



WNC
HOMELESS
COALITION

Regular Meetings -2nd Thursday of the month
September November 12, 2020 10:00 am -11:00 am
Referral and Monitoring Meeting/RRH Selection Committee 11:00-12:00 pm
<http://bit.ly/WNCHC>

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Becca Swanger	Meridian Behavioral Health
Rhonda Blanton	Macon Senior Resource Center
Reba West	REACH of Haywood County
Stephanie Almeida	Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction
Jennifer Holling	Cherokee Indian Hospital
Nathan Cartright	Meridian Behavioral Services
Derek Lancour	Vaya Behavioral Health
Brenda Millet	HERE in Jackson County
Candice Manning	HERE in Jackson County
Jill Carter	Veteran Services of the Carolinas
Keri Guidry	Haywood Pathways Center
Jennifer Abbey	Meridian Behavioral Health
Nichole Visnesky	Appalachian Community Service
Hannah Minick	Town of Waynesville Homeless Task Force
Cris Weatherford	Graham County Department of Social Services
Robert Cochran	HERE in Jackson County
Sarah Martin	REACH of Clay County
Katie Strong	HERE in Jackson County
Monica Frizzell	NC Department of Health & Human Services
Pat Meeks	Hurlburt Johnson Friendship House
Amy Murphy Nugen	Town of Waynesville Homeless Task Force
Destri Leger	HERE in Jackson County
Veronica Murphy	REACH of Macon County

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

- Review & Approval of October Minutes
 - Sarah Martin's name was missing from the Attendance and needs to be added.
 - Keri motions to approve with the correction of adding Sarah Martin's name to the Attendance; Rhonda seconds; no opposition. Motion carries.
- Balance of State Steering Committee Update
 - No Steering Committee meeting this month. Instead Steering Committee members are attending a two part racial equity training hosted by C4 to address racial equity across the Continuum of Care.

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- Coordinated Entry Update
 - The By-Name List has been converted from Excel into HMIS thanks to Denise's efforts. The coalition will use the HMIS list for Referral and Monitoring Meeting (RAMM)s moving forward.
- Rapid Rehousing Update
 - HERE has been approved for \$55,635 in Rapid Rehousing Financial Assistance. This funding will be available January 2021 and HERE will begin accepted applicants to fill available program slots at that time.
- Back@Home Update
 - Back@Home launch date has been pushed back due to (1) high demand on the 211 system as a result of HOPE, and (2) guidance from North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness for Back@Home agencies to halt working on surge population referrals while they work on technical issues and streamlining of the referral process.
 - HERE has hired two Back@Home Housing Case Managers, Brenda Millett for the region's far western counties (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain) and Katie Strong for the region's eastern counties (Macon, Jackson, Haywood, Madison). They are in the training process and if they finish before Back@Home's new launch date, they will be working on resource and landlord mapping for their respective counties.
- Permanent Supportive Housing Update
 - Derek reported that there are no current PSH slots available. The program currently has 49 members enrolled, 39 housed and ten looking for housing. This includes 98 total individuals with 67 adults. Four new PSH members have been enrolled since the last meeting. One is working on orientation while one is working to finish and submit their referral.
 - The program helped with 3 landlord resolutions over the last month.
 - Spending for May - September totalled approximately \$137k.
- Agency Report Outs
 - HERE has hired a new Emergency Shelter Case Manager, Candice Manning. The cold weather shelter has opened for the season. In addition to the 30 Shelter Program, HERE also provides "Code Purple" shelter on nights forecasted as below 32 degrees by the national weather forecast. Those seeking shelter can call the office at (828) 477-4946 for intake. After-hours callers will be directed to call dispatch to be connected with a homeless coordinator.
 - REACH of Clay County is building men's shelter quarters with a separate entrance.
 - Haywood Pathways Center is still doing intakes for shelter with normal requirements (drug screen, residency, criminal background check) still applying. The exception to Haywood residency policy is if working in Haywood for 30+

days. Space is currently available in both the family and adult side. Pathways will be doing “Cold Grace” on nights it is 32 degrees or below. Those seeking shelter should call (828) 989-5036 to be screened over the phone for intake. If eligible for Cold Grace on campus, Pathways can house five adults in the dining hall. If the applicant is not eligible for cold grace on campus due to criminal background or being on the banned list, Pathways will refer to them Helping Hands of Haywood or North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition for shelter. If the household has children under 18, they are screened over the phone and referred to a church willing to help.

- Hurlburt Johnson Friendship House is currently sheltering nine women, nine men, and three kids for a total of 21 in the house. They do provide Code Purple shelter when the temperature drops to 32 or below. HJFH can house ten people for Code Purple per night. They are accepting new residents but trying to keep the numbers low so they can continue maintaining social distancing protocols.
- Macon Senior Resource Center’s building closed to the public but the office is still open. Those seeking services can call (828) 349-0211 for assistance. They serve folks from out of county as well.
- Veterans Services of Carolinas is taking referrals for housing, emergency housing, & employment services and has funding available in various programs. Applicants can contact Jill at (828) 585-7965 or call NCServes at (855) WNC-VETS for services.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- Leadership Elections
 - Members discussed for leadership roles at the October meeting include:
 - Destri Leger, Regional & Coordinated Entry Lead
 - Keri Guidry, Regional Alternate Lead
 - Sarah Martin, Point In Time Count Lead
 - Denise Bean, HMIS Lead
 - After opening the floor for discussion, Stephanie motioned to accept the leadership roles as presented above, Rhonda seconds, no opposition. Motion carries.
- Feedback on ESG Application
 - Destri solicited feedback on the annual ESG application process. Both Sarah and Reba expressed that they thought the new protocol was much easier for the applicant. The group also determined that the procedure of having the applicant present the contents of their application to the group to determine priority level serves as useful as having a full subcommittee to review same.
- Point In Time Count 2021
 - HUD is currently updating its protocols for conducting a PIT count during COVID-19. North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness is waiting to receive that guidance before they start providing training, although a tentative training has

been set for December 2.

- Sarah & Destri will work to schedule a preliminary meeting with county PIT leads to start coordinating efforts.

NEXT RAMM MEETING - *Cancelled in observance of Thanksgiving holiday*

NEXT COALITION MEETING -December at 10 AM

<https://meet.google.com/aeb-dvvg-mqu>

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