



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

www.ncceh.org/BoS

NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023

Regional Leads Present: Kenett Melgar, Emily Lowery, Amber Story, Pamela Hinton, Kristen McAlhaney, Tonya Gray, Emily Locklear, James Stroud, LaTasha McNair, Kisha Darden, Tujuanda Sanders, Brian Fike

At-Large Members Present: Rachelle Dugan, Ellen Blackman, Brooks Ann McKinney, Cassandra Rowe, Lisa Phillips, Catherine Kastleman, Angela Harper King

SC Members Absent: Tiffany Askew

Interested Parties Present: Sarah Lancaster, Lori Watts, Brenda Marie Forbes, Lakitra Claude, Amy Modlin, Leah Dyson, Michael Absher, Kecia Robinson, Erin Gaskin, Alyce Knaflich, Teresa Robinson, Bre Griffin, Kim Hemphill, Laurenn Singleton, Savannah Dick, Angela Battle, Becky Sommer-Petersen, Michele Welsh, Teena Willis, Lenize Patton, Michael Fliss, Beth Branagan

NCCEH Staff Present: Brian Alexander, Allie Card, Adriana Diaz, Laurel McNamee, Jenny Simmons, 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>
 - 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 do not meet all standards to be informed and virtual meetings with NC BoS CoC staff will be held between May 25th and June 2nd. These projects will have the opportunity to re-submit documentation by 6 PM on June 8th to potentially achieve 3-year certification starting in FY2024.
- 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/>.

The Funding and Performance Subcommittee recommended FY2023 CoC Program Funding Priorities to the Steering Committee for consideration.

- Minor changes were made to the FY2022 CoC Program Funding Priorities document:
 - Dates updated for FY2023
 - Name of “No Priority” changed to “Priority 4”
- Regional project priorities grid updates:
 - Used FY22 CoC Program awards to update units and funding amounts
 - Used 2022 Point-in-Time count data
- Draft FY2023 CoC program Funding Priorities: <https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/pages-page/4b02de94/2023-coc-funding-priorities-recommend-to-steering-committee.pdf>.

Kenett Melgar motioned to approve the recommended FY2023 CoC Program Funding Priorities from the Funding and Performance Subcommittee. Kisha Darden seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommended FY2023 CoC Program Funding Priorities was unanimously approved.

CY2024 Emergency Solutions Grant Competition

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 breakout:

NC BoS CoC Region	NC ESG Fair Share	Emergency Services (60% max)	Housing Stability (40% Min)
BoS Region 01	\$126,766	\$76,059	\$50,707
BoS Region 02	\$118,532	\$71,119	\$47,413
BoS Region 03	\$192,152	\$115,291	\$76,861
BoS Region 04	\$169,683	\$101,810	\$67,873
BoS Region 05	\$304,427	\$182,656	\$121,771
BoS Region 06	\$199,659	\$119,795	\$79,864
BoS Region 07	\$366,671	\$220,002	\$146,669
BoS Region 08	\$169,481	\$101,689	\$67,792
BoS Region 09	\$231,348	\$138,809	\$92,539
BoS Region 10	\$236,136	\$141,682	\$94,454
BoS Region 11	\$109,380	\$65,628	\$43,752
BoS Region 12	\$152,211	\$91,327	\$60,884
BoS Region 13	\$149,288	\$89,573	\$59,715

The ESG competition timeline is as follows:

Activity	Due Date
NC BoS CoC Instructions Released	Thursday June 01, 2023
RFA released	Tuesday June 06, 2023
NC Balance of State Webinar for all applicants	Thursday June 22, 2023
NC ESG Office RFA webinar	June 13, 15, and 20
Project Apps due to NCCEH	July 12, 2023
Project Apps Review	July 13 - 28
NCCEH staff selection meeting	August 1, 2023
Project Review Committee Selection Meeting	August 03, 2023
Steering Committee Project Application Recommendation Approval	August 08, 2023
Appeals Due	August 11, 2023
Steering Committee appeals meeting (tentative)	August 15, 2023
Project and Regional Applications Due to NC DHHS	August 21, 2023

In order to allow for a full and transparent process with application reviews from NCCEH staff and the NC BoS CoC Project Review Committee, the August Steering Committee meeting will need to be moved. The new date for the August Steering Committee meeting is August 08, 2023, from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. The proposed slate of ESG applications will be presented at this meeting.

