North Carolina
Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024

Regional Leads Present: Derek Lancour, Emily Lowery, Amber Story, Pamela Hinton, Natasha Elliott, Kerry Bashaw, Emily Locklear, Shawanda Barnes, LaTasha McNair, Lakitra Claude, Lynne James, Brian Fike

At-Large Members Present: Rachelle Dugan, Melissa Hewitt, Kea Alexander, Erin Joy Crossfield, Brooks Ann McKinney, Cassandra Rowe, Joseph Chilton

SC Members Absent: Erin Gaskin, Angela Harper King, Lisa Phillips

Interested Parties Present: Mollie Robinson, Kendra Martin, Crystal Gwendo, Bonnie Harper, Amy Modlin, Brenda Marie Forbes, Sarah Fritze, Jason Smith, Cory Bragg, Sade Craine, Tara Peele, Alyce Knaflich, Peggy Hendrix, Lori Watts, Kecia Robinson, Michele Welsh, Bre Griffin, Robert Hudson, Sarah Lancaster, Lesly Delgado, Denice Ariztia, Rachelle Ellis, Monica Frizzell, Shelly Chandler, Lola Rolley, Dasha Stutson, Catonnia Pitt

NCCEH Staff Present: Laurel Benfield, Allie Card, Adriana Diaz, Jenny Simmons, 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.

FY2024 CoC Program: CoC Program Funding Priorities

Each year, the Funding and Performance Subcommittee reviews the CoC Program Funding Priorities document and recommends an updated document for Steering Committee approval. The FY2024 CoC Program Funding Priorities draft document was posted to the website: https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/pages-page/1fd942cc/2024-coc-funding-priorities-final.pdf.

The FY2024 CoC Program Funding Priorities set NC Balance of State CoC priorities for allocation of funds. The CoC-wide priorities remain the same as last year:

- Ensure essential infrastructure elements are in place, including HMIS & coordinated entry

- Ensure adequate coverage of permanent supportive housing across the CoC
- Increase the availability of rapid rehousing
- Ensure CoC Program funding is being used well, including potentially re-allocating some funding from projects that have patterns of low spending or poor performance

Overview of Recommended Changes:

- General edits for clarity & updating dates & removed reference to currently being in a pandemic
- Revised Priority Levels 2 and 3 regarding RRH due to Back@Home - Balance of State RRH in all 79 counties
- Updated Table 1, New Projects Priority Grid, with 2023 PIT/HIC data & FY2023 CoC Program grant awards data. Tables 2 & 3 in the Appendix populate Table 1.
- Adjusted Tables 2 & 3 in the Appendix to split out PSH and RRH priorities.
- Updated data according to 2023 PIT/HIC data & FY2023 CoC Program grant awards.

Overview of FY2024 CoC Program Funding Priorities

- Priority 1: PSH in regions that need a significant increase in PSH units to meet the need based on their PIT & Housing Inventory Count data
- Priority 2: RRH in regions that indicate severely inadequate resources based on PIT & Housing Inventory Count data
- Priority 3: RRH in regions not indicated as a Priority 2 region & PSH in regions that have some unmet need based on their PIT & Housing Inventory Count data
- Priority 4: Regions have enough PSH stock to meet their needs based on their PIT & Housing Inventory Count data

Rachelle Dugan motioned to approve the FY2024 CoC Program Funding Priorities. Emily Lowery seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

FY2024 CoC Program: Project Application Information

Both the New CoC Program Project Webinar and Renewal CoC Program Project Webinar recordings and slides are available on CoC Program Application Information page: https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/.

For new projects:

- Agencies interested in applying for FY2024 CoC Program funds are required to complete and submit an Intent to Apply Form posted on the CoC Program Application Information page: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e969b93b40a5491baa7d370c976fc403.
- The Intent to Apply process is open until 2 weeks after the NOFO release.
  - o Staff will verify new project eligibility.
  - o Staff encourage new project applicants to submit a form early so we have time to discuss the new project idea.

