



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

<https://ncceh.org/nc-bos-coc-overview/>

Governance Board Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2026, at 10:30 A.M.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Board Members Present: Lori Watts (Region 1), Emily Lowery (Region 2), Chasity Houck (Region 3), Lauren Singleton Pendergraft (Region 4), Erin Gaskin (Region 5), Tonya Gray Young (Region 7), Priscilla Ward (Region 8), Ashley Kornegay (Region 10), LaKitra “Kit” Claude (Region 11), Lynne F. James (Region 12), Brian Fike (Region 13), Melissa Hewitt, Angela Harper King, Kim Crawford, Daniel “Danny” Jordan, Erin Joy Crossfield, Brooks Ann McKinney, September Tuttle, Makala Perez, Rebecca Laton, Tara Peele, Allison Dahle

Board Members Absent: Jai Baker (Region 6), Jessica Joyner (Region 6), Dr. Dia Thomas (Region 8), Anita Lynch (Region 9), Terence Staten (Region 9), Jackie Lucas, Cynthia Figueora, Kennett Meglar

Collaborative Applicant & Lead Agency Staff Present: Joanne Cain, Jenny Simmons, Natalie Rivera, Ashley Von Hatten, Alicia Price-Blanks, Natasha Posey, Mira Sanderson, Andrea Carey, Mia Phillips, Elliot Rhodes, Rachelle Dugan, Dr. Latonya Agard

Guests/Public Attendees: Approximately 41 additional attendees were present virtually.

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APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Quorum was reached and the meeting was called to order.

The consent agenda was circulated for review before the meeting and is available at

<https://ncceh.org/governance-board/>.

Brian Fike motioned to approve the consent agenda without changes or objections. Angela Harper King seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT UPDATES

Your attendance is requested at the NC BoS CoC Full Membership meeting, on Wednesday, May 27th from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the McKimmon Center (1101 Gorman St., Raleigh, NC 27606). If you are unable to attend in person, please use the following link to [register for our virtual option](#).

We are excited to welcome Tamara Owens as the new ESG Program Portfolio Specialist beginning May 13. Tamara brings extensive experience in ESG, CDBG, and federal grant compliance, including housing program oversight, HMIS reporting, and program administration.

We are also pleased to announce that Mary Ann Priester will join the team in June 2026 as the new BoS Regional Specialist, a role created to strengthen regional coordination, communication, and technical assistance across the CoC.

Liz Carbone has transitioned to a contract role and will continue leading the LLR Call while supporting statewide policy initiatives.

Regions are reminded to complete and submit their [Unsheltered Access Coordinator \(UAC\) elections](#).

Recruitment continues for [Governance Board members](#) with expertise in youth homelessness, veteran services, reentry, public housing, hospital services, and landlord/property management.

COC PROGRAM COMPETITION

HUD announced partial FY2025 CoC Program Competition awards for grants expiring in Q2 of 2026, while awards for Q3 and Q4 grants are still pending. NCCEH recently worked with HUD TA provider Heather Dillashaw to streamline both the CoC and ESG competitions, including updates to funding priorities, simplified application processes through ZoomGrants, and reduced administrative requirements. Grants.gov has also [forecasted](#) the FY2026 CoC Program Competition and CoC Builds Competition, with increased funding and upcoming application deadlines this summer.

ESG PROGRAM COMPETITION

On the ESG side, the NC ESG Office anticipates opening the CY2027 ESG Program funding competition in early June, with funding available for street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, and HMIS activities. The NC BoS CoC will [host a multi-step competition process](#) for ESG applicants, alongside [webinars and office hours](#) to support agencies throughout the application cycle.

NC BOS COC MONITORING PLAN

NCCEH is developing a formal monitoring plan with HUD TA support to strengthen compliance and oversight for CoC and ESG-funded programs, this will include a risk assessment and monitoring tools. More information to come.

2026 CE EVALUATION

For the 2026 evaluation cycle, surveys will be distributed from May 1–31 to providers and households currently experiencing homelessness or recently housed through permanent

housing programs. Agencies participating in the coordinated entry system are required to distribute client surveys and complete the provider survey to support ongoing improvements to the system.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHTS: REGIONS 1, 2, AND 3

Regional Leadership from Regions 1, 2, and 3 provided an overview of their respective regions, highlighting key programs, regional initiatives, and their roles in supporting local leadership and homelessness response efforts within their communities.

Region 2 shared growing concerns about the increasing number of older adults experiencing homelessness, noting that 29% of people experiencing homelessness in the region are age 55 or older. Region 2's Lead added that within her shelter program, 43% of residents last month were over age 55, a significant increase from just 7% in 2022. A question asked about differences between Region 2's trends and nearby Buncombe County PIT Count data, which did not show a similar increase in older adults. Region 2's Lead clarified that observations were based specifically on shelter program data, where the percentage of residents age 55 and older has steadily risen over the past five years, reaching approximately 50% by late 2025.

After Region 3's presentation, a question was asked about the WPCOG's Homelessness Response Team (HRT). Amber Brafford (Program Manager for the HRT) explained that the program is housed within the Council of Governments and serves as the Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC) for Region 4 and McDowell County. The HRT is funded through the HOME-ARP grant, and invited anyone interested in learning more about the program to reach out directly at amber.brafford@wpcog.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND REMINDERS

Upcoming meetings and key dates, along with more detailed content, can be found in the slide deck posted at on the NC BoS CoC page at <https://ncceh.org/governance-board/>.

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Next Governance Board Meeting:

Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 10:30 A.M.