



# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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## NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2025

**Regional Leads Present:** Derek Lancour, Emily Lowery, Cory Bragg, Pamela Hinton, Erin Gaskin, Jai Baker, Tonya Gray Young, Emily Locklear, Dasha Stutson, Ashley Kornegay, Kisha Darden, Lynne F. James, Brian Fike

**At-Large Members Present:** Karen Carroll, Melissa Hewitt, Angela Harper King, Jackie Lucas, Erin Joy Crossfield, Brooks Ann McKinney, Kenett Melgar, Cassandra Rowe, Joseph Chilton, Tara Peele, Daniel Jordan

**SC Members Absent:** Anita Lynch, Crystal Gwendo

**Interested Parties Present:** Chrishona N. Ham, Evelyn Campbell, Michele Welsh, Latoya Smith, Kelley Hayword, Sade Craine, Chris Parker, Gretta Worley, Daisy Butzer, Kea Alexander, Bre Griffin, Charlene Elliot, Lori Watts, Sarah Lancaster, Stephanie Flowers, Amber Brafford, Dia Thomas, Talaika Williams, Morganne Leonarde, Teena Willis, Rachelle Ellis, Ebony King, Robert Hudson, Susana Rodriguez, Veronica Harris, Kim Hemphill

**NCCEH Staff Present:** Laurel Benfield, Debra Susie, Mira Sanderson, Adriana Diaz, Rachelle Dugan, Andrea Carey, Ashley VonHatten, Allie Card, Brian Alexander, Jenny Simmons

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was voted on at the beginning of the meeting. Without changes or objections, the consent agenda was approved by common consent. The consent agenda was sent out for review prior to the meeting and is posted at:

<https://www.ncceh.org/bos/steeringcommittee/>

### **2025 NC BoS CoC Steering Committee Leadership Introductions**

Each 2025 NC BoS CoC Steering Committee Member introduced themselves by saying their name, title, organization, and regional committee and then answered the following questions: (1) over the next year, what key local partnership(s) would help your region to more effectively end homelessness and (2) what could the NC BoS CoC staff and the Steering Committee do to support this work with you?

***Beginning with At-Large Members:***

Karen Carroll

- *Role: Co-Chair for LEAC*
- *Goals:*
  - Introduce the Client Bill of Rights across all locations
  - Focus on Region 6 by supporting the new homeless shelter initiative (grant-funded)
  - Ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness can remain housed and access needed resources

Melissa Hewitt

- *Role: Representative for Region 3, member of LEAC Committee, Funding and Performance, and Racial Equity.*
- *Goals:*
  - Proud of progress in the region
  - Aim to involve more LEACs and advocates for their critical work, focusing on regional organizing

Angela Harper King

- *Role: Division of Mental Health, NC DHHS*
- *Initiatives:*
  - Facilitate collaboration between the state and local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)
  - Build partnerships with HUD and work with local Managed Care Organizations, each with a designated housing expert
  - Aim to involve these experts in the CoC and enhance relationships for broader impact statewide
- *Goals:*
  - Support local Managed Care Organizations and CoCs, including law enforcement and general members, emphasizing their importance and potential

Jackie Lucas

- *Role: NCORR, Back@Home Program Manager*
- *Initiatives:*
  - Launched the Back@Home program in 2023 to reduce unsheltered and rural homelessness
  - Collaborate with state partners and have successfully housed 450 households since October 2023
- *Goals:*
  - Continue working closely with NC BoS CoC to expand the program's impact

Danny Jordan

- *Role: Program Assistant with NC Homeless Education Program*
- *Responsibilities:*
  - Provide technical assistance to homeless liaisons in collaboration with the State Education Agency
  - Work with Andrea Carey on PIT counts and involve liaisons in outreach and collaboration efforts

Erin Joy Crossfield

- *Role: Policy and Research Analyst at the NC Housing Finance Agency*
- *Focus Areas:*
  - Oversee the Tax Credit Development Program, reserving 10% of units for individuals with disabilities or experiencing homelessness
  - Plan to reach out to CoCs for PIT data to inform policy decisions

Brooks Ann McKinney

- *Role: Member of the Healthy Opportunities Design Team at NC DHHS*
- *Initiative:*
  - Focus on healthcare and housing integration efforts including role out of Healthy Opportunities model in the state

Kenett Melgar

- *Role: Outreach Manager for Blue Ridge Community Health (Regions 1 and 2)*
- *Responsibilities and Goals:*
  - Identify individuals in need and connect them to available resources
  - Engage local communities in outreach efforts
  - Seek insights into successful rural outreach strategies from other counties to adapt and implement locally

Cassie Rowe

- *Role: Director of Health and Housing at NCCADV, manage Safe@Home*
- *Initiatives and Goals:*
  - Work with 21 domestic violence agencies in the NC BoS CoC
  - Expand the program's reach across the state, providing housing resources for survivors
  - Plan to conduct cross-training to better serve unhoused survivor.
  - Request referrals to the program for those in need

Joseph Chilton

- *Role: Supervising Attorney at NC Legal Aid, Smoky Mountains Office*
- *Focus Areas:*

- Address legal issues such as eviction, foreclosure, and other civil matters affecting unhoused individuals or those at risk of homelessness
- Offer support and encourage others to reach out with legal questions

Tara Peele

- *Role: CEO of Housing Collaborative, a statewide nonprofit*
- *Goals and Initiatives:*
  - Aim to make affordable housing more accessible
  - Support the Back@Home program and regional organizations like NC BoS CoC
  - Strive to better understand NC BoS CoC regions, their challenges, and how the Housing Collaborative can assist with housing access and solutions

