

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2025

Regional Leads Present: Derek Lancour, Emily Lowery, Cory Bragg, Laurenn Singleton, Erin Gaskin, Jessica Joyner, Tanya Gray Young, Dr. Dia Thomas, Ashley Kornegay, Lotoya Smith, Brian Fike

At-Large Members Present: Karen Carroll, Angela Harper King, Erin Joy Crossfield, Brooks Ann McKinney, Cassandra Rowe, Joseph Chilton, Tara Peele

SC Members Absent: Pamela Hinton, Jai Baker, Anita Lynch, Dasha Stutson, Crystal Gwendo, Lakitra Claude, Melissa Hewitt, Kennett Meglar

Interested Parties Present: Lori Watts, Elizabeth Katin, Kecia Robinson, Kim Hemphill, Monica Frizzell, Teena Willis, Bonnie Harper, Kennedy Lane, Lakisha Alston, Sophie Bernard, Lisa Worth, Alissa Pritchett, Michele Welsh, Chrishonda N. Ham, Chris Parker, Kendra Martin, Charlene Elliot, Donna Hodges, Kisha Darden, Amber Brafford, Kelley Hayward, Catrina Martin, Talaika Williams, Melissa McKeown, Aubrie Capps, Sade Craine, Amy Steele, Bre Griffin, Von Nixon, Amy Modlin, Susana Rodriguez, Jackie Lucas, Stephanie Flowers, Morganne Bert, Kim Crawford, Rebecca Laton, Lynen James,

NCCEH Staff Present: Laurel Benfield, Mira Sanderson, Rachelle Dugan, Dashia Shanks, Natalie Rivera, Dr. Latonya Agard, Teresa Robinson, Ashley VonHatten, Jenny Simmons, Adriana Diaz

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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://ncceh.org/steering-committee/>

BoS CoC Updates

FY2024 CoC Program Grant Agreements

Some agencies with FY2024 CoC Program grants for PSH with renewal start dates between January and April were sent grant agreements starting on March 13th. These grant agreements included new information that Continuum of Care funds cannot be used:

- To promote “gender ideology”
- To promote “elective abortions”
- To “promote diversity, equity, and inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws”

Language changes also included:

- following applicable immigration restrictions and requirements, including local government grantees not promoting illegal immigration or providing sanctuary policies; as well as, using a verification system approved by the Federal government to prevent serving an “ineligible alien who entered the United States illegally or is otherwise unlawfully present in the United States.”
- Not enforcing Housing First
- Not discriminating against an organization based on the organization’s religious character, affiliation, or exercise

These grant agreements were rescinded late in the day on March 14th due to a court order.

FY2023 CoC Program Grant Agreements

Late on March 20th, at least 1 agency (Brick Capitol) in the NC BoS CoC was issued a revised FY2024 CoC Program grant agreement for Permanent Supportive Housing effective April 1, 2025.

The revision in the updated grant agreement got rid of the struck through words below:

- certifies that it does not operate any programs ~~promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion~~ that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Cassie Rowe asked in the chat, “Can you clarify whether these language changes would have applied to grant agreements that had already been awarded, such as Safe at Home?”

Jenny Simmons responded, stating, “These changes are not part of the FY2023 CoC Program grant agreements but will be incorporated into the FY2024 CoC Program grant terms.”

NCCEH Response

In our recent conversations with HUD staff in the Greensboro FO, NCCEH was advised to understand the shifting nature of the federal funding landscape and to be aware that HUD is paying attention to organizations that are not aligned with the new Administration's priorities. Therefore, NCCEH encourages partners to (1) *review renewal grant agreements carefully* to identify language that constricts your ability to continue programs because of your emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion; gender identity and inclusion; and/or bodily autonomy, (2)

maintain close communication with your HUD FO, and (3) *work with NCCEH* to help elevate your concerns and advocate with you.

Karen Carroll asked in the chat, “With the rumored HUD field office closures, do we have an alternative if this happens?”

Jenny responded, “We have access to HUD's Ask A Question portal for any inquiries.”