For renewal projects:

- Agencies receiving FY2023 CoC Program awards should complete and submit an Intent to Renew Form posted on our CoC Program Application Information page: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/51db8e4063914f7298d0a7a829ffc0d2 (one form for each renewal project)
- The Intent to Renew Form is due by 12 PM on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.
    - Please note: This process is for agencies intending and not intending to renew their CoC Program projects.
- Renewal Projects Pre-Competition Scoring & Standards Review
    - As it stands, all FY2023 CoC Program awarded projects achieved Certification last year.
    - Renewal projects must submit Pre-Competition Scoring and Standards Review documents by 12 PM on Thursday, May 2nd via a Smartsheet link: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f2430e0ab0e74de881ef8a040e73283d
        - Program Policies and Procedures – N/A IF NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR
        - Sample Lease – N/A IF NO CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR
        - Pre-Competition Renewal Applicant Form – ONLY SECOND SECTION ON COORDINATED ENTRY IF NO CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR
            - Pre-Competition Renewal Application PSH Form
            - Pre-Competition Renewal Applicant RRH Form
        - NC BoS CoC Grantee Agreement Form for Renewal Projects
        - CY2023 Annual Performance Report
    - The APR submission will be used to score the Performance Section in the FY2024 Renewal Scorecard. Review the FY2024 Renewal Project Scorecard: https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/pages-page/6e26ba60/fy24-renew-scard-final.pdf

Be on the lookout for the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW), a spreadsheet with information on all projects eligible for renewal in the FY2024 CoC Program Competition. Scorecards:

- FY2024 New Project Scorecard: https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/pages-page/5efc1515/fy24-new-pjsc-final.pdf
- FY2024 Renewal Project Scorecard: https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/pages-page/6e26ba60/fy24-renew-scard-final.pdf

Be on the lookout for the release of the FY2024 HUD Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This will launch the FY2024 CoC Program competition. Instructions will be released after HUD publishes the NOFO. CoC Program competition materials and instructions will be posted at: http://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/. The CoC Program NOFO officially opens the competition and defines the rules. The NOFO sets:

- Timelines

- Priorities/Scoring
- Final Funding Allocation/Tiering
- Potential projects
- CoC and project applicant requirements

Application materials will be reviewed by the Project Review Committee using the FY2024 New and Renewal Project Scorecards.

New this year:

- New Projects: Navigating e-snaps webinar: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 2 PM
    - New Project Applicants will learn how to get set up in e-snaps, create an Applicant Profile, and learn general information about the platform.
    - Please register: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1674/
- Renewal Projects: e-snaps office hours: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 3:30 PM
    - This office hours session is for returning CoC Program Project Applicants that want a re-orientation to esnaps. Time will be spent reviewing the process to update the Applicant Profile and adding additional esnaps users.
    - Please register: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1678/

FY2021 SSO-CE Grant Update

NCCEH receives a CoC grant to support CE. The operating year was from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. NCCEH sub-granted funds to the following agencies:

Region 1	HERE in Jackson County
Region 2	Thrive
Region 4	Diakonos
Region 5	Community Link (through June)
Region 5	Partners Behavioral Health Management (beginning in August
Region 6	Central Piedmont Community Action
Region 7	Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action
Region 9	REACH Center
Region 10	Hope Station
Region 11 & 13	Trillium
Region 12	Pitt County Planning

The NC BoS CoC CE system achieved several important milestones:

- Spent 100% of FY2021 SSO-CE grant & met the CoC spending threshold
- Included CoC-wide goals & regional-level goals in each subgrantee's grant agreement
- Expanded street outreach coverage with an intentional focus on providing CE access to households living unsheltered
- Started collecting more thorough CE data by transitioning CE data to HMIS in all regions

- Created a draft assessment to replace the VI-SPDAT

HUD requires all CoC Program grantees to complete an APR at the end of the operating year. The Annual Performance Report (APR) is a comprehensive report that looks at all the participants served by a project during the reporting period. The CoC can use the APR as a helpful tool for agencies to track data quality, ensure accurate reporting, & create project summaries. NCCEH can create regional HMIS reporting groups to view CE data at the Regional Committee level. The NC BoS CoC FY2021 APR reflects data from 12/01/2022 to 11/30/2023 & solely demonstrates CE data (excluding VSP data).

