

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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Balance of State Steering Committee Meeting

2.4.14

Regional Leads Present:

Brian Alexander, Ellen Blackman, Kim Braxton, Debbie Cole, Spencer Cook, Nicole Dewitt, Ellen Blackman (for Rhoda Emanuel), Jennifer Flood, Stacy Kendall, Kelly Lacy, Joe Marks, Casey McCall, Amy Modlin, Jane Motsinger, Debra Clark (for Bart O'Sullivan), Sharon Osborne, Melissa Payne, Faye Pierce, Mary Griffin (for Shanna Poole), Susan Pridgen, Glenda Riggs, Candice Rountree, Michele Steele, Kanika Turrentine, Becky Surlles (for Marie Watson), Bob Williams

Regional Leads Absent:

Chris Battle, Nickie Siler, Rasheeda Sturdivant

Interested Parties Present:

Kristi Case, Frederica Cook, Lynn Deluca, Sonia Ensenat, Candy Hall, Katie Holoshack, Marlene Harrison, Sarah Lancaster, Lisa Lawson, Donna McCormick, Alicia McDuffee, Gloria McDuffee, Mark Owen, Melissa Presley, Nikki Ratliff, Joel Rice, Andrew Romines, Janice Sauls, Robin Shue, Robert Silber, Lori Watts, Talaika Williams

NCCEH Staff Present:

Emily Carmody, Corey Root, Tia Sanders-Rice

Approval of January Minutes

There being no changes needed, the minutes from the January 7 and January 16 meetings were approved by common consent.

2013 Continuum of Care Application Wrap-Up

- NCCEH submitted the Balance of State CoC application in esnaps on January 31. The application requested a total of \$4,820,155 in funding, all for renewal projects. The 5% cut that HUD required came from the two lowest-scoring transitional housing renewal projects. To absorb this cut, one of the projects decided to reduce the number of families served; the other decided to change its model from a traditional facility-based model to a transition-in-place model.
- The application included 34 renewal projects:
 - 27 permanent supportive housing projects for a total of \$3,442,713
 - 6 transitional housing projects for a total of \$858,143

- 1 HMIS project for \$519,299
- The February Permanent Supportive Housing Subcommittee meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the scorecard and common issues that were seen this year during scoring. NCCEH will send out a scorecard to each project applicant so they can see the detailed breakdown of their scores. Applicants can contact NCCEH staff with questions.
- NCCEH is beginning a process to create performance improvement plans for the lowest-scoring projects. More information will be brought to the Steering Committee as this process is developed.
- The Collaborative Application included five strategic planning goals:
 - Increase progress toward ending chronic homelessness
 - Increase housing stability
 - Increase project participants' income
 - Increase the number of participants obtaining mainstream benefits
 - Use rapid re-housing as a method to reduce family homelessness

Data Usage Workgroup Report and Recommendations

- Nicole Dewitt presented on the recommendations of the Data Usage Workgroup.
 - The workgroup decided to grant all current requests for CHIN licenses and pay for these licenses with BoS funds through June 30, 2014. These licenses are subject to the BoS CHIN License Policy.
 - For the time period until June 30, the workgroup decided to reserve nine of the available end user licenses for rolling requests and use the remaining licenses to target the largest agencies that are not on HMIS to improve the CoC's HMIS coverage. The workgroup made no changes to the allocation of volunteer licenses, which are used by volunteers at agencies (as opposed to agency staff). The workgroup also recommended that all agencies obtain and use ART licenses if they are not already doing so.
 - A motion was made and approved to approve the Data Usage Workgroup's above recommendations for allocating and targeting CHIN licenses [Alexander, Motsinger].
- Nicole noted that there are programs in the BoS, particularly SSVF programs, that need CHIN licenses that weren't included in the original calculations of how to allocate available licenses. The workgroup's recommendation is to ask these programs to pay for their own licenses, which would cost \$1170 per year. The SSVF grants allow grantees to request funding to pay for HMIS, so these programs likely have resources to pay for the licenses. These licenses would not count toward the BoS' total allocation of 200 end user licenses.
 - A motion was made and approved to approve the workgroup's recommendation [Alexander, Marks].
- Nicole noted that the workgroup recommended two small changes to the BoS CHIN License Policy. The policy has several requirements that agencies must meet to keep their no-cost licenses, including one naming a CHIN report that no longer exists, so the workgroup recommended changing the wording to "maintain high data quality". In addition, the workgroup

recommended changing the name from the No-Fee License Policy to the BoS CHIN License Policy.

- A motion was made and approved to approve these changes [Rountree, Modlin].
- The Data Usage Workgroup will begin working on a license policy plan for the 2014-2015 year and will present recommendations to the Steering Committee at the April or May meeting.

