

**NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**June 6, 2023

**Regional Leads Present:** Derek Lancour, Emily Lowery, Amber Story, Pamela Hinton, Kristen McAlhaney, Natasha Elliott, Marie Watson, Emily Locklear, James Stroud, LaTasha McNair, Kisha Darden, Tujuanda Sanders, Brian Fike

**At-Large Members Present:** Rachelle Dugan, Ellen Blackman, Brooks Ann McKinney, Angela Harper King, Beth Branagan

**SC Members Absent:** Tiffany Askew, Cassandra Rowe, Catherine Kastleman

**Interested Parties Present:** Hannah Larios, Bonnie Harper, Michele Welsh, Kenett Melgar, Kristine Wiles, Kerry Bashaw, Brenda Marie Forbes, Kit Claude, Tonya Gray Young, Kecia Robinson, Talaika Williams, Laurenn Singleton, Amy Modlin, Jana Elliott, Erin Gaskin, Bre Griffin, Teena Willis, Leah Dyson, Susanne Rodriguez, Dr. Dia Thomas

**NCCEH Staff Present:** Dr. Latonya Agard, Tim Bender, Laurel Benfield, Allie Card, Andrea Carey, Adrianna Coffee, Adriana Diaz, Alicia Harvey, Elliot Rhodes, Jenny Simmons, Dashia Shanks, Debra Susie, 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.

**FY2023 CoC Program Competition Update**

CoC staff shared the following project application information:

* New CoC Project Applicant Webinar recording and slides posted at <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/>
  + New Project: Intent to Apply Form at [https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dd](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dde61c36a82847f09b886f3110665902)
    - Due 2 weeks after release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
    - Mandatory for new projects
    - Accepted on a rolling basis, non-binding
* Renewal CoC Project Applicant Webinar recording and slides posted at <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/>
  + Renewal Project: Pre-competition scoring and standards review is underway
    - Project submission materials are being reviewed.
      * Projects that meet all standards will be certified for 3 years (until FY2026 competition unless changes in policies and procedures are made) and informed of that status by June 2nd.
      * Projects that did not meet all standards were informed. These projects have the opportunity to re-submit documentation addressing unmet standards by 6 PM on June 8th to achieve 3-year certification starting in FY2024, or they can submit all the information again in the FY2024 Pre-Competition Scoring and Standards Review.
* Upcoming Phases of the Competition
  + Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) – imminent release expected
  + Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – early to mid-summer?

For more information, visit <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/>.

**CY2024 Emergency Solutions Grant Competition**

The CY2024 ESG Request For Application (RFA) was released today, June 6th. NCCEH staff hosted a webinar for Regional Committee members on June 1st to cover the competition process and timeline. A webinar for all Project Applicants will be held on June 22nd from 2 to 3:30 P.M. Event details and registration at: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1616/>. Staff encouraged all interested agencies to attend. Login information: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85311572136?pw](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85311572136?pwd=eEtBbG1ySXA4VWVWTEtvR0hxRHJSQT09); meeting ID: 853 1157 2136.

Recorded webinars and competition materials are available at [www.ncceh.org/bos/esg](http://www.ncceh.org/bos/esg). Project Applications are due to NCCEH by 5 PM on July 12th.

The total amount available for the NC BoS CoC in the CY2024 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) competition is $2,525,734. CoC staff shared the Regional Fair Share:

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The ESG competition timeline is as follows:

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The application deadline to NCCEH is July 12, 2023. The deadline is on a Wednesday this year. All project applications will need to be submitted to Smartsheet; the link will be provided in the project applicant instructions. Any applications received after 5:00 PM on July 12, 2023 are not guaranteed to be reviewed. Regional Leads must share this deadline with their networks.

**NC BoS CoC ESG Program Funding Priorities**

The CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities document has a clearly stated purpose & sets the following goals:

* Help the CoC target ESG Program funding to specific local needs: these priorities provide guidance to help make decisions about how to use ESG to improve the homeless & housing system, rather than simply continuing ESG Program funding for previous grantees.
* Coordinate goals & ESG Program funding across the whole CoC: these funding priorities aim to coordinate ESG Program funding to move the whole CoC toward common goals.
* Improve ESG-funded programs: these priorities aim to ensure publicly-funded agencies implement best practices by lowering barriers to entry, incorporating Housing First approaches, & following the CoC’s Written Standards. These priorities help grantees & communities take steps toward expanding access to emergency shelter & permanent housing.
* Improve racial equity & decrease disparities in outcomes throughout the CoC.
* Establish precedent to make funding decisions consistently & fairly across the CoC.

Appendix A includes tables that chart the number of ESG-funded providers in each region, by project type, & the number of counties within the region covered by that project type. The tables identify regions with coverage needs & prioritize applicants who can fill them.

