

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Consent Agenda and Updates

May 6, 2025

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Section I. NC BoS CoC Steering Committee Consent Agenda

The following will be voted on at the May 6, 2025, NC BoS CoC Steering Committee meeting:

April 1st, 2024, Steering Committee Minutes

<https://ncceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/April-2025-SC-Minutes.pdf>

**Any Steering Committee member may request to move an item off the consent agenda to be more thoroughly considered. Any such items will be discussed as a regular agenda item at the next Steering Committee meeting.*



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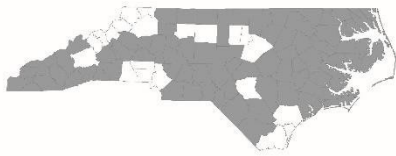
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Section II. Updates

- **Veterans Subcommittee**
Monday, May 5, 1 – 2 P.M.
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651
- **Lived Expertise Advisory Council**
Friday, May 9, 12 – 1 P.M.
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481
Passcode: qYqVY5
- **Coordinated Entry Council**
Monday, May 19, 10 – 11:30 A.M.
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 8978 8280 4661
Passcode: 490790
- **Racial Equity Subcommittee**
Wednesday, May 21, 12 – 1 P.M.
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651
- **Funding & Performance Subcommittee**
Thursday, May 22, 2 – 3 P.M.
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 872 9800 5216
Passcode: 414696



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Section III. Meeting Minutes and Supporting Materials

Veteran Subcommittee Meeting

April 7, 2025, at 11 AM

Member Attendance: Alyce Knaflich, Genean Hill, Jessica Rice, Kecia Robinson, Jean Eastwood, Seth Horton, Charessa McIntosh

NCCEH Staff Attendance: Natalie Rivera, Mira Sanderson

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Introduction

We began with subcommittee introductions since Natalie Rivera, NCCEH Project Specialist, is taking over for Allie Card, former NCCEH Project Specialist.

Committee Operations

Meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month at 11 AM. To set the agenda, Natalie will reach out to the subcommittee to gather any suggested topics. Email will remain the primary method of communication. After each meeting, Natalie will send the approved minutes to the subcommittee.

Goals

Framework Components

- I. Veteran System Flow
- II. Centering Equity
- III. Addressing System Gaps
- IV. Coordination/Provider Roles & Expectations
- V. Coordinated Entry Integration
- VI. Key Performance Indicators & Data Analysis

January Discussion Points

- What are some realistic and attainable goals for our time together?
- Is there a specific component of the Framework you would like to focus on?
- How can the work of the subcommittee better meet your daily needs as a provider?

Jessica noted that having access to data is essential for making informed decisions regarding services for veterans.

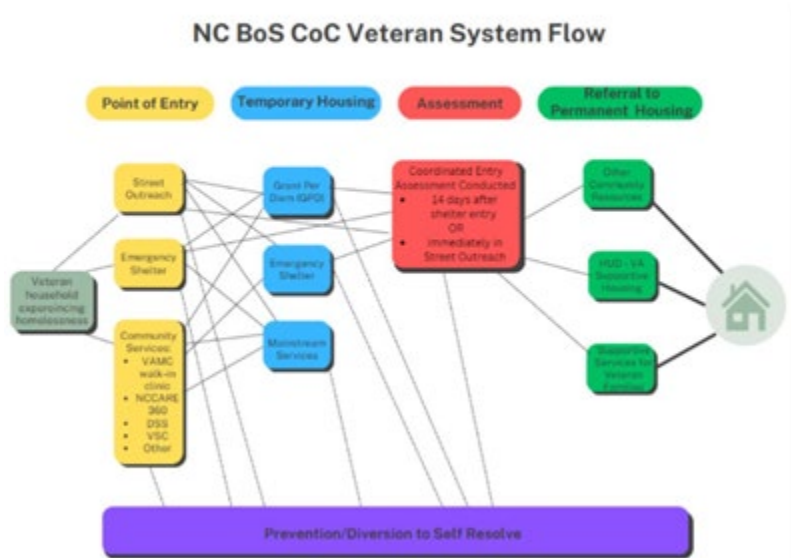
Alyce emphasized that networking plays a key role in ensuring veterans are directed to the appropriate resources, which supports quicker access to services.

Jean Eastwood mentioned that having a list of contacts specific to veteran services would be helpful. She also raised a question about HMIS and shared that Allie often requests data from her for the seven counties in her area.

Kecia added that Allie has been supporting the VA in obtaining read-only access to HMIS. She explained that there is a document the VA needs to sign, and they may be the ones responsible for moving the process forward. Kecia also pointed out that these meetings are useful for receiving statewide updates as well as information that is specific to each region.

