction cases due to things other than non-payment. Some states have enacted an automatic moratorium, or enacting laws with stronger protections for no evictions except in the case of a health or safety risk.

Cassandra Rowe presented for the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence. They are advocating for legislative changes to G.S.50B-2 to increase court access for domestic violence protective order filings during emergency court closures. They are also pushing for a requirement that a judge or magistrate is available to hear requests for emergency ex-parte domestic violence protective orders when courthouses are unexpectedly closed for inclement weather, COVID-19 exposure, and other emergencies.

Debra Susie shared the plans of the North Carolina Rural Center. They are working to create a stronger rural economy in the context of a rapidly changing state. They aim to:
- Expand accessible, affordable high-speed broadband
- Stabilize and transform rural health
- Advance sustainable and affordable housing
- Revitalize water and wastewater infrastructure
- Invest in stronger entrepreneurship and small business development systems

Debra Susie shared the link to their 10 Strategies for Rural North Carolina's Future.

Kelly Ross Benton presented on behalf of NC Realtors Association. The NC Realtors Association is working to elevate housing as a fundamental need for all people and exploring ways to:
- Enforce Fair Housing laws, address the challenges of housing supply by advocating for the removal of exclusionary zoning and other regulatory barriers to maintain housing affordability and availability.
- Ensure development fees and approval processes are reasonable. We will address municipal actions regulating property rental and management, including but not limited to, short-term rental regulation.
- Address insurance cost increases that affect homeowners and tenants in North Carolina. Drastic increases have been proposed in recent years and successfully blocked thus far. However, there continues to be a push for significant hikes in cost that could be detrimental to homeowners and tenants.
- Ensure that infrastructure has been and continues to be a priority for NCR members. Our communities need sound infrastructure to survive. Growing communities need expanding infrastructure to thrive. Unfortunately, many communities lack necessary infrastructure, especially in rural North Carolina. Needs include broadband connectivity, transportation, and access to water and sewer. Broadband is a main focus for our legislative team.

Pam Atwood presented on behalf of the NC Housing Coalition. They are working to keep families in their homes to promote thriving communities.

The NC Housing Coalition is following a policy framework that:
- Promotes equitable access to housing and opportunity that reckons with our long history of racist housing policies and practices
- Ensures that local policies facilitate an adequate supply of quality housing accessible across a community's income spectrum
- Advocates for reliable, dedicated, and coordinated public resources that meet the scale of the housing need

Debra Susie shared updates on the Biden Rescue and Recovery Plans. The Rescue Plan will begin mid-March and is currently being worked on by congressional committees.
- NC Congressman David Price is chair of Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
- NC Senator Thom Tillis on Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is advocating for plans to include:
- $6.1 billion for homelessness
- $30 billion for additional emergency rental assistance
- $28 billion for 500,000 vouchers
- $44 billion for homelessness acquisition funds

The Recovery Plan is expected to be proposed in late February, and there is conversation about universal housing vouchers being included in that proposal. The Appropriations Committee current stance is to increase homeless assistance funding by $300 million.

CoC Competition Updates
Brian Alexander shared updates on the CoC competition. HUD released FY20 CoC Program awards on January 29th. All eligible renewal projects were automatically renewed at FY19 levels with requisite fair market rate bumps.
- There were 29 renewals totaling $9,070,900.
- The CoC planning grant received $387,230.
- The HUD Field Office will begin contracting with agencies soon once HUD Headquarters releases information to the HUD Field Office.
- List of awarded projects can be found at:
  https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/fy20-funding-report?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=5b2d3e7ad9-CoC-Non-Compet-Awards-1.29.21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-5b2d3e7ad9-19461545

- Bonus funding may be available in a separate NOFA.

The initial phases of the FY21 CoC competition have started:
- HUD released the FY21 CoC program registration in esnaps and is due March 4, 2021.
- The Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) usually follows 6 weeks after the registration deadline.
- The current NOFA timeline is unknown.

NCCEH staff have begun to prepare for the FY21 CoC Program Competition.
The intent to apply form is mandatory for all agencies applying for a new CoC project in FY21.
- The form can be found on NCCEH's website at: https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/
- The form asks for preliminary information about proposed project(s).
- NCCEH staff will review and follow-up with the agency to discuss.
  - Any agency that submitted an Intent to Apply form for the FY20 competition does not need to submit another.
  - Staff will schedule follow-up calls later in the year once we have more details.
- The form is non-binding and processed on a rolling basis.
- The deadline will be 2 weeks after the NOFA is released.

The CoC needs agencies to apply for funds that can run effective programs. Regional Committee leadership and at-large members can help recruit agencies to apply. The CoC needs agencies with capacity to operate CoC programs, knowledge of best practices, and willingness to serve the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. When talking or sharing information with potential applicants, it is important that they understand what is eligible for funding.