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The Funding & Performance Subcommittee recommends CY2024 ESG Funding Priorities.

* Each year, the Funding & Performance Subcommittee reviews the Funding Priorities document & recommends an updated document for Steering Committee consideration.
* The Funding & Performance Subcommittee did not make significant changes this year. It recommends a draft CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities document with two additions & minor language changes for clarity. Staff reviewed the changes for CY2024:
  + Persons with lived experience:
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  + Attendance benchmark:
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Staff entertained a motion to approve the CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities as recommended by the NC BoS CoC Funding & Performance Subcommittee. Emily Lowery motioned to approve the CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities as recommended by the NC BoS CoC Funding & Performance Subcommittee. Marie Watson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC) Update**

Staff reminded Steering Committee members that Unsheltered Access Coordination is essential in all geographic areas of the CoC, and the regions’ goal is to ensure all people living unsheltered connect to services.

* Build trusting relationships
* Collect contact info for follow-up
* Assess & refer to coordinated entry
* Connect to services and permanent housing
* Refer to emergency shelter, when possible

The elected term is May – April. Please submit Regional UAC information through Smartsheet: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9aaf968626484ca690eef30c9e62eaf3>. Currently Region 6 and 8 are missing UACs.

NCCEH will facilitate an in-person, regional leadership/UAC planning workshop to support regions on June 15. Please join the NC BoS CoC for the in-person workshop training for regional leadership! Although the focus of the workshop will be on year-round unsheltered access, all regional leadership should be present to ensure a robust discussion & positive outcome. The agenda on June 15 will include:

* An overview of roles & responsibilities
* Regional information from 2023 Point-In-Time, Housing Inventory Count, & current By Name List data for persons living unsheltered
* Breakout groups to create system mapping for each region
* Breakout groups to deep-dive into county-by-county support for connecting persons living unsheltered to services, shelter, coordinated entry, & permanent housing
* Report-outs from each region (to learn from our peers!)

Ashley noted that some people asked for a hybrid option but given the structure and agenda for the meeting that wouldn’t work. Ashley added that for anyone that can’t come, others from their region who are attending are expected to relay information to them and work together on materials they’ll be bringing back from the meeting.

Marie Watson asked what time the meeting ran until. Ashley responded at either 4 or 4:30. Marie noted she would have to leave early. Ashley said that as long as anyone comes for as much as possible and others from their region are attending, they can catch up on what they missed.

Brian Fike asked if it would be in Burlington, NC. Adriana responded either in Burlington or near it. Adriana is in the works of confirming the venue and will let attendees know by this Thursday, June 8th.

Laurel asked if anyone else other than Coordinated Entry leads, Regional leads, Regional alternates, and UACs should attend. Ashley said anyone who helps support unsheltered access coordination efforts; the UAC needs a support system so whoever is identified as part of that should come.

**NCCEH Emergency Shelter Technical Assistance Initiative**

NCCEH staff have been providing in-depth technical assistance (TA) to emergency shelters in the NC BoS CoC.

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ES TA curriculum combines national best practices & local priorities:

* Shelters work in cohorts to assess their policies, shelter practices, data entry, & program evaluation practices.
* Shelters focus on lowering barriers to shelter entry & establishing housing-focused practices, in line with the NC BoS CoC Written Standards.

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All shelters completing an ES TA cohort reduced or eliminated at least one barrier to shelter, implemented a more housing-focused practice, & set goals to improve CAPER data!

* 25 emergency & DV shelter programs completed TA between 2020-2023.
* Examples of barriers that were eliminated include:
  + Requiring drug testing for shelter entry
  + Collecting money from shelter clients for continued stays
  + Mandating participation in services (treatment, workshops, etc.)

A three-part listening session was held in 2023. The goal was to, “To better understand the challenges agencies are experiencing on the ground & refine a curriculum that meets needs to improve housing outcomes for shelter residents.” An average of 6 programs attended each session. NCCEH staff asked for feedback on 4 questions:

* In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges your shelter residents are currently facing?
* What are the main challenges your client-facing staff are experiencing?
* What do you need to improve your housing outcomes?
* How can NCCEH support you?

Listening Session Themes:

* Lack of affordable housing
* Navigating the existing system
* Staff turnover, training
* Mental health resources
* NIMBYism, lack of support from local leaders
* Principles of good case management
* Aftercare supportive services are essential.
* Intentional space for ongoing feedback to NCCEH & collaboration with providers

Beginning in Q3, 2023 NCCEH will offer quarterly forums for shelters in the NC BoS CoC with a mix of presentations & interactive discussions. Forums will include:

* A specific theme (ex. Navigating shared housing)
* A presentation
* Time for discussion & peer sharing

More information to come this summer.