A process-oriented webinar for regional leadership will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM. This webinar will cover the key components and changes to this year’s competition for regional leadership. Regional Committee meetings to provide feedback on applicant participation will be required again this year. CoC staff encouraged members to begin

planning now and set a meeting on their calendars. Special Regional Committee meetings will need to take place between 7/14 – 7/27.

The project application instructions are being finalized and will be released ahead of the RFA. The project application form, budget form, and supplemental ESG forms will not be available until June 07.

Between 5/08 and 06/07, agencies can begin preparing by:

- Becoming familiar with the process and timeline
- Planning for the time needed to submit the application by 07/12 deadline
- Cleaning HMIS data and practice running an Annual Performance Report (APR)
- Locating and updating agency policies and procedures (including client rules)

A project applicant webinar will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM. All interested agencies should attend. The webinar will be recorded and available on the NCCEH website. Register at: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1616/>.

The ESG Office is hosting additional webinars. All applicant agencies should plan to attend one of the following webinars:

1. Tuesday, June 13
2. Thursday, June 15
3. Tuesday, June 20

Webinar times and registration information to come.

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 your networks.

Persons attending Steering Committee or Regional Committee meeting representing an agency applying for CY2024 ESG Annual Allocation Funding may not:

- Participate in conversation about applicants
- Facilitate Regional Committee meetings to recommend agencies for funding
- Ask questions about the funding proposal for your agency
- Make a motion related to approving or recommending an agency for funding
- Vote on the Regional Prioritization Form or proposed slate of applicants (Steering Committee meeting only)

Role of Regional Committees:

- Spread the word and start now
 - Many of the providers in your regions may not hear critical information about application deadlines and material if it does not come from you.

- Encourage any interested providers to email bos@ncceh.org and request to be added to our general email list if they are not already.
- Forward all ESG competition information to your networks, especially the application instructions
- Be prepared to answer questions correctly
 - Applicants may come to you before asking NCCEH staff.
 - Very important that you have the correct information
 - If you don't know, don't guess! Direct people to email bos@ncceh.org.

Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC) Update

It's time for Regional Committees to elect their Unsheltered Access Coordinator. The goal is to ensure all people living unsheltered connect to services and housing:

- 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>.

NCCEH will facilitate an in-person regional leadership/UAC kick-off meeting on June 15. More information to follow soon.

Mortality Linkage Research Project

Dr. Mike Fliss, researcher at UNC-Chapel Hill, presented a mortality linkage research project, which used HMIS@NCCEH data.

Dr. Fliss worked on the Opioid & Substance Use Action Plan developed by NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), with one of the goals being to examine the number of people experiencing homelessness who died from overdose-specific and all-cause mortality.

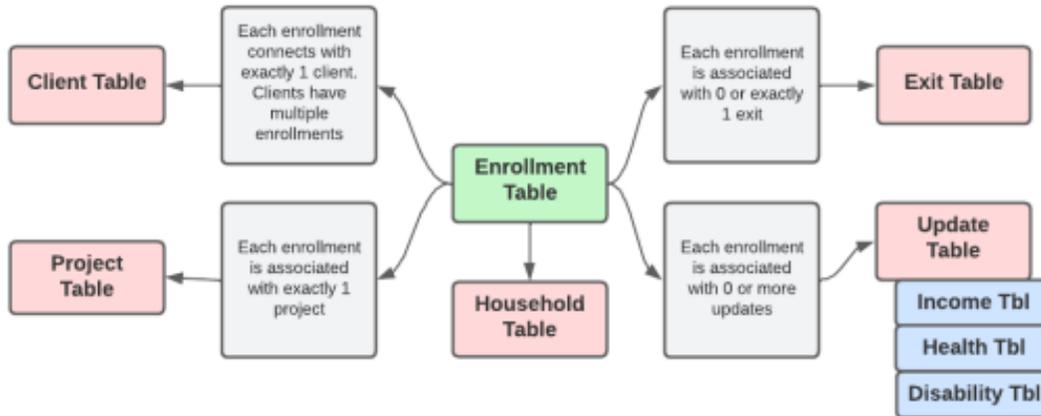
Dr. Fliss outlined the process for linking HMIS@NCCEH data with death certificate data:

- To link death certificates and HMIS records, the team harmonized linkage variables and derived homelessness-related place of death variables.
- The team used the fastlink probabilistic linkage package [7]
- Links were 100% hand-reviewed to iteratively improve and ensure linkage quality.

