

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
September 3, 2020, 9:30 AM Kristen Martin hosting

Persons attending: Kristen Martin and Emily Lowery (Regional co-leads), Alyce Knafllich (Aura Homes), Renee Urban (Vaya Health), Zakit Levine, Stephanie Gilliam, Nickie Kilgore and Carrington Cosby (Thrive), Robert Caldwell (DCDEE), Micky Robinson (Isaac Homes), Beth Branagan and Shelly Miller (Transylvania Schools), Chris Berg, Trisha Eklund and Amber Henson (BRCHS), Brenda Ploss (NC Works), Matthew Gruebmeier (Henderson Public Schools), Michael Absher (Only Hope WNC), Lauren Wilkie (Safelight), Trina Rushing (Henderson Library), Jennifer Drum (veterans work/Polk-Rutherford), Vicki Huntley (WCCA). See also the Chat for further ID details.

Minutes of August 6 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.

Back@Home- Kristen said funding is directed to Rapid Rehousing at Thrive, and Outreach at BRCHS: Thrive will start intakes next week, using coordinated entry processes to determine eligibility. They are getting supporting information and guidance daily on this new program for rapid housing assistance.

Trisha said Blue Ridge Health will cover our four counties for outreach, based on migrant assistance practices. Trisha and R.N. Danita Simpson will support ‘street medicine’ with doctors Henson and Christian. Aims are to connect unserved people to meet critical health needs, find emergency shelter, do homeless-need assessment – working with coordinated-entry access points, test for COVID-19, and identify and meet needs for isolation/quarantine spots. They will support housing programs with mental health services. All this is just getting started.

Cat... with Salvation Army has also started outreach (partly based on PIT count work. They offer food, hygiene, PPE and blankets.

Racial Equity initiative: Stephanie works with BoS group. They have arranged for consultant C4 to offer training across BoS areas [see Chat]. These are 90 minute sessions on Nov. 10 and 17. The group met August 25 to look at racial equity impacts for homeless, especially the prison pipeline and justice system effect. They next meet Sept. 15 at noon. A topic will be racism and voting. Stephanie requests emails about suggested presenters. Three tasks are in progress: 1. ID and sourcing products for Black cosmetics and hygiene. 2. List Black therapists and counselors; make the list available. 3. Consider SRO (school resource officers) as a white supremacy factor in schools. These should involve McKinney-Vento programs and work. BoS still needs to confirm the regular meetings for the initiative. Stephanie expects there will be a regional element with monthly or bimonthly checkups.

Balance of State (BoS) Steering Committee - Call materials:

September 1 call: BoS minutes are not done, so this is patchy.

Emily said NCCEH went over the ESG process, whereby applicants ‘recertify’ with NCCEH to apply (and get BoS input), then submit apps to DHHS by Oct. 16. Kristen said NCCEH will make recommendations to Regions, which will then vote, so expect a Zoom special meeting. Kristen said that (as we are not forming a funding committee to process this) a different facilitator will be needed for that business to allow transparency and avoid conflicts of interest.

BoS discussed the Eviction Moratorium (for the remainder of 2020), a CDC initiative and the first such public-health action. Pisgah Legal is advocating for payment assistance and deferrals of evictions.

Kristen is sending out an Equality NC Foundation slideshow forwarded by NCCEH and discussed by BoS, about the proposed HUD 'Equal Access Rule'. Kristen points to slide 3, 'Older adults are vulnerable to discrimination in housing' regarding gender identity. The rule process allows comments on this policy [by Sept. 22] before a final adoption.

Local agencies are involved in eviction prevention, with some funded support: IAM (Interfaith Assistance Ministries, Hendersonville), Pisgah Legal, Rutherford United Way, Thrive, Sharing House. There are expectations that January will see more assistance under a CARES ACT.

CYHAC (Child-Youth workgroup): Beth said the group will meet Sept. 18 at 10 AM by Zoom; Page Lemel of Get Set Transylvania will speak. The group will report as a round table on events and resources. The group regrets that Schoolhouse Connections – and Grace Whitney – have dropped out of CYHAC. Anyone who wants to participate, please put your name in Chat-Beth will follow up.