NCCEH Staffing Updates

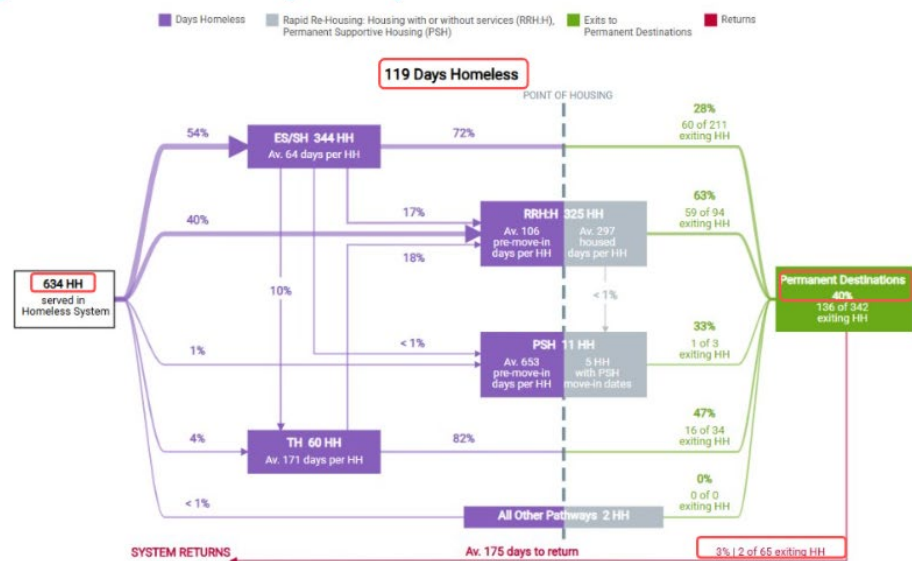
NCCEH currently has the following positions available:

- Project Specialist (SOAR) hopefully filled by the middle of April
- NC BoS CoC Project Director – posting done next week hopefully filled by Bringing it Home
- Project Specialist (D1FF Diversion Program, EHV, and Regional Liaison)
- Visit our website, for more information at <https://ncceh.org/careers/>

Veteran Data Report

Graphic produced by the Stella P. Infographic Tool:

10/1/2023 – 9/30/2024



Data Element: Length of Time Homeless

Goal: Decrease average days Veterans experience homelessness to 115 days by 2025.

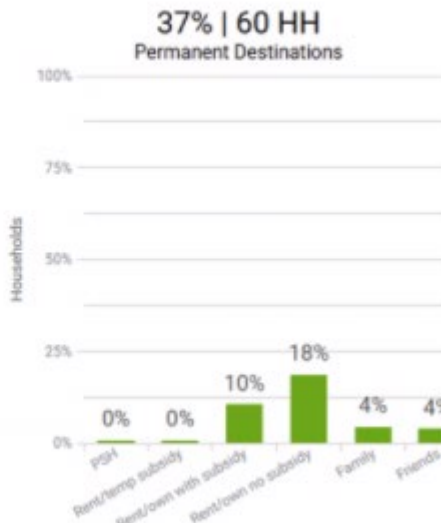
- FY2023 HMIS Data: Veterans enrolled in ES, TH, RRH, & PSH projects spent an average of 123 days homeless

- FY2024: 119 days

Data Element: Race/Ethnicity demographics & outcomes

Goal: Increase permanent housing placements for Black/African American Veterans to 50% by 2025.

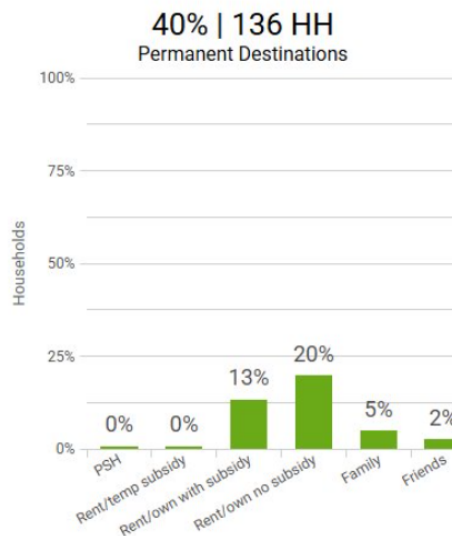
- FY2023 HMIS Data: **51%** of Veterans served in ES, TH, RRH, & PSH projects were Black/African American; **39%** permanently housed were Black/African American.
- FY2024: **52%** served identified as Black/African American; **37%** permanently housed.