Statistical Analyses

- Death certificate ACME (Automated Classification of Medical Entry [8]) code frequencies were used to compare all-cause and cause-specific mortality rates of the 81-county North

Carolina population (contained in HMIS@NCCEH), using age-standardized mortality ratios (SMR) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs).



Dr. Fliss noted that attempting to gather statewide homelessness data was harder than predicted and eventually had to be limited to the 81 counties covered by HMIS@NCCEH. The researchers for this project developed a document that helps outline the unique aspects and challenges of working with HMIS@NCCEH data as a researcher.

The research project had several findings:

- 1,953 (5%) people experiencing homelessness (PEH) were linked to death certificates.
- Using age adjusted SMRs, PEH had 7.0 times the all-cause mortality rate of the North Carolina general population (95% CI: 6.7, 7.3).
- The most frequent single cause of death among PEH was a med-drug overdose, representing 238 (12.2%) deaths (versus 2.0% in the North Carolina population), 13.8 times the North Carolina mortality rate.
- Other frequent death causes included suicide/self-harm (4.1%, 9 times the rate); motor vehicle crash/pedestrian injuries (1.9%, 6 times the rate); and firearm assault (1.4%, 10 times the rate). We also found higher rates of chronic disease mortality, including heart disease (7 times), liver diseases (7 times), and lung cancers (6 times).

Cause of Death	NC* Deaths	HMIS Deaths		SMR
	# (%)	Observed # (%)	Expected # (%)	
Total Deaths	351,740 (100.0)	1953 (100.0)	279.4 (100.0)	7.0 (6.7, 7.3)
Med-Drug Overdose	6,955 (2.0)	238 (12.2)	17.2 (6.2)	13.8 (12.1, 15.6)
Heart Disease	42,277 (12.0)	212 (10.9)	30.5 (10.9)	6.9 (6.0, 7.9)
Cancer (Lung)	21,417 (6.1)	102 (5.2)	18.2 (6.5)	5.6 (4.5, 6.7)
Suicide / Self-Harm	5,221 (1.5)	80 (4.1)	9.3 (3.3)	8.6 (6.7, 10.5)
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease / COPD	21,930 (6.2)	77 (3.9)	13.5 (4.8)	5.7 (4.4, 7.0)
Diabetes	7,274 (2.1)	56 (2.9)	6.6 (2.4)	8.4 (6.2, 10.7)
Alcoholic Liver Disease	2,300 (0.7)	40 (2.0)	4.7 (1.7)	8.6 (5.9, 11.3)
Motor Vehicle Crash / Pedestrian	3,624 (1.0)	38 (1.9)	6 (2.2)	6.3 (4.3, 8.3)
Pending (~40% Overdose in NC)	1,253 (0.4)	29 (1.5)	2.3 (0.8)	12.7 (8.1, 17.3)
Bacterial Sepsis	5,670 (1.6)	29 (1.5)	4.5 (1.6)	6.5 (4.1, 8.8)
Firearm (Assault)	1,481 (0.4)	28 (1.4)	2.9 (1.0)	9.6 (6.1, 13.2)
Liver Cirrhosis	2,770 (0.8)	24 (1.2)	3.5 (1.3)	6.8 (4.1, 9.5)
Cancer (Colon)	4,405 (1.3)	22 (1.1)	3.9 (1.4)	5.6 (3.3, 8.0)
Cancer (Pancreas)	5,147 (1.5)	21 (1.1)	4.6 (1.6)	4.6 (2.6, 6.5)
Heart Disease (Hypertensive)	2,341 (0.7)	19 (1.0)	2.9 (1.0)	6.6 (3.6, 9.5)
Cancer (unspecified)	3,822 (1.1)	18 (0.9)	3.3 (1.2)	5.4 (2.9, 7.9)

