

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
December 1, 2022, 9:30 AM Thrive hosting

Persons on the call: Regional lead: Emily Lowery. Kristen Martin will rotate off for 2023.

Emily Lowery (The Haven of Transylvania County); **Kristen Martin, Nickie Kilgore, Tracey Gruver, Rachelle Dugan, Kristin Dunn, Kenny Sylver** and **Josh Shelton** (Thrive); **Danita Simpson, Makala Perez, Haley Simons, Kenett Melgar** and **Trisha Ecklund** (Blue Ridge Health); **Amber Story** (Partners housing specialist); **Ellis Pinder** (NC Works Veterans Services); **Phil Williams** (NC Works- Buncombe job center); **Amanda VanDuyne** (Polk County Preschool Family Services); **Alyce Knaflich** (Aura Homes); **Rachel Ingram** (Hendersonville Connections Center); **Suzanne Porter** (United Way of Rutherford County); **Michael Absher** (Only Hope WNC); **Debby Osteen** (Henderson County DSS); **Jessica Joyner** (Vaya Health); **Beth Branagan** (N.C. Homeless Education Program); **Morgan Abendroth** (Safelight); **Cpt. Sherrie Stokes** (The Salvation Army); **Chris Berg**. *See also the **appended Chat**.*

Emily Lowery facilitated. She went over our ground rules statement; please see our Agenda.

Minutes of our November 3 online meeting were approved by common consent.

Regional Leads for 2023 were selected: Emily Lowery- regional lead (on Balance of State steering committee); Kristin Dunn – alternate; Rachelle Dugan – coordinated entry lead; Chris Berg – webmaster (secretary); Alyce Knaflich – project review lead (on BoS project review committee).

The **BoS Steering Committee** November meeting reviewed and approved a CoC Charter update. The Mission, roles, data collection, and amending procedures were clarified. Point-in-time and Lived-experience sections were updated. Language about Grievances was discussed, that there was no guidance offered such as a code of conduct. This should address professional behavior, and cite potential consequences. [A draft Code is on ncceh.org website.] Amber Story felt this controversial, “please give feedback” to bos@ncceh.org, if possible before tomorrow.

Eight subcommittees exist. The (BoS) Coordinated Entry (CE) Council meets on third Mondays at 10 AM.; Funding and Performance; Scorecard (with one rep from each regional committee); Project Review (Alyce attends, it’s a ‘heavy lift’); Lived Experience meets third Fridays at noon, should have 10 members/currently six, they need Eastern NC representers – Laurel McNamee advises; Racial Equity (Kenett has attended, but it is open to others); Nominations (to include interested stakeholders such as DV or Veterans – Alyce and Kristen have attended).

Collaborations for homelessness prevention, job training, and state development boards were discussed.

PIT and HIC counts have an annual calendar: October-December, planning; Jan. 25-Feb. 1, count efforts; February-April, processing and submissions; April-May, wrap-up.

Coordinated Entry (CE): Rachelle Dugan reported 430 households are in the regional list/caseload. She is now working to fill one open housing slot. All available Permanent Supportive Housing places are full. There are current intakes for Rapid Re-Housing. Safelight continues making domestic-violence case placements.

Outreach: Trisha awaits a requested ESG fund reallocation – it would pay for supplies and hotel space in the three counties where slots are needed (Henderson has some). Gift cards are useful. They are working with sheriff’s staffers in Transylvania and Henderson to set protocols for clean-outs of (unauthorized) camps.

Racial Equity: Kenett attended a meeting to look at 2023 work plans. If anyone knows a BIPOC person that would be interested please encourage their involvement in homeless Racial Equity. Past dialog series have been rewarding and well attended. Concern about equitable Coordinated Entry suggests that homeless people should

be made aware of possible issues (such as in the VI-SPDAT, or changing the CE Council to be more representative, etc.)