Coordinated Entry

CE Flow from 2023 Framework



Do we have Regional Veteran BNLs? Who operates them? How are the meetings going?

Region 2 holds a separate Coordinated Entry (CE) meeting, which is attended by VA staff. During these meetings, staff review the list of individuals and add them to HMIS. Veterans are identified and separated out for referral to HUD-VASH for housing services.

Natalie inquired about the decision-making process for housing placements. Alyce explained that the HUD-VASH caseworker conducts an assessment and determines the most appropriate housing placement based on the veteran's needs.

Seth shared that in Guilford County, a staff member attends the larger CE meeting to compile a list of veterans. This list is then brought back to the veteran services team, who conduct outreach, complete assessments, and make appropriate referrals to available resources.

Kecia reported that Region 5 holds two By-Name List meetings each month. The second meeting has a stronger focus on veterans. During this meeting, they receive direct referrals from VA programs and collaborate closely with VA partners.

Jean stated that all SSVF veterans who go through intake and require additional services are connected via referral. If a veteran is in the SSVF program, they have access to that data; however, if the veteran is not, they only know that a referral may have been made. All veteran-related data comes from the CE system in their area.

Alyce added that regional SSVF programs do collect data, but this information is not shared with the Balance of State. Typically, regional SSVF representatives attend the CE meetings, but they were not present at our current meeting.

Natalie noted that it would be valuable to have access to data on veterans moving through the CE system.

Announcements/Updates

Veterans Stand Down – Cherokee, NC

Friday, April 5, 2025, from 9 AM – 2 PM

1526 Acquoni Rd, Cherokee, NC 28719, USA

Winston-Salem Homeless Veteran Stand Down

Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9 AM to 2 PM

United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church

450 Metropolitan Dr, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Fayetteville, NC

Veteran Stand Down on Thursday, May 15, 2025

Virtual Housing Symposium on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, from 10 AM to 11:30 AM

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The next Veteran Subcommittee Meeting will be on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 11 AM

LEAC Meeting – 4/11/25

Attendance: Karen C., Melissa H., Von N., Laurel Benfield (staff), Elliot Rhodes (Staff), Mira Sanderson (Staff)

Agenda:

NCCEH Staff Changes:

- Laurel announced that she has taken a new job and will be leaving NCCEH on 4/24. Laurel led a discussion of how the LEAC can continue to meet during an interim period before NCCEH hires a replacement. Mira and Elliot may be able to help, but will be more limited in their capacity.

Debrief of NLIHC conference – Karen:

- Karen noted that members/attendees of the conference highlighted the importance of amplifying LEAC members' personal stories, noting that these lived experiences add valuable context to equity work.
- Karen also offered to share logistical details with anyone interested and will be writing up a summary about her experience at the conference.
- A suggestion was made to connect with contacts in California to learn more about their Client Bill of Rights and explore how similar principles could be incorporated into our own practices.
- New York representatives shared valuable insights, especially around the social determinants of health in regard to NLIHC and homelessness.
- Attendees also gained meaningful information about efforts in Indigenous communities through the conference.
- Karen encouraged LEAC to join the next cohort and will share more information about the process.

Bringing it Home Conference:

- Karen inquired about the possibility of her teenage child attending the event. Laurel responded that she would reach out to Yakisha to explore if this is allowed.
- Melissa asked for clarification regarding an email sent by Von and Karen about virtual attendance. Von acknowledged that virtual attendance is available but wanted to know if virtual participants would be allowed to speak. Laurel offered to contact BiH to find out what options are available.
- Von would like to schedule a one-hour lunch meeting to review slides and talking points. She asked for availability, noting that Tuesdays are her only conflict.
 - Karen is available any time except on the 16th.
 - Melissa is available on the 14th, 16th, 18th, 22nd, 25th, 28th, and 30th.
- Von proposed meeting on Monday, April 14th at 2:30 PM.