Data Element: Exits to Permanent Housing

Goal: Increase permanent housing placements for Veterans to 50% by 2025.

- FY2023 HMIS Data: percentage of Veterans served in ES, TH, RRH, & PSH projects permanently housed was **41%**.
- FY2024: **40%** were permanently housed



Coordinated Entry from FY2022 SSO-CE Grant

NCCEH receives a CoC grant to support CE.

Operating year: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024

NCCEH sub-granted funds to the following agencies:

Region	Agency
1	HERE in Jackson Co
2	Thrive
3	Western Piedmont Council of Government
4	Diakonos
5	Partners
6	Center Piedmont Community Action (June 2024)
7	Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action
9	REACH Center
10	Hope Station
11, 12, & 13	Trillium



The NC BoS CoC CE system achieved several important milestones!

Accomplishments:

- Spent 100%(!!) of FY22 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
- Implemented the Homeless Assessment and Referral Tool (HART)

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 FY22 APR reflects data from 12/01/2023 to 11/30/2024 & solely demonstrates CE data (excluding VSP data).

The APR reflects the following:

- Total number of persons served: 8,255 (FY21 6,142)
- Data quality has an overall low error rate (1 – 4%); however, SSN had an error rate of 11% (likely due data privacy restrictions).

- Out of total number of persons served (8,255), 4,986 assessments were recorded in HMIS.
- 81% of assessed households were placed on the by-name list for prioritization.
- Increased utilization of CE Access Event & CE Referral Event

The CoC continues to seek to improve the CE system in 2025.

Entering the FY23 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) added to SSO-CE grant agreements
- NC BoS CoC CE goals
- Increase the number of permanent housing coordinated entry referral events in HMIS
- Increase the number of special population (Veteran, interpersonal violence, HOPWA) referrals during case conferencing

Entering the FY23 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) added to SSO-CE grant agreements
- Examples of agency goals
- Increasing case conferencing participants by one agency per quarter
- Decreasing head of household data errors by 25%
- Decreasing the total number of households on the by-name list by 5% within 12 months
- Outreach to 60 households living unsheltered &/or in non-coordinated entry participating shelter.

Dr. Dia Thomas asked for clarification regarding the 8,255 people served through CE.

Ashley responded, stating that the 8,255 people refer to anyone who was served or engaged with the CE system in the CoC.

FY2025 CoC Competition Updates

In 2024, HUD released its first 2-year NOFO defining the process for FY2024 and FY 2025.

FY2025 will be the second year of a 2-year NOFO process. While we do not yet have all the details, the NOFO from last year tells us:

- Projects awarded in the FY2024 competition that renew will not need to submit a project application during the FY2025 part of the competition.
- Projects eligible for renewal in the FY2025 competition that were not part of the FY2024 ranking list will submit project applications.

- The CoC will have opportunities to reallocate funding, if necessary, &/or consolidate existing renewal projects.
- CoC & DV Bonus funding *might* be available. If so, the CoC could accept new project applications for available funding.

The FY2025 Continuing Resolution impacts the FY2025 CoC Program Competition.

In mid-March, a Continuing Resolution was passed in Congress for the FY2025 budget.

- North Carolina Housing Coalition announced Homeless Assistance Grant funding was reduced by \$168 Million.
- The North Carolina Housing Coalition also reported that the HUD Secretary has been given authority to move funding allocated for CoC Builds to help fund FY2025 CoC Program Renewal Projects. Funding for CoC Builds was \$175 million.
- We continue to monitor information provided by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, our HUD partners, and others.

The FY24 & FY25 2-year Notice of Funding Opportunity states:

- Should there not be sufficient appropriated amounts to fully fund all FY2025 renewal grants, grant amounts may be reduced proportionately by HUD.
- If new competitive funding does become available for FY2025, the 2-year NOFO may be amended.
- HUD also reserves the right to modify the 2-year NOFO or issue a supplemental FY2025 CoC NOFO if necessary.