Alyce asked that the Code of Conduct address Racial, and other, Equity issues: disabilities, gender; get thoughts from our CYHAC group, and hear from anyone with lived experience of homelessness. Kristen affirmed doing further explorations.

CYHAC, Children and Youth Homeless Advisory Council: Beth said meetings have a problem with no-shows. She'd like those in this meeting with interest to Chat to her: There's a January 20th scheduled session (to hear about Project CATCH of the Salvation Army in Wake). The Early Childhood Task Force will use a Doodle poll to set a January date – they plan six virtual meetings in 2023, on how to cut barriers so that child development or early education work reaches more unhoused or sheltered younger kids.

Lived Experience (LE): Alyce believes the LE Advisory Council will work on how their drafting a Bill of Rights would bear on the Code of Conduct discussion. The LEAC meets Dec. 9th at noon; they are recruiting more attenders, please see Laurel McNamee's email address in [Chat](#).

Veteran Updates:

The BoS is reconstituting and nominating a 'state-level' vets subcommittee. Glenda Collins has state responsibilities for SSVF programs, she is active in this reworking. She oversees the ABCCM programs.

Rachelle Dugan is setting up a regional vets subcommittee. They will meet Dec. 21st at 9 AM. She will be contacting vets on our by-name list. With list-combining issues to figure out, and some sexist experiences, there are alienated vets around...Alyce said the work can feel like a 'chaperone service'.

VA is (or soon will be) taking new project grant applications, either for 'grants' or grant-per-diem support. Talk to Alyce for more information.

Aura Homes aided a woman with an issue affecting CE to move to Charlotte.

Ellis Pinder introduced Phil Williams, a career advisor out of Asheville, who will be helping in Henderson County also.

Request/Brevard City Council: Emily saw the Council consider ordinance changes that criminalize homelessness. She had asked several of the Region's leads and most active members to be a resource for them, maybe coming to Council meetings. She said they look for advice about dealing with camping on public property, how to arrive at good policies and procedures, etc.

Winter shelters, Disasters: Jessica mentioned the Cove shelter (church hosted) at 40 Nicholson Creek Rd., Brevard, operating for winter 4 PM to 8 AM between Nov. 1 and March 31, providing (sleeping?) bags and an evening meal. [see [Chat](#)]

The Hendersonville Rescue Mission has 'code Grace' protocol, that if it's to be 42° or lower overnight, they are open to anyone able to stand, and with no record of violence.

Suzanne said sheltering is an ongoing issue in Rutherford. Out of Ashes does not seem to have clear rules per Kristin Dunn. The County holds its Health department 'responsible' (in DSS) but that is not clearly understood, there are no process details. Amber Story spoke of connections to Burke County, but also issues, such as pets, use of a bus route, no manual up-to-date... Tina Willis hopes to assemble a comprehensive shelter list. Suzanne gets calls, but has no steady resources or discretionary money to respond. Amber and Alyce both spoke of planning efforts, related to disaster or Red Cross work.

Emily and Kristin Dunn will approach NCCEH about disaster preparedness, as that could be part of a statewide plan.

ID: Kristin Dunn states Thrive will work with clients on getting IDs and social security cards. Certain landlords won't rent to folks without them. Kristin encourages partners to ask if clients need help getting documents.

The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, January 5, at 9:30 AM** on Zoom.

- With respect, Chris Berg

Chat messages:

09:30:42 From Tracey Gruver (she/her); Thrive to Everyone: Tracey Gruver, Thrive
09:30:49 From Beth Branagan to Everyone: Beth Branagan, NCHEP
09:31:03 From Michael Absher to Everyone: Michael Absher, Only Hope Wnc
09:31:22 From Suzanne Porter to Everyone: Suzanne Porter, UWRC
09:31:38 From Amber Story to Everyone: Amber Story- Partners Housing Specialist
09:31:41 From Danita Simpson, BRH to Everyone: Danita Simpson - BRH SO
09:31:59 From Kristin Dunn to Everyone: Kristin Dunn, Thrive
09:45:36 From Tracey Gruver (she/her); Thrive to Everyone:
laurel.mcnamee@ncceh.org
09:48:06 From Emily Lowery to Everyone: We forgot to mention to enter your name
and agency in the chat to include you in attendance. Thanks! Emily Lowery, The Haven
09:48:40 From Rachel Ingram | HCC to Everyone: Rachel Ingram, Hendersonville
Connections Center
09:48:43 From Josh Shelton (she/her) to Everyone: Josh Shelton, Thrive
09:48:53 From deborahosteen to Everyone: Debby Ostee-DSS
09:48:58 From Morgan Abendroth to Everyone: Morgan Abendroth, Safelight
09:49:39 From deborahosteen to Everyone: Debby Osteen DSS-For- Catherine Beaver
09:49:53 From Ellis Pinder to Everyone: Ellis Pinder, NCWorks (Veterans)
09:51:44 From Trisha Ecklund to Everyone: Trisha Ecklund Blue Ridge Health
Services
09:59:56 From Jessica Joyner, Housing Specialist- Vaya Health to Everyone:
Jessica Joyner, Vaya Health
10:01:01 From Beth Branagan to Everyone: Beth Branagan- bbranagan@serve.org
10:05:25 From Amber Story to Everyone: You are a rockstar! And we are glad to have
you in Region 2 =)
10:05:53 From Amber Story to Everyone: When I grow up I wanna be like Alyce =)
Goals!
10:06:12 From Amanda VanDuyne to Everyone: Amanda VanDuyne Polk County Preschool
Family Services
10:07:34 From Sherrie's iPhone to Everyone: Can you share your contact information
for veterans services?
10:12:22 From Alyce Knafllich to Everyone: Thank you for your comments
10:14:39 From Phil Williams to Everyone: Phillip Williams -
phillip.williams@commerce.nc.gov Phone 828-251-6200 ext 235, cell 919-710-3748
10:14:59 From Phil Williams to Everyone: Work out of Asheville NCWorks job
center on 48 Grove St
10:16:34 From Emily Lowery to Everyone: And Haley from Blue Ridge Health came last
minute to the City Council meeting after hours to support! HUGE Thanks to you all!
10:17:00 From Jessica Joyner, Housing Specialist- Vaya Health to Everyone:
Do you have a list of cold weather shelters in region 2?
10:17:01 From Trisha Ecklund to Everyone: aww :) yay
10:17:07 From Haley Simons | she/her to Everyone: Thank you!!
10:18:06 From Jessica Joyner, Housing Specialist- Vaya Health to Everyone:
What was it called again? I am sorry you went out for a second.
10:18:16 From Kristin Dunn to Everyone: Do they allow families as well?
10:18:18 From Kristen Martin (she/her); Thrive to Everyone: The Cove
10:18:22 From Haley Simons | she/her to Everyone:
<https://wlos.com/news/local/cove-church-transylvania-transforms-half-building-cove-shelter-homeless-during-winter-months>
10:18:28 From Jessica Joyner, Housing Specialist- Vaya Health to Everyone:
thanks!

10:22:28 From Makala Perez (she/her/hers) to Everyone:

FETCH in Hendersonville will sometimes board animals for free to help the homeless.

10:22:41 From Kristin Dunn to Everyone: Makala I want that info! I've never heard of them

10:22:55 From Haley Simons | she/her to Everyone: I would love that information as well!

10:23:01 From Emily Lowery to Everyone: Me too!

10:24:58 From Makala Perez (she/her/hers) to Everyone:

Fetch Dog Daycare and Boarding (828) 435-9141. Located at 93 McCall St, Flat Rock, NC 28731. Just depends on if they have any free kennels open and for how long the pet would need to stay.

10:26:22 From Amber Story to Everyone: Thank you. Please please share my info with them