NC BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Evaluation
In 2020, the Coordinated Entry Council put together survey's for the CE evaluation, but due to the pandemic, accepted a waiver from HUD to cancel the process. Ashley VonHatten reviewed changes that were made between 2020 and 2021. The Coordinated Entry Council met in January and discussed tentative dates and will make final decisions on surveys and dates during the February 15th meeting., Staff will share the final process and timeline with everyone during the next meeting. Tentative dates are:
- Rapid Rehousing evaluations – collection ongoing
- Permanent Housing evaluations from March 1 – April 30, 2021
- Shelter and Street Outreach evaluations from April 17 – April 30, 2021

The materials for the NC BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Evaluation are linked here:
- Instructions for Emergency Shelters and Street Outreach Programs
  - Unsheltered Consumer Survey

- - Emergency Shelter Consumer Survey
  - Instructions for Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs.
    - Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing Consumer Survey
  - Service Provider Agency Survey.

2021 Point-in-Time/Housing Inventory Count

Andrea Carey shared that the Point-in-Time count, which is a snapshot of homelessness on a given night, was Jan 27th. The NC BoS CoC will not submit an unsheltered Point-in-Time count this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic to prioritize safety first for clients, staff and volunteers. To prepare for the 2022 unsheltered Point-in-Time count, agencies will utilize the coordinated entry system to identify people living unsheltered. Later this year, we will meet to plan year-round access to coordinated entry for people living unsheltered. For the sheltered clients in the NC Balance of State CoC, non-HMIS projects will submit data in the Counting Us App between January 27th and February 3rd. For HMIS projects, reports will be submitted between March 1st and March 26th. For the Housing Inventory Count, NCCEH staff will be conducting interviews with non-HMIS participating projects from February 3rd-February 26th. NC BoS CoC is on schedule to submit PIT/HIC well ahead of the April 30th submission deadline.

Emergency Shelter Learning Collaborative

Kevin McNamee presented on the Emergency Shelter Learning Collaborative. Across the NC Balance of State CoC there is a commitment to:
- Implement a system-wide approach to ending homelessness
- Align emergency shelters' goals with state and local goals to end homelessness
- Provide low-barrier, safe, and housing-focused shelter to everyone
- Increase the number of people that exit from shelter to permanent housing
- Decrease the length of time people experience homelessness

There are five key elements of an effective Emergency Shelter:
- Housing First Approach
- Safe and Appropriate Diversion
- Immediate and Low-Barrier Access
- Housing-Focused Rapid Exit Services
- Using Data to Measure Performance

The North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH) contracted with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) to facilitate an Emergency Shelter Learning Collaborative in 2020. The Emergency Shelter Learning Collaborative is a model for transformational learning that has been implemented in different communities across the country. The ESLC was a partnership between NCCEH, NC BoS CoC, Region 05 shelters, and NAEH and has demonstrated success in driving change in:

- Shelter philosophy - by adopting Housing First
- Shelter policies - by reducing barriers to shelters
- Outcomes - by reducing waitlists for shelter and increasing timely exits to permanent housing

The Emergency Shelter Learning Collaborative is a peer-learning model. Agencies in Region 5 worked together to set goals, troubleshoot, hold each other accountable and review their progress. These collaborative efforts strengthened their relationships in the region. The contract with NAEH has ended, but NCCEH staff are planning to begin providing a new cohort-based model of Emergency Shelter technical assistance in 2021. This model will pair 2 or 3 shelters in a similar region together. NCCEH staff will provide intensive training and support in addition to facilitating peer-sharing sessions and collaborations between shelters. NCCEH will use an aggressive timeline to push Emergency Shelters forward and ramp up the urgency to get people permanently housed. The technical assistance will focus on outcomes for participating shelters, with a goal to:

- Increase timely exits to permanent housing
- Decrease shelter waitlists
- Improve collaboration with community partners
- Improve ability to access funding

NCCEH staff are inviting feedback at this time, and have an interest form for Emergency Shelters that may be interested: https://forms.gle/3mVH24FYZuT4GBVi8

Upcoming Meetings and Reminders
- **COVID-19 Local Leadership Response Sharing Call**, Every other Wednesday. February meetings: February 3rd and 17th at 1 P.M.
  - Presentation: https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness
  - Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733
- **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting**, Monday, February 15, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.
  - Presentation: https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness
  - Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733
- **Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting**, Wednesday, February 17, 9:00 – 10:00 A.M.
  - Presentation: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621
  - Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621
- **BoS HMIS User Meeting**, Thursday, February 18, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.
  - Register here: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1464/
- **Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting**, Thursday, February 25, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
  - Presentation: https://www.uberconference.com/brianncceh
  - Audio: (401) 283-4752 Pin: 13939

Next Steering Committee Meeting is Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.