NAEH planning:

- All LEAC members have been registered, the conference is from June 30 – July 2, 2025.
- The logistics of the conference will likely come from Mira in the near future. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns: mira.sanderson@ncceh.org

Partnerships with Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC's): Elliot Rhodes

- There is currently some overlap between the work being done by UAC partnerships and Coordinated Entry (CE). This existing alignment presents an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and streamline efforts between the two groups.
- Elliot shared that he engages with UAC partners on a monthly basis and has been in ongoing conversations with them about incorporating the LEAC into their work. These discussions are aimed at promoting greater equity and accountability within UAC initiatives.
- He noted that certain regional UACs have demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and openness to collaboration, which could create a strong foundation for deeper engagement with LEAC.
- Elliot expressed a desire to see a more intentional overlap between UAC and LEAC, especially during monthly training sessions. He believes that having LEAC members present during these sessions could enhance the equity lens through which UACs operate and provide meaningful opportunities for cross-collaboration.
- Additionally, Elliot posed the idea of LEAC potentially taking on a consulting or advisory role with UACs. This could involve LEAC members attending UAC meetings and serving as representatives who help guide efforts around transparency and equity. One possible avenue for supporting this work could be the use of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data to generate reports, track outcomes, and identify areas for improvement. This type of collaboration could help reinforce accountability and ensure that equity remains a central focus in UAC operations.

NC BoS CoC Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting

April 16, 2025, at 11:30 AM

Member Attendance: Mary Erwin, Melissa Hewitt, Dr. Deniece Cole, Kristin Dunn, Lori Watts

NCCEH Staff Attendance: Laurel Benfield, Teresa Robinson, Mira Sanderson

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Announcements and Discussion

Laurel announced that this will be her final Racial Equity Subcommittee meeting, as she has accepted a community organizing position at the LGBTQ+ Center in Durham, NC. Today's discussion centered around her transition and how the subcommittee will move forward in her absence.

There has been no response from the broader group regarding the formation of a larger equity coalition, aside from a general expression of interest. Teresa expressed uncertainty about how to proceed without a designated lead.

Dr. Deniece Cole responded by affirming that this group has already overcome many challenges and voiced her commitment to continuing the work unless directed otherwise by leadership. She emphasized that the movement for equity will not stop and that the group will persevere. Mary Erwin echoed this sentiment in agreement.

Lori Watts raised a question regarding a new executive order related to the Department of Government Engagement (DOGE) and its attempt to access data from non-profit and government-affiliated agencies. Specifically, concerns were raised about data privacy and access to HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data.

Laurel shared that, based on a conversation with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), it would require a massive systemic change for DOGE to access HMIS data, as the system is decentralized and governed locally. The current privacy protections and data-sharing agreements are extensive and do not support nationalization.

Kristin Dunn mentioned that "Musk staffers are reaching out to non-profit leaders," and expressed skepticism about their ability to obtain such data. She noted that if an auditor were to attempt to audit NCCEH, it would be nearly impossible to gather and review data from all 79 counties' individual non-profit organizations. Laurel added that while there have been frequent threats and signs of instability, there has been little targeted action taken.

Finally, Teresa clarified that under Data Center policy, no one is permitted to use another user's login credentials to access data, reinforcing the existing protections around data access.

Next Steps for This Group

Laurel had been leading the effort to create a combined group focused on advocacy for marginalized communities. However, due to her upcoming transition out of the role, she emphasized that it is now up to the subcommittee members to decide whether to continue moving forward with this initiative or pause until a new Project Specialist is hired.

Laurel acknowledged that it would not be fair to ask Teresa to take on the lead role, given her responsibilities at the Data Center. She encouraged the group to continue progressing at a more gradual pace—such as continuing to meet and hold discussions, even if not as extensively as when she was leading—until a new Project Specialist can take over.

Kristin inquired about Laurel’s last day, which is officially May 2, though she will be functionally transitioning out by April 25.

Teresa raised the idea of continuing to share information among members and potentially creating a space to keep each other informed on advocacy efforts and related concerns. Kristin suggested we ask the Steering Committee what they are expecting or hoping for from our group this year. Teresa noted that bringing this discussion to the public SC meeting could have both pros and cons.

Summary/Next Steps

- Increase the use of the listserv to stay connected and share relevant updates.
- Clarify what the SC expects from our group this year and determine what support they can offer us.

Bringing It Home Conference

Occurring May 15 – 16, 2025, at the McKimmon Conference and Training Center at NC State. The LEAC will be presenting an incredible presentation. If you are interested in coming or would like more information, here is the link: <https://nchousing.org/bringing-it-home-2025/>

Funding and Performance Subcommittee

April 17, 2025, at 2 PM

Member Attendance: Bonnie Harper, Lynne James, Melissa Hewitt, Amy Modlin, Lori Watts

NCCEH Staff Attendance: Jenny Simmons, Dashia Shanks, Mira Sanderson, Mia Phillips

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FY2025 CoC Program Competition

In 2024, HUD released its first 2-year NOFO defining the process for FY2024 and FY2025.