***Moving on to Regional Leads:***

Region 1: Derek Lancour

- *Role: Region 1 Lead Representative – Vaya Health*
- *Goals:*
  - Seek assistance with recruitment in Madison County
  - Hope to connect with additional resources to enhance efforts in the region

Region 2: Emily Lowery

- *Role: Region 2 Lead Representative – The Haven of Transylvania County*

Region 3: Cory Bragg

- *Role: Housing Specialist for Alpha (nonprofit) in Region 3, works with HOPWA programs*
- *Goals:*
  - Focus on strengthening regional ownership and planning a summer PIT count
  - Aim to improve communication and seek additional guidance for regional initiatives

Region 4: Pamela Hilton

- *Role: Region 4 Lead Representative – Partners Health*
- *Goals:*
  - Plan to mentor and transition another lead into the role
  - Want to increase visibility for homelessness and housing initiatives in Stokes County and seeks guidance on achieving this

Region 5: Erin Gaskin

- *Role: Region 5 Lead Representative and CE Lead – Partners Health*
- *Goals:*

- Identify Cabarrus County as a high-need area due to disorganization and seek support
- Report committee growth in Davidson County and ongoing efforts with PIT counts

Region 6: Jai Baker

- *Role: Region 6 Lead Representative – Allied Churches*
- *Goals:*
  - Advocate for the development of a new homeless shelter in Person County and additional shelter resources
  - Seek to foster collaboration and create a unified process for regional efforts

Region 7: Tonya Gray

- *Role: Region 7 Lead Representative – Haven of Lee County*
- *Goals:*
  - Prioritize establishing a Lived Experience Committee in the region
  - Excited about the growth and progress of the regional committee

Region 8: Emily Locklear

- *Role: Region 8 Lead Representative (Dr. Dia Thomas will assume the role next month) – Southeastern Family Violence Center*
- *Goals:*
  - Aim to expand key local partnerships in Bladen, Columbus, and Scotland areas

Region 9: Dasha Stutson

- *Role: Region 9 Lead Alternate Representative – Gang Free*
- *Goals:*
  - Hope to continue supporting the community by addressing mental health, homelessness, and food insecurity
  - Strengthen partnerships within the region

Region 10: Ashley Karnegay

- *Role: Region 10 Lead Alternate Representative – Greene Lamp*
- *Goals:*
  - Seek to enhance outreach and support for housing initiatives in her region

Region 11: Kisha Darden

- *Role: Region 11 Lead Representative – Trillium Health Resources*
- *Goals:*
  - Aim to increase participation in Back@Home, currently engaging only 3 of the 11 counties in her region

Region 12: Lynne James

- *Role: Region 12 Lead Representative – Pitt County*
- *Goals:*
  - Strengthen connections in rural counties to build momentum for regional initiatives
  - Plan to utilize lived experiences to identify and prioritize regional needs

Region 13: Brian Fike

- *Role: Region 13 Lead Representative – Trillium Health Resources*
- *Goals:*
  - Engage with different agencies to increase participation in Region 13
  - Work to move meetings to various counties within the region to encourage broader agency involvement
  - Collaborate with LEAC to engage new stakeholders and set regional priorities

***NCCEH Staff Introductions:***

Brian Alexander

- *Role: Project Director at NCCEH*
- *Responsibilities:* Facilitate funding competitions; provide technical assistance to permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rapid rehousing (RRH) projects; oversee the NC BoS CoC team

Allie Card

- *Role: Project Specialist at NCCEH*
- *Responsibilities:* Manage relationships with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs); staff the Veterans Subcommittee; oversee projects such as the Day 1 Families Fund

Jenny Simmons

- *Role: Project Specialist at NCCEH*

*Responsibilities:* Support Regions 2, 5, and 8; facilitate the ESG and support CoC competitions; staff Funding and Performance Subcommittee. Ashley VonHatten

- *Role: Project Specialist at NCCEH*
- *Responsibilities:* Support coordinated entry process; supports Regions 3, 10, and 12

Adriana Diaz

- *Role: Project Specialist at NCCEH*
- *Responsibilities:* Assist facilitation and coordination efforts across the organization

Debra Susie

- *Role: Project Specialist at NCCEH*
- *Responsibilities: Focus on policy initiatives and facilitate the NC Local Leadership Response Call (LLRC)*

Laurel Benfield

- *Role: Project Specialist at NCCEH*
- *Responsibilities: Support Regions 1 and 7; staff the Lived Experience Advisory Council (LEAC) the Racial Equity Subcommittee; facilitates technical assistance for emergency shelters with Allie*

Mira Sanderson

- *Role: Project Assistant at NCCEH*
- Responsibilities: document and manage the administrative needs of various governance committees and CoC staff Natalie Rivera (Starting 1/8/2025)*
- *Role: Project Specialist at NCCEH*
  - *Responsibilities: Focus on interpersonal violence sector, including domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault*

Andrea Carey

- *Role: Project Director of Data Center at NCCEH*
- *Responsibilities: Support CoC efforts in NC BoS, Durham, and Orange Counties; manage the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); oversee data reporting related to homelessness*

### **Upcoming Meetings and Reminders**

- Lived Expertise Advisory Council, *Friday, January 10, 12 P.M – 1 P.M*  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481  
Passcode: qYqVY5
- Racial Equity Subcommittee, *Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.*  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 832 6483 8597
- NC Local Leadership Call, *Wednesday, January 15, 1 P.M - 2 P.M.*  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651

- Funding & Performance Subcommittee, *Thursday, January 16, 2 P.M. – 3 P.M.*  
[Join Google Meet Meeting](#)

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

**Tuesday, February 4th at 10:30 A.M.**