

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

www.ncceh.org/BoS

Balance of State CoC Veterans Subcommittee Minutes June 29th, 2017

Members In Attendance:

Terry Allebaugh	North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Michelle Blanding	Family Endeavors
Whitney Lott	VAMC Asheville
Rose Fisher	United Way of Forsyth County
Reginald Roy	NC Works
Jeff Smith	NC Department of Health and Human Services
Ellecia Thompson	VAMC Durham
Jeff Doyle	VISN 6 Homeless Director
John Rakes	ABCCM
Flo Stein	NC Department of Health and Human Services

Review Regions 6, 11, and 13 Veterans Plans

Region 6: John Rakes reviewed the plan, requested no changes, the plan looks good.

Ehren Dohler summarized some key points of Region 6's plan:

They have a strong connection to coordinated assessment. There are some challenges concerning lack of shelter, outreach coverage, and transportation in some of the outlying counties.

Region 6's plan was recommended to the NC BoS Steering Committee for approval unanimously [Motion Doyle, Fisher]

Region 11: Jeff Doyle and Ellecia Thompson reviewed the plan. They agreed all the work is good and the plan looks good, but continue to be concerned about the lack of resources in the area. Doyle suggested regular follow-up with the Region. Thompson asked which faith based groups the region is working with to provide some outreach and transportation. She also noted that the VA in Pitt County should be called the Greenville VAHCC not the Pitt County VAMC.

Region 11's plan was recommended to the NC BoS Steering Committee for approval unanimously [Motion Allebaugh, Thompson]

Region 13: Mary Fisher Murray reviewed the plan but was not on the call. Ehren Dohler summarized Mary's review and the plan. Region 13's plan was reviewed at the last Veterans subcommittee and rejected largely due to confusion around offers of permanent housing and connection to Coordinated Assessment. Both of these issues were fixed along with a few other issues noted in Murray's review.

Region 13's plan was recommended to the NC BoS Steering Committee for approval unanimously [Motion Terry, Roy]

North Carolina updates (Terry Allebaugh)

- All regions should reach out to their VSOs to bring them into the Veteran plan process. Reach out to Terry if you need help contacting your local VSO.
 - Jeff Smith added that VSOs are helpful with recharacterizing discharge statuses.
- Terry thanked everyone for helping fill out the survey about Veteran services last year and promised that those survey results will be included in a Veterans Status Report to be published later this year.
- The Operation Home Task Force is working on two projects for additional funding to help homeless Veterans:
 - 1) A risk mitigation fund, which would be available for all homeless, but with a preference for Veterans. This would be especially helpful as a landlord engagement tool.
 - Utah has a risk mitigation fund, and Mark Johnson knows about it. Jeff Doyle suggested we reach out to Mark.
 - 2) Terry is working with the Secretary of the Dept of Military and Veteran's Affairs to develop a Veterans fund to fill gaps in funding.
- Jeff Smith mentioned that he is working on a discharge status recharacterization effort. Terry will follow up with him about that.
- Terry also mentioned that his role at the Dept of Military and Veteran's Affairs is just part time, and that's not sustainable, so he's working on turning the position into a full time position.

Outreach and shelter coverage

- Ehren presented a spreadsheet that has all outreach organizations and shelters per county for each region, as well as the unsheltered Veteran PIT count for each county.
- This spreadsheet is a tool to help regions find their gaps and work to fill them.
- John Rakes mentioned that there are many challenges in doing outreach in rural areas, including safety, and good coverage. Homeward Bound is helping them to develop some street outreach trainings that they plan to use to train people in communities that can extend SSVF's reach. He also suggested turning the spreadsheet into a map.
- Ehren suggested we come up with an outreach coverage policy/guidelines/best practices document to help everyone figure out how best to cover the BoS.
- Jeff Smith mentioned leaving copies of the resource guide and other flyers at libraries would be helpful.
- Terry said a lot of outreach in rural areas is about communication – wherever a Veteran shows up, they have to get connected into the system for help.
- Brian suggested there should also be a push for outreach up front, to identify all the Veterans, since we probably don't have coverage right now. Buncombe county keeps a running list of where all people experiencing homelessness are. Each region should try to make one of these.
- Jeff Smith also suggested partnering with the County Sherriff and people like the county commissioners.

PIT and By-name list report and discussion

- Ehren presented the Point-in-Time Count numbers for Veterans in the NC BoS CoC. Overall 176 homeless Veterans were counted in January 2017, 71 of whom were



unsheltered. 35 were chronically homeless. Region 5 had the most Vets, with 36, then Region 13 with 34. Ehren also presented the first run of the by name list report from HMIS. It found 134 Veterans. This report isn't comprehensive yet, but it's a first cut. We need to work toward making this report more comprehensive.

- Ehren reported that the goal is to have all BNLs in HMIS by the end of the summer. There is a lot to do, including getting new ROIs in place, but NCCEH staff are working on it and will be sending an email out to SSVF providers with more guidance soon.

Fall summit or training

- Ehren is thinking about what trainings to do next – we're thinking about doing a boot camp style training and/or building on the last community planning meeting that SSVF held. Ehren asked for ideas about what would be helpful.
- Rose Fisher said it would be helpful in Region 4 to have some training about getting the community to work better together. Many things are disconnected right now.
- Ellecia Thompson liked the idea of a boot camp, she thought it would be very helpful.
- Jeff Smith suggested piggy-backing on Stand Downs since everyone's there already.

PHA partnerships – HUD survey data

- Ehren reminded everyone that he sent out a spreadsheet with data on which PHAs have preferences for Veterans and which do not, but would like to. SSVF should reach out to their local PHAs to try to get a preference in place. There are 35 PHAs around the state that do not currently have a preference but would like to institute ones. Those are the low hanging fruit we should try to reach out to asap.

