



# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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## NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Minutes

April 6, 2021

**Regional Leads Present:** Destri Leger, Kristen Martin, Tonya Freeman, Teena Willis, Andrea Merriman, LaTonya Penny, Marie Watson, Denise Riggins, LaTasha McNair, Lakitra Claude, Peter Peedin, Tharesa Lee

**At-Large Members Present:** Ellen Blackman, Jason Gray, Angela Harper King, Brooks Ann McKinney, Jefferey Rawlings, Cassandra Rowe

**SC Members Absent:** James Mercer, Pamela Atwood, Kelly Ross Benton, Emily Locklear, Isaac Sturgill, Eric Edwards, Lisa Phillips

**Interested Parties Present:** Kristen Armstrong, Jim Cox, Elle Evans Peterson, Natasha Elliott, Brian Fike, Monica Frizzell, Kimberly Hemphill, Tammy Gray, Samantha Hall, Manuel Hyman, Derek Lancour, Steven Long, Emily Lowery, Lenize Patton, Joel Rice, Teresa Robinson, Tujuanda Sanders, Leonard Tillery, Barbara Vinson, Lori Watts, Leila McMichael

**NCCEH Staff Present:** Brian Alexander, Kevin McNamee, Debra A. Susie, Ashley VonHatten

### 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.

### FY21 CoC Competition

HUD announced the initial steps of the FY21 CoC competition:

- Registration – staff have registered on behalf of the CoC – due March 4, 2021
- GIW – usually follows 6 weeks after the registration deadline
- NOFA – possibly early summer

NCCEH staff have begun to slowly prepare for this year's competition:

- Renewal Applicant slide deck with helpful hints: <https://www.ncceh.org/files/10628/>
- New CoC Applicant webinar: [bit.ly/2T5vd7R](https://bit.ly/2T5vd7R)

- Intent to Apply form still open

The Intent to Apply form is mandatory for all agencies applying for new CoC funds and posted to the NCCEH website at: <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/>

- Any agency wanting to apply for a new CoC project in the FY21 competition is required to submit a 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.
  - Rolling-basis, non-binding
  - Deadline: 2 weeks after NOFA release

Regional Committee leadership and at-large members can help recruit agencies to apply and direct them to the Intent to Apply form or to [bos@ncceh.org](mailto:bos@ncceh.org) with any questions.

The CoC needs agencies with:

- Capacity to operate CoC programs
- Best practice knowledge
- Willingness to serve the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness

The Funding and Performance Subcommittee will recommend new CoC Funding Priorities for the Steering Committee to consider at its next meeting. To review last year's CoC Funding Priorities:

<https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/files/b414928f/2020-coc-funding-priorities-final.pdf>

HUD will no longer use the HUD Exchange to inform CoC's about CoC program updates. Instead, HUD will use two listservs to which stakeholders must subscribe:

- SNAPS Competitions listserv:  
[www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=SNAPS%20Competitions&list=SNAPS-COMPETITIONS-L](http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=SNAPS%20Competitions&list=SNAPS-COMPETITIONS-L)
- SNAPS Program Information listserv:  
[www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=SNAPS%20Program%20Information&list=SNA PS-PROGRAM-INFORMATION-L](http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=SNAPS%20Program%20Information&list=SNA PS-PROGRAM-INFORMATION-L)

### **Vaccine Roll Out Across the NC BoS CoC**

Erika Ferguson, Director of the Office of Healthy Opportunities at NC DHHS, reviewed steps that regional homeless shelter and service agencies can take to help roll out vaccines in their communities.

- Step 1: Meet locally to determine roles and responsibilities of partners.
- Step 2: Contact a local vaccine administrator (e.g., health department, hospital, FQHC, etc.) in your county or region.