Coordinated Entry (CE): As providers expect a [Back@Home](#) funded surge of activity, our CE committee has identified a target population out of the by-name list. Factors will include disabling conditions, criminal history, chronic homeless status.

Lauren Wilkie, new director at Safelight, expects there will be a real time data effort to support recentering of CE at the 2-1-1 service. Alyce asked about how/if 2-1-1 is to access NC360 (a tool for medical professionals and providers) – the Medicaid transition is expected to foreground it in July 2021. It's said that agencies can: -Make or -Accept referrals or -Both. The electronic-referral capability should save steps. For more on CE please check with Kristen at Thrive.

Veterans: The VA is getting ready to set up \$3.7 million in vouchers; ABCCM and First Blue Ridge are preparing to support that.

Aura Homes is getting one or more trans-gender vets housed.

Jessica Rice is working with veteran facilities, two-year or 90-day transitional programs – looking to when Transformation Village will open. At present some FY 2019-20 SSVF grant funds are available, targeted for those at risk of losing housing, or emergency stays in a hotel; the \$1.3 million funds are for work in 26 counties through Dec. 31. Jessica said that the NC Cares 360 tools will allow vet-specific profiles to transition; email her if access to vet-side info is wanted.

Jennifer Drum spoke - unclear – see her comment in Chat at 10:17.

Updates: Trisha Ecklund said BRCHS works with Hendersonville Rescue Mission referrals to get rapid COVID testing for shelter-seekers. These are Tuesdays and Thursdays on Seventh Avenue, and also at BRCHS main site Monday-Friday.

Michael Absher said that the Innovative alternative high school supports a drive-through food distribution.

Matt Gruebmeier said the Henderson school board will look at changes September 8 given the improving COVID numbers in the county.

Trina Rushing said libraries are reopening for limited client numbers, including some computer time. Study rooms will be held for high school students 8 to noon, to access WiFi. Library WiFi support for parking areas etc, is extended, 7 AM – 9 PM Monday-Saturday. The open area is accessible from 1-7 Monday-Thursday, and 10-1 Saturday, for 30 minutes of patron use. Carrington asked if study rooms could be used for homeless-program intakes – check with the librarians.

Teena Willis spoke of Partners mental health agency and its website [see Chat 10:21].

Beth Branagan said Transylvania has 1000 students linked online. Kids with food needs are supported by weekly meals for Friday pickup at school cafeterias.

Michael Absher said the schools' summer feeding program is extended thru December; it includes providing for small children at home. Please use the free/reduced lunch form.

Carrington asked if there was more on the survey for hotspots. Emily and Kristen said there has been no update on promised hotspot equipment, deliveries are slow. Matt said that school principals see lots of hotspot need. Students need to get on the list for their school. Beth Branagan said they have a limited number of hotspots, made available by a Pisgah Health Foundation/Comporium grant, so they hope to soon make more....

The NC House today is discussing related legislation, for \$10 million funding. Morris Broadband wants to go forward with implementing this.

There is an Eviction Diversion program getting into place. Tenants would work with Pisgah Legal (or other?) attorneys, and could go into mediation. Some 200 volunteer attorneys statewide are involved. A tenants' hotline #: 866-219-5262.

Kristen reminded the group of the upcoming special funding-committee regional meeting and vote. The next regular meeting will be October 1, 9:30 by Zoom.

Chris Berg, regional secretary

[BoS Sept. 1 Steering Committee minutes are now posted:]

<https://www.nceeh.org/media/files/files/c37fd8ba/september-2020-steering-committee-minutes-final.pdf>

Chat begins on next page.

From **Alyce Knaflich** to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Aura Home Women Vets Alyce Knaflich

From **Renee Urban** to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Renee Urban- Vaya.