2013 AHAR

- The AHAR is the annual report to Congress on the extent and nature of homelessness in America. It includes data from about 420 CoCs across the country. The data comes from the Point-in-Time Count (one night) and from HMIS (year-long data from October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013). Tia Sanders-Rice presented information to the Steering Committee from Part 1 of the AHAR, which uses Point-in-Time Count data.
- The AHAR provides estimates of the number of homeless people by state. The top five states (California, Florida, Texas, New York, and Massachusetts) account for more than 50% of the national homeless population. The AHAR divides CoCs into groups: major cities; smaller cities, counties and regional; and Balance of States and statewide CoCs.
- The key findings from the 2013 AHAR Point-in-Time Count data included:
 - 610,042 homeless people nationwide
 - 18% chronically homeless, 9% veterans, 14% in a Balance of State or statewide CoC
- Nationwide, homelessness has declined since 2012:
 - All homelessness declined by 4%
 - Unsheltered homelessness declined by 7%
 - Homeless individuals declined by 2%
 - Homeless persons in families declined by 7%
 - Chronic homelessness among individuals declined by 7%
 - Homeless veterans declined by 8%
- The 2013 AHAR demonstrates progress on all four of the goals set out in *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness*:
 - End chronic homelessness by 2015: 16% decline since 2010
 - Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020: 8% decline
 - Prevent and end homelessness for veterans by 2015: 25% decline
 - Set a path to ending all types of homelessness: 6% decline
- North Carolina is the 12th highest among the 50 states in its homeless population. The Balance of State is 7th highest among the 41 Balance of State and statewide CoCs in its homeless population.

Point-in-Time Count

- The Point-in-Time Count was held on the night of January 29. Many communities were affected by a winter storm that coincided with the PIT Count. Steering Committee members were asked to report on their local counts.

- Joe Marks noted that, because of the weather, their shelters were full and their street count was down.
- Joel Rice noted that their community tried to do a street count for the first time. They were unable to locate anyone, which he believes was due to the weather. Their shelter reported increased occupancy.
- Kelly Lacy noted that their community was unable to conduct a street count because of the weather, so they focused on counting at services agencies. He expects to receive responses from five of the Regional Committee's eight counties.
- Candice Routree noted that their community collaborated with local law enforcement to conduct their street count. Local churches hosted a breakfast the morning after the PIT Count, but no one attended. The PIT Count helped to build relationships among community members and agencies.
- Ellen Blackman noted that Robeson County opened a one-night shelter with services and resources for homeless people. The event also helped to raise awareness of homelessness in the community.
- Marlene Harrison noted that they were unable to conduct a street count in the municipalities, but were able to conduct one in the western part of Rockingham County. One of the families located during the street count was moved into the transitional housing program.
- Sonia reported that CHIN is currently running all the PIT Count reports for agencies in the Balance of State. The reports will be posted to PhaseWare by February 5.
- The PIT Count reporting forms are due to NCCEH by Friday, February 14.

Funding for Veterans Programs

- The VA has announced the NOFA for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) funding. SSVF funds rapid re-housing and services for veterans and their families. There is \$300 million available for FY 2014 and FY 2015 each. Applications for the funding are due March 14, 2014. The NOFA is posted at http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/SSVF/Notice_Funding_Availability_Under_Supportive_Services_for_Veteran_Families_Program.pdf.
 - There are three priority groups for SSVF funding: 76 high-need CoCs (BoS does not fall into this category), existing SSVF programs seeking renewals, and initial SSVF applicants.
 - Grants cannot exceed \$2 million per year, the total number of supportive services grants awarded to a grantee cannot exceed 7 per year, and grants to the same applicant cannot overlap service areas.
 - The VA recommends that applicants submit a letter of support from their CoC. Interested agencies should contact NCCEH if they plan to apply for funds.
- The Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) has announced funding for local Stand Down events that help homeless veterans.
 - \$600,000 is available for approximately 70 events (\$10,000 per multi-day event or \$7,000 per one-day event)

- Applications will be accepted for events being held October 2014-September 2015
- Applications must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the event and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funding runs out

Regional Lead Elections

- Each Regional Committee must hold elections in January or February to elect a Regional Lead and an alternate. The election must be documented in meeting minutes that are submitted to NCCEH.
- All Regional Leads and alternates must have a Conflict of Interest form on file. These will be provided at the in-person meeting on March 4.
- New Regional Leads are asked to schedule a phone call with Corey.

Regional Committee Updates

- Alamance held a Project Homeless Connect in conjunction with the Point-in-Time Count. About 60 people attended.

Upcoming Meetings

- The Permanent Supportive Housing Subcommittee has a meeting on Monday, February 10 at 10:30. This is a required call for all CoC grantees. The meeting will cover the scoring of project applications and common problems. Participants can register on the NCCEH website at <http://www.ncceh.org/events/669/>.
- The in-person meeting for all Regional Leads and alternates is Tuesday, March 4, from 10:00-4:00 in Greensboro. There will be a call-in portion for Steering Committee business at 10:30.

Reminders

- All PIT count forms are due to NCCEH by February 14.
- CoC grantees: participate in the PSH Subcommittee meeting on February 10.
- Regional Leads and alternates: attend the March 4 in-person meeting in Greensboro.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 4 at 10:30. There is an in-person meeting for Regional Leads and elected alternates from 10:00-4:00 in Greensboro.