

Notes for Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition online/Zoom meeting  
Region 2 in the N.C. Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) for Homeless  
August 6, 2020, 9:30 AM Kristen Martin hosting

**Persons attending:** Kristen Martin and Emily Lowery (Regional co-leads), Alyce Knafllich (Aura Homes), Stephanie Gilliam and Carrington Cosby (Thrive), Chris Berg, Bri Griffin, Trisha Eklund (BRCHS), Traci Corn (DSS), Brenda Ploss (NC Works), Matthew Gruebmeier (Henderson Public Schools), Michael Absher (Only Hope WNC), Jennifer Maynor, Jessica Rice (VA), Amanda Stancil, Phillip Young

**Minutes** of July 2 meeting: Kristen asked for any corrections or comments on those minutes of the Coalition, as distributed. None were offered, so the distributed version was adopted by common consent.

**Balance of State (BoS) Steering Committee - Call updates:**

July 7 call: NCCEH has now a COVID page - <https://www.ncceh.org/covid-19/> and their planning team is focused on related work.

COVID-19 updates cover two programs, noted as ESG-CV and [Back@Home](#). ESG-CV is a Conditional Award of Crisis Response funds. Our regional applicants are Thrive and Blue Ridge Health, the latter for outreach. The applications are on a tight schedule. Thrive also is applying for [Back@Home](#) funding. For the NC BoS, 60% of funding needs to go to Housing stabilization, and BoS regions voted to support this structure. Our Coordinated Entry group developed an update applying to the COVID emergency. The Steering Committee authorizes these to become effective on adoption but are also to be reported to NCCEH.

July 13 call: The committee reviewed and approved some ESG-CV budgeting recommendations that allowed the BoS applications to meet NC DHHS requirements. Processing was outlined, including that applicant agencies submit their Crisis Response and Housing Stabilization projects and support directly to DHHS via a Smartsheet.

August 4 call: Conditional awards for [Back@Home](#) funding are in process. Reimbursements will become available when contract documents are signed. These contracts will cover July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2022 (possibly July 31? Actual contracts are not out yet). Requests will be allowed to cover expenses since March.

A 'regular' ESG program allocation, for activities in calendar 2021, will be coming out next. Existing ESG projects should easily qualify for renewal. Any new applications are expected to be regionally reviewed (as in past years), by a scorecard used to make recommendations. These will then go to NCCEH staff for feedback. Our funding lead, Suzanne Porter of United Way-Rutherford County, will see that a combined budget is readied. Overall, this should be a simpler process. Agency Smartsheet submissions will again be used, based on guidance letters.

Alyce said she welcomed the cuts in non-useful oversight.

A second round of [Back@Home](#) will be opened for funding applicants at or near the start of 2021.

The Steering committee approved NCCEH to share results of its monitoring and corrective actions it mandates and oversees. This work will be useful for future guidance

Rapid Re-housing is named as a useful interim step for households even if their need indicators point to Permanent Supportive Housing as the best strategy.

2-1-1 will act as screener for possible diversion (rather than full housing support) in the entry process during the emergency. Several qualifiers to access housing were presented: Consider risks or barriers, such as domestic violence, literally homeless status, household size 5 or more, felony record,

unaccompanied youth, kids under 6, forced to leave HUD units in past 6 months, disabling conditions, having had no lease in own name in the past 3 years.

Stephanie asked if documentation is required for some items. Alyce said our priority list should go to 2-1-1 to help their categorizing for the new priorities. Our present CE process and committee will remain until 2-1-1 goes live, with an amendment to look at 'lethality' risk. Two data registers will be employed: HMIS and NC CARES 360.

**Racial Equity:** Stephanie said the BoS group is setting up a Dialog series (monthly on last Tuesdays) starting August 25 till October. A focus is how systemic racism produces or affects homelessness. They also hope to set up training series. A recommended source is C4, a contractor. Partners are sought to implement a 3-session training with target October 27 start. Matt Gruebmeier asks to get involved. Alyce pointed out the related issue for trans-gender persons, which may be denied shelter access. The initial discussion is set to cover African Americans.

**Point-In-Time update:** Emily offered some initial January 2020 data: 3185 homeless in BoS, 915 being households with children, 2253 – adults only, 17 – child only. 61% were counted in shelters. Sources: -(sheltered) 50% HMIS, 27% phone survey, 23% PIT App.

-(unsheltered) 100% PIT App.

Region 2: 299 homeless, of which 43 chronic, and 2 veterans.

Henderson: Total hmls, 150: 57 in emergency shelter, 3 in transitional, 90 unsheltered.