From **Zakit Levine**, Thrive to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Zakit Levine, Thrive

From rccaldwell1 to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Robert Caldwell - DCDEE

From **Micky Robinson** to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Micky Robinson, Isaac Homes Youth Shelter

From **Michael Absher** to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Michael Absher - Only Hope WNC

From 18282 to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Nickie Kilgore Thrive

From Carrington Cosby to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Carrington Cosby, Thrive

From Teena Willis to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Teena Willis - Partners

From Me to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Chris Berg secretary

From 18282 to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Nickie Kilgore Thrive

From Carrington Cosby to Everyone: 09:30 AM

Carrington Cosby, Thrive

From **Brenda.Ploss** to Everyone: 09:31 AM

Brenda.Ploss@NCCommerce.com, 919.710.3748 NCWorks Career Centers

From bbranaga to Everyone: 09:32 AM

Beth Branagan, Transylvania County Schools

From **Trisha Ecklund** to Everyone: 09:32 AM

Trisha Ecklund Blue Ridge Health

From Shelly to Everyone: 09:33 AM

Shelly Miller, Transylvania County Schools

From **Amber Henson** to Everyone: 09:33 AM

Amber Henson, Blue Ridge Health

From **Kristen Martin** to Everyone: 09:35 AM

Kristen Martin, Thrive

From **Alyce Knaflich** to Everyone: 09:37 AM

Very nice!

From Me to Everyone: 09:38 AM

Trisha, would you put in your phone #

From **Trisha Ecklund** to Everyone: 09:38 AM

828-696-8263 ext. 1482

From **Stephanie Gilliam** to Everyone: 09:45 AM

sgilliam@thrive4health.org

From **Carrington Cosby** to Everyone: 09:46 AM

Here is a link to C4's Racial Equity and Homelessness to register for the class. It is \$300 for the series <https://c4innovates.skilljar.com/racial-equity-homelessness-working-towards-systems-change-fall-2020?hsCtaTracking=4020167d-8e10-4514-ba6e-7cda35db8237%7C4cfb3aa6-ef3c-414e-ae76-a4ac815e997f>

From **Lauren Wilkie** to Everyone: 09:52 AM

I missed introductions, I am new this week with Safelight as the new Executive Director

From **Brenda.Ploss** to Everyone: 09:53 AM

Welcome Lauren.

From **Matthew Gruebmeyer** to Everyone: 09:53 AM

@Lauren: Welcome! I'd love to get you into one of our school counselor and social work meetings. I'll send you an invitation if you like!

From **Trisha Ecklund** to Everyone: 10:01 AM

Welcome Lauren!

From **Trina Rushing** to Everyone: 10:04 AM

@Beth: Please add the library's new Youth Coordinator, Caitlin Lindsey, to your email list CLindsey@hendersoncountync.gov

From bbranaga to Everyone: 10:06 AM

@Trina- Got it! Thanks!

From **Jessica Rice** to Everyone: 10:07 AM

If you are already an NCServes member the transition to NC360 is similar

From **Jessica Rice** to Everyone: 10:16 AM

ABCCM Veterans Services of the Carolinas abccm-vsc.org

From **Jennifer Drum** to Everyone: 10:17 AM

Sorry about that...homeschooling and bandwidth is horrible in my neighborhood. Just for those who aren't aware, I'm the Veterans Career Advisor for Rutherford and Polk counties, so if you have any veterans looking for work in those area's I'll be more than happy to assist them.

From **Teena Willis** to Everyone: 10:21 AM

www.partnersbhm.org

From **Michael Absher** to Everyone: 10:24 AM

<http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/rtl-student-learning/>

From **Matthew Gruebmeier** to Everyone: 10:26 AM

Matt Gruebmeier, Director of Student Services, HCPS

From **Emily Lowery** to Everyone: 10:26 AM

Emily Lowery - Emily@havenoftc.org

From **Matthew Gruebmeier** to Everyone: 10:27 AM

mwgruebmeier@hcpsnc.org

From **Trina Rushing** to Everyone: 10:28 AM

Trina Rushing - Public Library Director - trushing@hendersoncountync.gov

From **Vicki Huntley** to Everyone: 10:28 AM

Vicki Huntley - WCCA - vhuntley@wcca.org

From Danita S to Everyone: 10:28 AM

Danita Simpson- Blue Ridge Health 7th Ave. Clinical Staff dsimpson@brchs.com

From **Emily Lowery** to Everyone: 10:28 AM

Legal Aid NC www.legalaidnc.org 1 (800) 219-LANC (5262)

From **Matthew Gruebmeier** to Everyone: 10:29 AM

Thank you, Kristen!

From **Emily Lowery** to Everyone: 10:29 AM

Tenants call 1-866-219-5262