The APR reflects the following:

- Total number of persons served: 6,142 (FY2020 6,806)
- Data quality has an overall low error rate (2-4%); however, SSN had an error rate of 10% (likely due to data privacy restrictions).
- Out of total number of persons served (6,142), 4,253 assessments were recorded in HMIS.
- 80% of assessed households were placed on the by-name list for prioritization.
- Increased utilization of CE Access Event & CE Referral Event
    - 79% (increase from FY20) of recorded CE Referral Events (1,163) were successful

The CoC continues to seek to improve the CE system in 2024. Entering the FY2022 SSO-CE grant operating period, the CoC worked with the CEC & subgrantees to set goals. CoC CE goals & individual agency goals (2-3 goals created by each funded agency) were added to SSO-CE grant agreements. Examples of agency goals

- Increase access to non-HUD-funded permanent housing and connect 4 households per month to permanent housing outside of CoC and/or ESG funding
- Hold monthly Veteran-specific CE meetings for all Veteran providers
- Increase case conferencing participants by one agency per quarter

NC BoS CoC CE goals:

- 95% of households have a corresponding Coordinated Entry Assessment data element completed in HMIS for each assessment (e.g. crisis needs assessment, prevention, and diversion assessment, VI-SPDAT) completed with the household; and
- Increase the number of Coordinated Entry Event data elements recorded in HMIS

Coordinated Entry: Homeless Assessment and Referral Tool (HART)

NC BoS was selected in 2021 to take part in HUD's Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative. The initiative's goal is to support communities in improving housing outcomes and the human experience for Black, Brown, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC). From October 2021 - October 2022, the NC BoS CoC met bi-weekly with HUD coaches.

The NC BoS CoC developed an inclusive Core Team with a diverse range of local stakeholders to ensure the process is rooted in equity-based decision making.

- CoC staff
- People with lived experience of homelessness
- Regional Coordinated Entry Leads
- Steering Committee members

The Core Team developed an overall results statement: All Black/African Americans experiencing homelessness in the NC Balance of State CoC are swiftly assessed and connected to safe, stable, and suitable permanent housing and housing resources.

The NC BoS CoC has been working towards the end goal of creating an equitable assessment tool to replace the VI-SPDAT.

- We did not want to re-create or update our current assessment tool.
- We did not want to re-traumatize people who were being assessed.
- We wanted to only ask questions that held value for HUD-funded permanent housing.
- Sections
    - Housing and Homeless History
    - Risks
    - Health and Wellness
    - Family Unit

From June - July 2023 two of our thirteen CoC regions piloted HART. The pilot phase included the new assessment, questionnaire for clients to complete, and questionnaire for case workers to complete. In reviewing data after the pilot period, it was determined another pilot phase would enhance our data to make informed decisions regarding the scoring/weighting of the new assessment questions.

Two more regions (plus the two original regions) piloted HART from August - September 2023. In October 2023, the data was reviewed with stakeholders, and scores were assigned to each question. NCCEH drafted an updated version of the CE Written Standards to reflect the new assessment tool and prioritization schedule. Overview of changes and/or updates:

- Updated all references to VI-SPDAT to HART (Homeless Assessment and Referral Tool)
- Updated Category 4 to reflect new HUD DV definition (previously approved for all NC BoS CoC Written Standards)
- Order of Priority: Updated to reflect the new order of priority for ESG and/or CoC-funded permanent housing.
    - First priority: Most severe service needs, as determined through HART acuity score
    - Second priority: Highest HART acuity score and experiencing unsheltered homelessness
    - Third priority: Highest HART acuity score and longest length of time homeless
    - Fourth priority: Highest HART acuity score and disabling condition
    - Fifth priority: Family with highest HART acuity score
- Updated to reflect HART categories.

- o Housing and Homeless History
  - o Risks
  - o Health and Wellness
  - o Family Unit
- CE Evaluation Procedure: Updated to state the CEC determines the procedure for the evaluation (removed specific steps for procedure as this process will be updated in 2024).

HART Timeline:

- CE Written Standards recommend by Coordinated Entry Council (January 2024)
- HMIS and By-name List updates (March – April 2024)
- CE Written Standards approved by NC BoS CoC Steering Committee (May 2024)
- Training and Launch Phase (May – June 2024)

Medicaid Expansion Q&A

Staff facilitated a discussion on Medicaid Expansion for Steering Committee members to discuss how it is unfolding across the NC BoS CoC.