Lynne James asked in the chat, “Does this mean that CoC Builds will not be implemented?” Jenny responded, “We do not know for certain. Those projects could move forward, but it depends on HUD’s decision. We have submitted a project application and are currently awaiting a response.”

FY2025 New and Renewal CoC Program Project Webinars

The NC BoS CoC will host 2 CoC Program Project Webinars in May 2025.

- FY2025 New Project Webinar & Intent to Apply process is coming soon.
- FY2025 Renewal Project Webinar & Intent to Renew process coming soon.

The Scorecard Committee recommends FY2025 new and renewal CoC Program scorecard

The Scorecard Committee met February 19th & recommends minimal changes to FY2024 new & renewal CoC Program scorecards for the FY2025 competition.

- Update instructions/language to make it easier for staff & Project Review Committee scorers
- Clarify materials used to score applications

- Update performance measure benchmarks as recommended by the Funding & Performance Subcommittee
- Add language/questions to address projects dedicated for survivors of interpersonal violence
- Update CE questions to match current processes

New & renewal scorecards were posted prior to the meeting for review at <https://ncceh.org/steering-committee/>.

Teena Willis asked whether the CoC SC is considering the recent executive orders in relation to DEI. Their HUD representative recommended reviewing policies and procedures to refine the language.

Jenny responded that the decision was to maintain the status quo since there was no direct guidance from HUD. She emphasized the need to remain flexible moving forward, stating that while scorecards are necessary, clear directives on expectations are also essential.

Dr. Dia Thomas moved to accept the new and renewal scorecards, and Jackie Lucas seconded the motion. The FY2025 new and renewal CoC Program scorecards were unanimously approved.

HMIS Advisory Board Updates

The NC BoS CoC's HMIS lead agency is NCCEH.

- The governing body is the HMIS@NCCEH Advisory Board, consisting of representatives from the NC BoS, Durham, and Orange CoCs.
- The CoCs' oversight and governance responsibilities are carried out by the HMIS Advisory Board.
- The NC BoS CoC needs to nominate and elect a 2nd CoC designated representative to the HMIS Advisory Board who will also likely need to serve on the HMIS Advisory Board Executive Committee.
- [Governance Charter](#)

The NC BoS CoC opens nominations for a 2nd dedicated CoC representative for the HMIS Advisory Board from April 1st through April 15th.

Please submit nominations via this Smartsheet Link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/42936bab667f43209444a644af1cefd2>

NC Housing Day 2025

NCCEH is partnering with the North Carolina Housing Coalition and Habitat for Humanity for Housing Day 2025, which will take place on April 9, 2025, at the NC State Capitol, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Messaging from NCCEH will be drawn from this one-pager from the [Housing Not Handcuffs Movement](#) to educate legislators on the harmful, wasteful effects of bills like [House Bill 437](#) and [Senate Bill 724](#). Read more about the Housing Not Handcuffs Movement [here](#). Participants who want to support this action virtually are encouraged to call their NC elected representatives on April 9th between 8 am and 3 pm.

Reach out to Dr. Latonya Agard for any questions or to express interest in attending at latonya.agard@ncceh.org.

Reminders

Ashley shared a Friendly reminder that Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC) terms end this month and regional committees should be voting NOW for a new UAC to begin on May 1!!

Dr. Dia Thomas shared in the chat, “I am excited to announce that I have someone interested in serving as the UAC for Region 8. We will vote on her in our April meeting. Do UAC members meet throughout the year like other committees?”

Ashley responded, “Yes! We hold monthly meetings and training sessions for our UACs. This year’s sessions will conclude in April, and we will likely restart with the new group in June or July as regions complete their elections.”

Upcoming Meetings

- Veterans Subcommittee, *Monday, April 7, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 816 4243 7801
Passcode: 756430
- Lived Expertise Advisory Council, *April 11, 12 P.M. – 1 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481
Passcode: qYqVY5
- Racial Equity Subcommittee, *Wednesday, April 16, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 832 6483 8597

- Funding & Performance Subcommittee, *Thursday, April 17, 2 P.M. – 3 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 824 6553 8716
Passcode: 427473

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, April 1st at 10:30 A.M.