* NC Deaths include 81 county catchment area for NC CEH

Dr. Fliss outlined limitations of the project:

- Not statewide
 - Limited to the 81 counties in the HMIS@NCCEH implementation
- Pre-COVID-19.
 - Ongoing work is needed to stay current and understand the impacts of the pandemic.
- Slow...too slow
 - COVID-19 in the middle of the project
 - Data governance legal mire is a constant pain point
- Not stratified
 - E.g., by race-ethnicity, gender, age, CoC/county. Requires enough events / people
- Mortality only
 - Doesn't include morbidity, other lived experiences

The research team is currently investigating NC Violent Death Report System homelessness variables (housing problems; homeless) , creating NC DETECT ED visit homelessness definition, and hopes to move towards sustainable death linkage and make the project statewide in the future.

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) Safe at Home RRH Program

Cassie Rowe, Co-Director of Survivor Wellbeing at the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, gave a presentation on their CoC-funded Safe at Home DV Rapid Rehousing project. She provided background on homelessness and domestic violence (DV):

- DV is a major cause of homelessness for survivors and their children.
- Many survivors are unable to leave abusive partners for fear of losing their housing – so many face the choice between unsafe housing and being unhoused.

- Most unhoused women have experienced domestic and sexual violence in their lifetimes.
- Housing represents the greatest unmet need among survivors seeking DV services.

NCCADV applied for CoC DV Bonus RRH projects for several years. It was funded for the first time for the FY21 CoC Program competition for around \$2.1 million. The project is called Safe at Home:

- Who is eligible: Category 4 Homeless – Fleeing DV
- Goal: help unhoused survivors and their families get into safe, affordable, permanent housing as quickly and with as few barriers as possible
- Voluntary Supportive Services
 - Case management, moving costs, utility deposits

Safe at Home programs:

- Region 1: Reach of Macon County
- Region 2: Thrive
- Region 3: Family Guidance Center
- Region 5: Family Services of Davidson County
- Region 7: Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action
- Region 8: Southeastern Family Violence Center
- Region 10: Wesley Shelter
- Region 12: Center for Family Violence Prevention

Cassie outlined several challenges the program has faced:

- Even with funding, it has been hard to house survivors.
- Lack of affordable housing across the state
- Landlord issues
 - Refusing to sign VAWA lease addendum
 - Resistance to working with rental assistance programs
 - Requiring survivors to provide proof of income to cover rent themselves at outset

NCCADV was awarded renewal funds for the FY2022 competition and will continue the program into 2024. In 2024, NCCADV will have around \$3 million in DV Rapid Rehousing funds to be used in the NC Balance of State CoC. NCCADV will release an RFP in June for subrecipients and hope to work with more agencies to provide expanded coverage in the NC Balance of State CoC. An information session will be held on May 18 at 3 PM. Email Cassie at crowe@nccadv.org for more information.

Lori Watts asked if current subrecipients had to complete an application through the RFP. Cassie answered that only new applicants have to complete an application.

Upcoming meetings & reminders

- **HMIS System Updates, Tuesday, May 9, 10:30 – 11:30 A.M.**
 - View recording at: <https://www.ncceh.org/hmis/news/>
- **Lived Expertise Advisory Council Meeting, Thursday May 11, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

- Presentation:
<https://zoom.us/j/5799039481?pwd=UFkwNCtLdUszeG94Y2prS0ttRkVmdz09>
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481 Passcode: qYqVY5
- **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting, Monday, May 15, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.**
 - Presentation: <https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness>
United States: +1 (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733
- **Monthly HMIS Training: Data Quality Launch Plan, Wednesday, May 17, 10:00 – 11:00 A.M.**
 - View recording at: <https://www.nceh.org/hmis/news/>
- **Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting, Wednesday, May 17, 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, May 17, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.**
 - Presentation: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kbKWYznZ6>
Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651 Dial by your location: +1 646 931 3860 US
- **Funding and Performance Subcommittee, Thursday, May 25, 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#

Next Steering Committee meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 10:30 AM