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.
 - Ex. Back@Home Balance of State
- 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.

What the NOFO States about FY2025 CoC Program funding:

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

- Should there not be sufficient allocated 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.

The FY2025 Continuing Resolution impacts the FY2025 CoC Program competition.

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

Fact Sheet from NAEH:

Preserves funding at the following levels:

- \$3.54 billion for the Continuum of Care Program, which must cover: renewals of existing projects;
- a \$52 million set-aside for projects for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- a \$25 million Cost of Living Adjustment for supportive services staff.

Implications:

- Leaves \$3.457 billion for the renewal of existing projects but does not account for the increase in Fair Market Rent adjustments.
- Gives HUD the ability to repurpose \$100 million to cover renewal demand. These funds would otherwise be used for additional Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Please note: This is not a reallocation of the \$100 million from FY2024 that was made available through the CoC Builds Notice of Funding Availability. That award process is still pending from HUD.
- Even with \$100 million to help cover renewal demand, the Alliance anticipates there will still be a gap of \$150 million to \$200 million between the amount available and the need.
 - This shortfall will result in a loss of housing assistance for at least 18,500 households and will reduce the availability of housing and services to help people experiencing homelessness get back into housing.

Amy Modlin mentioned hearing that some staff at the Greensboro Field Office were leaving. Jenny confirmed this and read aloud the ESG email sent yesterday, which detailed that several staff at the Field Office are participating in the voluntary resignation program being offered by the Federal government reducing the number of field officers from 9 to 5. It also noted that Michael Johnson, is among those accepting it.

FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities

CoC Funding Priorities are set overall and regional funding priorities.

FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities set NC Balance of State CoC priorities for allocation of funds. In the draft, these remain the same as the FY2024 version.

CoC-wide Priorities:

- Ensure essential infrastructure elements are in place, including HMIS & coordinated entry.
- Ensure adequate coverage of permanent supportive housing across the CoC.
- Increase the availability of rapid rehousing.
- Ensure CoC funding is being used well, including potentially re-allocating some funding from projects that have patterns of low spending or poor performance.

Does the structure of the general CoC priorities still make sense? If not, how should we approach the guidance? If so, are there specific changes that should make in the overall CoC priorities? Do we still believe these are the main priorities or is something missing?

Lynne James responded that the document is self-explanatory. Amy Modlin expressed her support, stating that it looks good. The committee acknowledged both the likelihood of receiving new funding and the uncertainty surrounding the future. Bonnie Harper agreed.

FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities set NC Balance of State CoC regional priorities for the allocation of CoC Bonus & reallocated funding.

Regional programmatic priorities

- Typically, the CoC uses the prior year's PIT/HIC & the most recent funding awards to assign funding priorities for RRH & PSH for each region based on the data available to determine need.

- *Priority 1:* PSH in regions that need a significant increase in PSH units to meet the need based on their PIT & Housing Inventory Count.
- *Priority 2:* RRH in regions that indicate severely inadequate resources based on the PIT & Housing Inventory Count. ***Designated for regions which show <10% RRH stock versus the 2024 PIT count.***
- *Priority 3:* RRH in regions not indicated as a Priority 2 region & PSH in regions that have some unmet need based on their PIT & Housing Inventory Count. ***Designated for regions which show >10% RRH stock versus the 2024 PIT count.***
- *Priority 4:* Regions have enough PSH stock to meet their needs based on their PIT & Housing Inventory Count.

Other potential considerations...

- *Acquisition, Rehab, and New Construction*
 - The CoC has not allowed this in past competitions due to limited bonus funding & availability of other federal/state funding for affordable housing development.
- *TH-RRH*
 - The CoC has not allowed this in past competitions due to continued high barrier shelter, relatively low numbers of unsheltered individuals, and low shelter utilization rates per HUD guidance.
- *DV Bonus*
 - The CoC has allowed potential TH-RRH &/or SSO-CE projects (CoC-wide only) dedicated for survivors of interpersonal violence.

Motion to approve recommendations?

Lynne James made a motion to approve the draft as presented. Bonnie Harper seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Steps

Once we have a recommended document, staff will finalize the draft FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities & post to the NCCEH website for Steering Committee member review.

- Members will consider approval of the document at their May 6th Steering Committee meeting.
- After approval, staff will post the final version to the Funding Opportunities, CoC Program competition page of the website & notify CoC stakeholders.

Wrap Up

At the next Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting:

Andrea Carey (Data Center Director) will present out FY2024 System Performance Measures (SPMs) & Review HMIS Engagement Work

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The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd at 2 PM.