In families 36; 1 (aged 18-24), 12 (aged 25 or over)

With no children, 109; 9 (aged 18-24), 104 (aged 25 or over)

Rutherford: Total hmls: 43: 23 sheltered, 20 unsheltered.

In families 6

Transylvania: Total hmls: 53; 38 sheltered, 18 unsheltered

In families with children, 23. Adults: 33

Polk: Total hmls: 11; 10 sheltered, 1 unsheltered

In families with children, 9

**Coordinated Entry** note: In the interval till 2-1-1 process goes Live, the normal intake contacts are Thrive, or Tricia at Blue Ridge Community Health Services, or Emily at The Haven.

**Veterans** (See also Brenda's entries in Chat):

Alyce said Aura Homes is trying to assist a trans woman vet, but housing proves difficult to access. ABCCM and HUD-VASH are questions. She is concerned that trans persons face systemic discrimination, maybe via HUD discriminatory policy being transferred.

Jessica is working on one new case. Her co-worker Maggie can take two from the 'by-name' list. Kristen will work with her.

ABCCM resources – please email [vsc@abccm.org](mailto:vsc@abccm.org) . (Details can be encrypted)

Amanda Stancil reports VA right now is 'stuck' as vouchers are over-promised. They do plan to set up a 'virtual stand-down'. She is asking for community resources; please reach out if you have info. One need is for spots to host gear distributions: Sleeping bags, masks, sanitation aids, jackets.

**Youth:** Schoolhouse connection resumes in September.

Matt Gruebmeier spoke about meeting these challenges in bringing school resources to homeless persons. To build relationships, offer rigor, with love and patience. The primary goal is to find these students. Monday's board meeting set out important work. Rick Fender is locating more hotspots. Morris Broadband is to enable virtual learning at \$30-35.

Michael Absher said they are hunting school supplies: Earbuds, paper, markers, a wifi map – the Educational Foundation plans to create a chart.

Michael and Matt spoke of getting Chromebook that can access both non-school and school hotspots. They want to coordinate on homeless-housing and assisting those looking for employment.

Alyce spoke of the two new RFA's as opportunities, to extend to the African American population, mostly in areas of higher need – including Transylvania; she sees it as less severe in 'this area' (Asheville-Hendersonville?)

The Coordinated Entry meeting will be retimed, as its usual date conflicts with mandatory trainings.

The next regional meeting will be September 3, by Zoom.

The session was closed. The Chat log follows this break.

Chris Berg, note-taker, Southern Mountains (Region 2) coalition

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From Jessica Rice to Everyone: 09:32 AM

ABCCM VSC

No worries:)

From Kristen Martin to Everyone: 09:35 AM

: <https://www.ncceh.org/covid-19/>

From mwgruebmeyer to Everyone: 09:52 AM

what is "ami"?

From Stephanie Gilliam to Everyone: 09:52 AM

area median income

From mwgruebmeyer to Everyone: 09:57 AM

thank you, @Stephanie!

From Stephanie Gilliam to Everyone: 09:58 AM

You're welcome!

From bgriffin to Everyone: 09:58 AM

i'm sorry, I have to leave for another meeting

From Jessica Rice to Everyone: 09:58 AM

NCDHHS Funded

From Brenda.Ploss to Everyone: 09:59 AM

Community Partners Help Job-Seekers

NCWorks continues to reach people who might be having employment disruptions because of COVID-19 - sharing information about the education, training & career opportunities. NCWorks.gov

Thank you, @Stephanie!

From Brenda.Ploss to Everyone: 10:00 AM

Community Partners Help Job-Seekers

NCWorks continues to reach people who might be having employment disruptions because of COVID-19 - sharing information about the education, training & career opportunities. NCWorks.gov

Leaving for another meeting. I will send NCWorks info to SMHC leads for distribution.

From Kristen Martin to Everyone: 10:01 AM

<https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/files/1fbb8f34/bos-sc-slides-4-august-2020-final-2-.pdf>

From mwgruebmeier to Everyone: 10:01 AM

I would like to invite my social workers to participate in the RE subcommittee, if appropriate!

From Kristen Martin to Everyone: 10:01 AM

slide 17 has barriers listed

From mwgruebmeier to Everyone: 10:10 AM

is 90 unsheltered a bigger number than is typical?

From Emily Lowery to Everyone: 10:14 AM

Here is the link to the PIT data. <https://www.ncceh.org/datacenter/pitdata/>

From mwgruebmeier to Everyone: 10:17 AM

thank you, @Emily. Looks like the numbers are prob all up, incl unsh

From Jessica Rice to Everyone: 10:20 AM

ABCCM Veterans Services of the Carolinas referrals: [vsc@abccm.org](mailto:vsc@abccm.org)

Homeless Veterans or Veterans facing eviction