- Step 3: Determine vaccine roll-out strategy that works best for your community or organization.
- Step 4: Work with vaccine administrator partner to Submit Vaccine Event Application.
- Step 5: Continue to work with vaccine partner to ensure all people experiencing homelessness have access to vaccinations

Eligible expenses from ESG and ESG-CV to support vaccine planning and distribution include:

	Emergency Shelter	Street Outreach
Renting spaces for vaccine events	Outpatient Health Services	Emergency Health Services
Hiring vaccine ambassadors to engage/educate peers about the vaccine	Case management	Engagement Case management
Transporting people to/from vaccine events	Transportation	Transportation
Mobile outreach vans and staff to support vaccine distribution	Not Applicable	Emergency Health Services
Staff training on vaccine and rollout strategies	Training	Training
PPE and supplies at vaccine events	Operations	Emergency Health Services

These resources were shared:

- Vaccine Operational Guidance for Homeless Service Provider Staff and People Experiencing Homelessness: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/2243/open>
- HUD: Vaccination in Congregate Settings: Event Types and Considerations Guidance (<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Vaccination-in-Congregate-Settings-Event-Types-and-Considerations.pdf>)
- COVID-19 Communications Toolkit: Please find flyers, social media posts, etc. that can be used for your events here: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-communications-toolkit>
- Form to request NC DHHS to tailor flyers for your organization, population, or upcoming vaccine events: <https://share.hsforms.com/100-ptGQAR4WZU64tHodQhw5bzii>
- Form to request free PPE and Critical Supplies: <https://nc.readyop.com/fs/4dbD/5156>. We ask that organizations submit no often than once per month keeping their storage capacity in mind.

All 13 regional leads on the Steering Committee were asked to report what vaccine distribution models were being deployed in their counties comprising the NC BoS CoC. Activity ranged from local health agency partnerships bringing the vaccine to a program site or bringing people to vaccination sites. There were some counties in which no activity was reported.

## FY18 SSO-Coordinated Entry Grant Report

NCCEH receives a CoC grant to support Coordinated Entry. The FY18 SSO-CE grant had operating dates of September 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020. Initial awards were made to the following agencies:

- Region 2: Thrive
- Region 3: Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry
- Region 5: Community Link
- Region 10: Hope Station
- Regions 11 and 13: Trillium
- Region 12: Pitt County Planning

NCCEH requested an extension from HUD for FY18 SSO-CE funds due to challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. The initial plan to contract with United Way of NC/NC 2-1-1 to provide front door access changed. To ensure NCCEH maximized spending, the agency provided additional subgrants to the following new agencies on July 1, 2020:

- Region 1: HERE in Jackson County
- Region 4: Diakonos
- Region 6: Family Abuse Services
- Region 7: Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action

Accomplishments in FY2018: increases in CE access by 58%; CE screening or assessment by 54%; and CE referrals to Rapid Rehousing by 118%. There were challenges with the Coronavirus federal funding, starting with the short turnaround of a 2020 grant-end date, especially for newly funded agencies. There were challenges, too, with SSO-CE staff shifting focus to CRF and ESG-CV work and United Way of NC/NC 2-1-1 as the access point through Back@Home. NCCEH and subrecipients spent approximately 76% of FY18 SSO-CE grant. Spending for FY19 SSO-CE grant is set to increase in second year for all.

For FY2019, NCCEH provided SSO-CE subgrants to the same 10 agencies across 11 regions. SSO-CE funded-agencies set goals for FY19 to increase CE participation for non-HUD-funded agencies and increase street outreach activities. There are plans to also increase CE access for people living unsheltered while decreasing data gaps between front door providers and the CE project. NCCEH staff has started extra support for regions without SSO-CE grants.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Reminders**

The Steering Committee was directed to review the following meetings and reminders for April 2021.

- **COVID-19 Local Leadership Response Sharing Call**, *Every other Wednesday, April meetings: April 14 and 28, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.*  
Presentation: <https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness>  
Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733

- **BoS HMIS User Meeting, Thursday, April 15, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.**  
Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1464/>
- **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting, Monday, April 19, 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, April 21, 9:00 – 10:00 A.M.**  
Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>  
Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621
- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Training, Wednesday, April 21, 11:00 A.M**  
Presentation: <https://www.gotomeet.me/NCCoalitiontoEndHomelessness>  
Audio: (872) 240-3212 Access Code: 152-499-645
- **Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting, Thursday, April 22, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**  
Presentation: [uberconference.com/briannnceh](https://uberconference.com/briannnceh)  
Audio: (401) 283-4752 Pin: 13939
- **Anti-Discrimination Policy Webinar, Wednesday, April 28, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**  
Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>  
Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621

Next Steering Committee Meeting is Tuesday, May 4, 10:30 AM – 12:00 P.M.