

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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www.ncceh.org/BoS

Balance of State Steering Committee Meeting

4.2.13

Regional Leads Present:

Brian Alexander, Chris Battle, Lynn Deluca (for Kristi Case), Debbie Cole, Nicole Dewitt, Jennifer Flood, Monica Jones, Kelly Lacy, Steven Smith (for Joe Marks), Sarah McWhirter, Amy Modlin, Candy Hall (for Jane Motsinger), Faye Pierce, Shanna Poole, Pam Radford (interim contact for Johnston), Candice Rountree, Michele Steele, Paulette White, Robert Silber (for Teena Willis), Shari Wright

Regional Leads Absent:

Susan Bellew, Kim Braxton, Spencer Cook, Whitney Morton, Joel Rice, Nickie Siler

Interested Parties Present:

Thurston Alexander-Smith, Keri Christensen, Debra Clark, Jennie Connor, Gertie Crute, Tonya Gray, Sarah McBrayer, Janice Sauls, Lori Watts, Talaika Williams

NCCEH Staff Present:

Nancy Holochwost, Denise Neunaber

Approval of March Minutes

There being no changes needed, the minutes were approved by common consent.

CoC Renewals Announced

- HUD announced funding for all Tier One renewal projects from the 2012 application on March 13. All of the BoS Tier One renewals were funded. The total award amount for the BoS was \$4,241,627.
- The final project awards differed slightly from the requested amounts because of adjustments in the Fair Market Rent (FMR) amounts for projects that received leasing or rental assistance funding.
- All renewal grantees should receive their grant agreements from HUD soon. Grantees should submit a copy of their grant agreement to bos@ncceh.org so NCCEH staff can track APR and QPR due dates based on the new operating year dates.
- In addition to the renewals in Tier One, the BoS application also included two new applications (for one project) in Tier One, one renewal in Tier Two, and two new projects in Tier Two. HUD

has said that they will announce the awards for all these projects at the same time within the next couple of months.

Regional Lead Elections

- At its last meeting, the Steering Committee approved the list of active Regional Committees that had submitted minutes documenting Regional Lead elections as of March 5th. The committee also reviewed the list of RCs that had requested waivers to hold elections at a later date or that had not been in contact with NCCEH staff. The Steering Committee extended the deadline to submit minutes until March 31.
- Since the last meeting, the following Regional Committees have submitted meeting minutes and are now considered active: Beaufort, Down East, Foothills, Northeast, Onslow, Person, Southeast, Southwest, Transylvania, and Twin County.
 - NCCEH staff also received minutes from Tonya Gray for the Harnett County Regional Committee on March 28. The minutes documented a meeting between Tonya and two representatives from Lee County. Tonya noted that the meeting's purpose was to discuss merging Harnett and Lee counties into one Regional Committee. Denise explained that this meeting does not meet the requirements for a Regional Committee since it did not include other community members from Harnett County; consequently, Harnett will not be considered an active Regional Committee. Tonya was encouraged to contact NCCEH staff to discuss plans for establishing a Regional Committee in the future.
- A motion to add new the new Regional Committees to the official active Regional Committee list for 2013 was made and approved [Wright, Cole].

PIT Count and Corresponding CoC Outcomes

- The final Point-in-Time Count for the BoS is posted on the NCCEH website at <http://www.ncceh.org/PITdata/>. Nancy will post the county-by-county breakdown within the next few weeks.
- The Steering Committee reviewed a summary of the PIT Count data. The total count is 3627, a 24% increase from 2012, most of which was due to an increase in the unsheltered count. The chronically homeless count increased 149% to 638.
 - Some of the increase can be explained by new communities conducting unsheltered counts and increased bed inventory. Steering Committee members discussed other reasons for increases, including better education about how to count chronically homeless people and people remaining homeless longer than they used to.
- The Steering Committee discussed the implications of increased numbers and how they will affect the HUD application. Regional Committee leads were asked to debrief their counts at their local meetings and include those discussions in their meeting minutes. The Steering Committee will also look at regional increases and decreases once the county-by-county data is available.

- Two of the performance measures that are part of the collaborative portion of the CoC application are based on PIT Count data. The Steering Committee reviewed the outcomes for these two measures.
 - Create new permanent housing beds for chronically homeless people:
 - Goal = 157, actual = 314 (147 targeted to chronically homeless, 167 that were occupied by a formerly chronically homeless person during the PIT Count)
 - Depending on how HUD allows us to count these beds, we may only be able to count the 147 targeted beds.
 - Decrease the number of homeless households with children:
 - Goal = 340, actual = 513
 - Denise noted that the application was submitted on January 18 and the PIT Count was held on January 30, so although it appears there was a year to plan and work towards the set goals, there were actually only two weeks.

