

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

www.ncceh.org/BoS

Balance of State Steering Committee Meeting

4.3.12

Regional Leads Present:

Albert Barron, Susan Bellew, Michael Bloomer, Faythe Canson, Kristi Case, Jim Curtin, Amanda Hopkins, Joe Marks, Amy Modlin, Jane Motsinger, Faye Pierce, Joel Rice, Michele Steele, Paulette White, Teena Willis, Shari Wright

Regional Leads Absent: Debbie Cole, Spencer Cook, Katherine Pullicino, Jackie Sheffield

Interested Parties Present: Ellen Blackman, Mike Bloomer, Kim Braxton, Kenosha Davenport, Nicole Dewitt, Karen Holliday, Melissa Ledbetter, Joe Marks, Michal McMillan, Lynn White, Talaika Williams

NCCEH Staff Present:

Nancy Holochwost, Denise Neunaber, Emila Sutton

Approval of March Minutes

There being no changes needed, a motion was made and approved to accept the minutes [White, Bellew].

CoC Funding Intent to Apply Form

- Intent to Apply Forms are the first step of the 2012 CoC application process. Forms are required for any grantees with renewals this year as well as any agency interested in applying for new funds.
- Regional leads should share this information with their committees. NCCEH staff will create an email for regional leads to forward to interested parties.
- Agencies interested in applying for funds should refer to the 2011 scorecard to review criteria for funding (<http://www.ncceh.org/bos/CoCApplication2011/>).
- The Intent to Apply Form is posted on the NCCEH website at <http://www.ncceh.org/forms/35/BoS-HUD-Application-Intent-Form-2012/>.

Point-in-Time Count Report

- 2012 Point-in-Time Count data is posted on the NCCEH website at www.ncceh.org/PITdata. Balance of State data is available both for the entire CoC and by county.

- The overall count remained very similar to 2011 (a decrease of 37 people or 1%). There was an 11% increase in homeless families, a 10% decrease in veterans, and a 22% decrease in chronically homeless persons, all of which are consistent with national data. There was also a 20% increase in people enrolled in permanent supportive housing programs.
- It was noted that a common misconception of the PIT Count is that communities will receive more funding if their counts are high, which is not true. The HEARTH Act will make decreasing homelessness even more important, as communities will be judged on positive outcomes that demonstrate funding has been used effectively.

Emergency Solutions Grant Program Report & Meetings

State ESG Meeting

- The State ESG office held a meeting for CoC representatives on March 15 in Raleigh to discuss changes to the ESG program. NCCEH submitted the names of all BoS members who indicated they were interested in participating; the State selected Amy Modlin, Joel Rice, Talaika Williams, Paulette White, Denise, and Emila to attend.
- The meeting agenda covered six main topics:
 - ESG goals: The program goal is shifting away from providing shelter and towards moving people back into housing as quickly as possible.
 - System design: The homeless services system is moving away from shelter and towards housing stability. In accordance with HUD goals, the ESG program is focusing on rapid re-housing over homelessness prevention. Research has shown that most people who receive prevention assistance would not have become homeless without it, which means that prevention funds are hard to spend effectively; HUD and the State want to ensure ESG funds are spent on people who are literally or would become literally homeless, so rapid re-housing is the preference because it is known to be effective.
 - Funds distribution: ESG funds used to be awarded based on threshold requirements and daily occupancy rates of existing facilities. The State is working to change this process to be fairer and more competitive and to encourage communities to shift their systems to a rapid re-housing approach.
 - CoC role (“CoC” refers to the Balance of State/NCCEH, not to Regional Committees): The CoC can be the lead agency and/or the fiscal sponsor. In the past, agencies applied directly to the State and contracted with the State to receive funds. In order to reduce its number of contracts and to incentivize ESG participation in CoC activities, the State is planning to sub-contract with CoCs, which will then pass funding to grantee agencies. NCCEH is not planning to serve as a fiscal sponsor and the State will be responsible for determining the Balance of State’s fiscal sponsor.
 - Program outcomes: The HEARTH performance measures that we’ve discussed will impact ESG grantees as well. The State has decided to fund transitional housing for no more than 3 years. At the meeting, BoS representatives proposed that agencies in urban CoCs with more capacity can partner with rural BoS areas to serve neighboring counties.

- Mainstream partnerships: This topic will be discussed more at the upcoming regional meetings that the State is holding.

Applying for ESG Funding

- Agencies will no longer apply directly to the State for ESG funds. Instead, they will apply through the Balance of State CoC and the Regional Committees. The BoS will need to create a CoC-wide plan for this process to submit to the State, but before this can happen, the State must make more decisions about the application process and what will be required of applicants.
- The BoS representatives who attended the statewide meeting in Raleigh have started to meet to discuss the application process. Because this process cannot be finalized until the State makes further decisions, it is unclear at this point when the application information will be released.