**2023 Point-In-Time Count**

Data Center staff shared the following data from the 2023 Point-In-Time Count with the Steering Committee:

* Total People Counted Experiencing Homelessness on January 25, 2023
  + Data submitted to HUD for entire NC Balance of State CoC
    - Total Count
    - Regional Sheltered and Unsheltered Count
    - Regional Veterans
    - Methodology

Point-in-Time (by region and county) will be posted at: [www.ncceh.org/datacenter/pitdata](http://www.ncceh.org/datacenter/pitdata). Specific requests for data go to the Data Center at [hmis@ncceh.org](mailto:hmis@ncceh.org).

PIT data from 2010 to 2023:

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PIT data from 2023:

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PIT data from 2023 by region:

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PIT data for veterans from 2023 by region

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PIT data for people experiencing chronic homelessness from 2023 by region

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Methodology – how were people counted?

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**2023 Housing Inventory Count**

HMIS Bed Coverage – total beds

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HMIS Bed Coverage – total % on HMIS

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HMIS Bed Coverage – changes since 2020

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2023 HIC HMIS Participation by Region

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Leila McMichael commented in the chat that the, “PIT Count is not truly accurate for literal number of homeless despite improvements...If we vetted and hired people to do the homeless unsheltered PIT count, the results would be higher.”

Brooks Ann McKinney noted that on the hospital/medical side, there’s a lot of data to give and it’s a matter of getting in contact with a hospital’s head social worker. She acknowledged the importance of the intersection of homelessness with healthcare. She offered for anyone to contact her if they want and/or have creative Ideas about working with their health system in getting the data: [Brooks.mckinney@conehealth.com](mailto:Brooks.mckinney@conehealth.com). She commented in the chat that “Tracking mortality numbers is another way to work with your hospital.”

Amber Story noted that for Region 3 the preparation for the PIT/HIC began happening in the summer before. She added that a big problem isn’t the lack of volunteers but having people to input the collected data into HMIS. She suggested coming up with a system where the work isn’t left to one person. Andrea acknowledged Amber’s feedback and agreed that the work should not be for one person and that is part of the UAC workshop’s purpose – to address that issue. She also noted how she wants the UAC workshop to include discussion on how to engage people year-round instead of just around PIT night. Amber added that on top of that, it is also important to think about how people involved in unsheltered homelessness get access to inputting the data and that the numbers don’t encompass what they see on a regular basis.

Andrea commented in the chat, “This is project that I am excited to share some initial results from soon! <https://codinetworknc.org/>.”

Leila McMichael commented in the chat, “I still think that overnight polling of the homeless would better be served by a paid incentive. I don't know of any volunteers in Caldwell County that will stay up overnight to do that.”

Andrea thanked everyone for their feedback and work on the 2023 PIT/HIC. She encouraged anyone involved in unsheltered work, not just those with an HMIS license, to attend the Unsheltered Access Coordination workshop on July 15th. You can register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1619/>.

**Upcoming meetings & reminders**

* **ESG Competition Webinar: Process and Roles for Regional Leads,** June 1, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.
  + View recording at: <https://youtu.be/3gsLTerqVCs>
* **Lived Expertise Advisory Council Meeting,** Friday, June 9, 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.
  + Presentation: <https://zoom.us/j/5799039481?pwd=UFkwNCtLdUszeG94Y2prS0ttRkVmdz09>  
    Meeting ID: 579 903 9481  
    Passcode: qYqVY5
* **HMIS System Updates,** Tuesday, June 13, 10:30 – 11:30 A.M.
  + Register at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1618/
* **NC BoS CoC Regional Leadership Workshop,** Thursday, June 15, 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
  + Register at: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1619/>
* **Monthly HMIS Training: Data Quality Plan Office Hours,** Wednesday, June 21, 10:00 – 11:00 A.M.
  + Register at: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1592/>
* **Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting,** Wednesday, June 21, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
  + Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>  
    United States: +1 (646) 749-3112  
    Access Code: 791-696-621
* **Local Leadership Response Sharing Call,** Wednesday, June 21, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.
  + Presentation: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbKWyZnZ6>

Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651  
Dial by your location: +1 646 931 3860

* **Funding and Performance Subcommittee,** Thursday, June 22, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
  + Presentation: <https://meet.google.com/dep-rjxz-kze>  
    Or dial: (US) +1 442-272-1109  
    PIN: 883 218 555#
* **ESG Competition Webinar: All Project Applicants,** Thursday, June 22, 2:00 – 3:30 P.M.
  + Register at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1616/
* **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting,** Monday, June 26, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.
  + Presentation: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84840397905>  
    Meeting ID: 848 4039 7905

**Next Steering Committee meeting**Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 10:30 AM

**NOTE: The next Steering Committee meeting will be held one week later than normal due to the July 4th holiday.**