1. When it comes to being prepared for and knowing about Medicaid expansion in North Carolina, do you feel that your needs are being met? If not, what is missing?
   a. Derek Lancour: Gap in dental providers accepting Medicaid
   b. Emily Locklear: Getting homeless clients access to apply; lack of transportation to services; if a provider could come to their offices, that would be great
2. What barriers to coverage and access remain, even after expanding eligibility?
   a. Amber Story: LME/MCOs have been preparing for a long time and there are a lot of agencies getting out the word; language (Acronyms, etc.) is a barrier for clients
   b. Natasha Elliott: Some PCPs don't accept the new Medicaid or not accepting Medicaid clients; finding a provider is a barrier
   c. Melissa Hewitt: transportation and having to jump through hoops; clients having to be on the phone for long periods of time; support navigating finding a provider
3. Are you seeing a lot of confusion and/or misinformation in your community/organization about Medicaid Expansion?
   a. Lynne James: not consistent information about benefits and/or not all providers are offering equivalent benefits
   b. Brooks Ann McKinney: Confusion/misinformation could be due to conflating Healthy Opportunities Pilots (HOP) with Medicaid Expansion
4. What are the biggest successes/challenges in outreach for rural communities? What do rural partners need?
   a. Bonnie: We have providers and nonprofits setting up stations for people for help in getting them signed up.
   b. Sarah Lancaster: applying online works well; Pisgah Legal Services is doing a great job in their role as ambassadors/ombudsman/etc.
   c. Amber: NCCare360 and 211 are great resources

       d. Brooks Ann McKinney: If possible, you can call a client's primary care office and see what insurance they are taking before they pick a MCO so you can make sure they can still see the same provider

5. How are the homeless/housing service providers in your community working with their participants to apply for Medicaid?
       a. Crystal Gwendo: Greene Lamp has MOUs with local DSS to get clients connected

Johnson v. Grants Pass Introduction

Joseph Chilton, staff attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina and at-large Steering Committee member, shared the history and background of Johnson v. Grants Pass. The most significant Supreme Court case about the rights of people experiencing homelessness in decades, this case will ultimately decide whether cities are allowed to punish people for things like sleeping outside with a pillow or blanket, even when there are no safe shelter options. Oral arguments will take place on April 22, 2024.

A decision in favor of Grants Pass could embolden communities to formalize the criminalization of homelessness, leading to more arrests, more jail time, and ultimately, more harm to people experiencing homelessness. Continue sharing the truth - the solution to homelessness is housing and services. Find more ways to get involved at https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/how-you-can-help.

June Steering Committee Meeting

A Zoom poll was held to determine the best date to meet for an in-person Steering Committee meeting this June. The options were June 12, June 26, and June 27. June 26 was selected by the majority of participants. More details will be provided at the May Steering Committee meeting.

Reminders

- Vote for your regional Unsheltered Access Coordinators during your April regional meetings!
- UAC responsibilities:
  - Serve as primary contact for Regional Committee around unsheltered access
  - Coordinate with regional Coordinated Entry Leads to ensure people experiencing unsheltered homelessness access the local coordinated entry system
  - Ensure data collection happens on all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
  - Engage providers/organizations/stakeholders to understand the local plan to engage people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and how to connect them to the coordinated entry system
  - Provide additional training to providers/organizations/stakeholders as needed
- You can submit their information via Smartsheet:
  https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/735202063aa046e294b54ecb3070e6cc

Upcoming meetings & reminders

- **Lived Expertise Advisory Council,** *Friday, April 12, 12 – 1 P.M.*
  [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  Meeting ID: 579 903 9481
  Passcode: qYqVY5
- **Coordinated Entry Council,** *Monday, April 15, 10 – 11:30 A.M.*
  [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  Meeting ID: 848 4039 7905
- **HMIS Monthly Training: APR & CAPER In-Depth,** *Wednesday, April 17, 10 – 11 A.M.*
  Register at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1676/
- **Racial Equity Subcommittee,** *Wednesday, April 17, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.*
  [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  Meeting ID: 832 6483 8597
- **Local Leadership Response Call,** *Wednesday, April 17, 1 – 2 P.M.*
  [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651
- **Funding & Performance Subcommittee,** *Thursday, April 18, 2 – 3 P.M.*
  [Join Google Meeting](#)
  Or dial: (US) +1 929-249-4814
  PIN: 256 826 060#

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Next Steering Committee meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 10:30 A.M.

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