Letter of Consistency Request

- The NC Housing Finance Agency has a Supportive Housing Development program that funds emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. As part of the application, agencies must submit a letter of consistency from either their CoC or the local Consolidated Plan. Benevolence Farm in Alamance County has requested a CoC letter of consistency for their application for a transitional housing program with 12 units for women who are released from prison.
- The Steering Committee reviewed a summary of the application. The full application was posted on the NCCEH website for review.
- Steering Committee members were asked to discuss whether the project is consistent with the CoC's goals, considering the following points:
 - A transitional housing project could increase the BoS' length of stay, which is a performance measure that HUD scores
 - There is no operating funding available under CoC or ESG for new transitional housing projects, and HUD is prioritizing the conversion of transitional housing to rapid re-housing
 - The application does not indicate that the program will serve homeless persons (residents enter directly from prison)
- Steering Committee members noted that, since the project does not appear to serve homeless persons, it seems outside the purview of the BoS, and it would be more appropriate for the applicant to contact their local Con Plan. The Steering Committee also discussed concerns about whether the program model is based on best practices and the lack of data demonstrating the community's need for this type of project.
 - Denise asked if any Steering Committee members had objections to this feedback; none were voiced. NCCEH staff will send a letter to the applicant on behalf of the Steering Committee indicating that the BoS can't provide a letter of consistency since the program does not appear to serve homeless persons. The letter will encourage the

applicant to contact their local Con Plan and participate with their Regional Committee and will give them the option to speak to the Steering Committee if they want to. A motion was made and approved to send the letter as described [Dewitt, Lacy].

ICCHP/BoS Advocacy

- The Interagency Council on Coordinating Homeless Programs (ICCHP) is a governor-appointed council staffed by members of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In the past, the ICCHP has received funding from the state to fund certain projects, including BoS coordination, technical assistance, trainings, the statewide homeless conference, CHIN, Ten-Year Plans to End Homelessness, and research on permanent supportive housing.
 - The funding for the ICCHP used to be included in the state budget under SSBG, which is a federal block grant. Last year, because of cuts to SSBG, the governor removed some items from SSBG in the budget and made them their own line items, including ICCHP funding. The House removed the ICCHP line item from its budget, and it was not put back into the final state budget (despite advocacy and general support for the funding).
 - DHHS contracted directly with NCCEH to use other funding to continue BoS coordination and SOAR coordination. Other projects that had been funded under ICCHP did not continue. The current contract funding BoS coordination ends June 30, 2013.
- NCCEH was told by the previous DHHS administration that the ICCHP funding would be returned to the state budget this year under SSBG. However, there is now a new DHHS administration, and NCCEH has been told by DHHS leadership that ICCHP funding was not included in the budget request sent from DHHS to the governor.
- NCCEH has also been told that DHHS leadership does not want funding to be sole sourced to any nonprofits. Funding will only be available through RFPs. It is not clear if there will be funding for an RFP for BoS coordination or other ICCHP projects.
- Denise asked the Steering Committee to assist with advocacy to ensure that there is funding for BoS coordination. NCCEH is working on talking points and a sample letter and will send them out to the BoS in the next few days. BoS stakeholders are asked to contact their Senate and House representatives as quickly as possible to educate them about the need for BoS coordination and why it's important for their communities. Depending on further information NCCEH receives about the status of the funding, stakeholders may also be asked to contact the governor's office.
 - Nicole and Paulette agreed to lead the advocacy effort. The Steering Committee was reminded that the purpose of the advocacy is not to get funding for NCCEH; it's to get funding to continue the work of the BoS and to keep at least 640 people in their housing.

Regional Committee Updates

- Piedmont: The annual Housing Forum will be held on April 17. Nancy forwarded the invitation to Regional Committee leads to share with their local networks.
- Southwest: The Hurlburt Johnson Friendship House is planning an air show to benefit local shelters and the Wounded Warriors project.

- Catawba: The Veterans Stand Down will be held on April 26 at the American Legion Fairgrounds.
- Pitt: The local rapid re-housing program has started and has had good results so far. The county has been experimenting with coordinated intake methods to get a sense of how it might work locally. Project Homeless Connect is planned for October and is expected to serve 300 people.
- Wilson-Greene: A recent success story of a collaboration between DSS and the school system resulted in an interview that was shared with 200 DSS employees.

Reminders

- CoC grantees: Turn in APRs and QPRs to bos@ncceh.org.
- CoC renewal grantees: Turn in new grant agreements to bos@ncceh.org.
- Everyone: Let our leaders know how important ICCHP funding is to your community!
- Regional Committee Leads: Send RC meeting minutes, agendas, and materials to bos@ncceh.org.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 7 at 10:30.