ESG Funds

- If the State's current recommendations for funding are approved, the BoS will receive a significant amount of new funding from the ESG office. The State's recommendations are contained in the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan, which should be published tomorrow. The proposed funding amounts are:
 - FY 11b (second allocation of FY11 funding)=\$665,402. These funds can only be used for rapid re-housing and prevention activities (not shelter or transitional housing). The State anticipates these funds will not be awarded until August or September.
 - FY 12=\$2,229,459.
 - A maximum of \$832,027 can be used for shelter and transitional housing. This is the same amount of ESG funds for these activities that the BoS has received in the past, so theoretically, any grantee who received funding in FY11 can receive it in FY12.
 - A minimum of \$1,397,432 must be used for housing stability activities (rapid re-housing and prevention). These funds can be used to extend HPRP activities.
- It should be noted that while these dollars represent an increase in ESG dollars, HPRP dollars will be ending and ESG dollars are not sufficient to replace HPRP dollars.
- The BoS will be held accountable by HUD for the way ESG funding is invested in our CoC.

Funding Principles

- The BoS representatives who attended the statewide ESG meeting have created a list of guiding principles to represent the BoS' values and priorities during discussions with the State about ESG funding. The draft document is posted on the NCCEH website at http://www.ncceh.org/attachments/contentmanagers/84/BoS_ESG_Principles.pdf.
- Paulette White reviewed the funding principles and invited Steering Committee members to comment on them.
- Several members voiced concerns that employment resources were not included in the document. Paulette suggested that the second bullet point, which discusses inclusiveness, be expanded to include the need for partnerships with other agencies. Steering Committee members requested that the Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Labor, Workforce Development Boards, and rural transportation services be specifically mentioned.

- A motion was made and approved by common consent to approve the funding principles document pending the addition of the amended bullet point.

BoS Regional Meetings

- NCCEH staff is holding three BoS regional meetings in conjunction with state-hosted ESG meetings. These meeting will take place in Durham, Hickory, and Greenville. NCCEH staff will also be in attendance at all six State ESG meetings.
- Participants must register for both the State and the BoS meetings. Information is posted on the NCCEH website calendar (<http://www.ncceh.org/en/cev/mon/>).

Eastpointe LME S+C Merger & Expansion Proposal

- Effective July 1, Eastpointe LME is merging with the Beacon Center LME and Southeastern Regional LME. This will expand Eastpointe's geographical area from 4 counties to 12 counties, which include 4 Regional Committees (Down East, Wilson-Greene, Twin County, and Southeast).
- Because both Eastpointe and the Beacon Center were awarded new Shelter+Care grants in the 2011 CoC competition, this merger affects the implementation of these grants. Albert Barron, housing coordinator for Eastpointe, made the following proposal:
 - The two grants would be merged into one grant to serve all 12 counties under Eastpointe's expanded geographical area.
 - The grant start date would be delayed until August or September to ensure staff is trained and to establish partnerships with the involved regional committees.
- According to current BoS structure, the Steering Committee needs to approve the expansion of the area served. Four of the counties that would be included under the expansion (Robeson, Scotland, Bladen, and Columbus) did not have an active Regional Committee at the time of the 2011 CoC application, which would have made them ineligible to apply for funds at that time. The Steering Committee was asked to consider this point during its discussion.
- Steering Committee members discussed the proposed merger and asked questions of Albert pertaining to Eastpointe's capacity to be involved in all affected Regional Committees, the locations of units across the 12 counties, and the staff responsible for managing the grant.
- Steering Committee members discussed the proposed expansion of the grant into the 4 counties that were inactive during the 2011 competition. The Regional Committee performance section of Eastpointe's 2011 scorecard was reviewed; the region's HMIS bed coverage rate fell in the 0-49% range. Members agreed that if Eastpointe commits to building its Regional Committee capacity and improving its performance, the grant should be allowed to serve these 4 counties.
 - A motion was made and approved by common consent to approve the merger of the two grants and the expansion of the merged grant into all 12 counties.
 - NCCEH staff will inform HUD staff that the Steering Committee approved these changes. HUD will have to provide final approval of the expansion of the grant into the 4 previously inactive counties.
 - NCCEH staff will inform Albert and HUD staff of the Regional Committee performance improvements that are a condition of the Steering Committee's approval.

Regional Lead Approvals

- Regional Committees were asked to elect or re-approve their Regional Leads during their January, February, or March meetings.
- Meeting minutes documenting this approval must be submitted to bos@ncceh.org by Friday, April 6, in order for Regional Committees to be listed as currently active.
- Meeting minutes have not yet been received from the following committees: Beaufort, Catawba, Wilson/Greene, Twin County, Foothills, Person, and Onslow.

Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings

- Balance of State subcommittees have their quarterly meetings in May:
 - Transitional Housing: May 8 at 10:30
 - Permanent Supportive Housing: May 15 at 10:30
 - Families: May 22 at 10:30
- These calls are open to all interested parties in the BoS. Participants must register for the calls on the NCCEH website calendar: <http://www.ncceh.org/en/cev/mon/>

QPRs

- All grantees must email Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) to NCCEH 30 days after the end of each quarter of their operating year. Timeliness of QPR submission is scored during the CoC application.
- Many QPRs are past due. Emila will send an email reminder to grantees.
- NCCEH staff created a new QPR form to streamline the reporting process. The new QPR form is available for download on the NCCEH website at www.ncceh.org/BoS/grantees. Old forms will no longer be accepted.

To-Do List

- All agencies applying for new or renewal CoC funds in 2012 must fill out the Intent to Apply Form on the NCCEH website.
- Regional Committee minutes documenting the election of regional leads must be sent to bos@ncceh.org by April 6.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 1 at 10:30.