

Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition (Region 2 BoS)
April 4, 2019 - Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS), Hendersonville
Transylvania and Rutherford Counties and David Carr (ABCCM) by phone link - 9:30 AM

Remote facilitation from Brevard by Co-lead **Emily Lowery**. Coordination in Hendersonville by **Kristen Martin**. **Jennifer** _____ participated by phone from Rutherford County. Minutes for March 7 considered for acceptance as distributed by email. There were no stated objections, so the distributed draft was adopted as final by common consent.

April Balance of State (BoS) Steering Committee call (April 2): (**Kristen** reporting)

Material on Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) emergency transfers was discussed.

A page of training opportunities was made available. Kristen will forward as requested. Featured items was about landlord compliance; a VAWA webinar, April 17, 11 AM ; anti-discrimination rules; a performance subcommittee; and the Raleigh statewide conference, May 21-22 (below).

An update on Continuum of Care (CoC) grant opportunities: The ‘imminent’ availability of a Grant Inventory Worksheet; the expected publication of a NOFA, Notice of Funding Availability, in May or June; the need to register at NCCEH in advance to apply for a grant; the offer of a Domestic Violence bonus (notice has been sent to our three DV shelter staff). A sent of Funding Priorities is out, with only grammatic changes from the previous cycle. This includes Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), where our regional need shows capacity in our area has to be increased. An eight page priorities document is available: <https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/files/c9a1a7c4/2019-funding-priorities-draftupdated-final-draft-with-edits.pdf>

Volunteers of America Carolinas requests a letter of support for a DOL grant, “Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program”.

An Anti-discrimination policy update was mentioned. [An April 24 scheduled webinar may apply.]

Schoolhouse Connections: Beth Branagan said the effort to better help homeless kids, particularly preschoolers, continues. A training is scheduled for April 29, with the location to be determined (but probably at Blue Ridge Community Health Systems). Grace Whitney (from Connecticut) will present. A subcommittee for Head Start (and other children in homeless situations?) is scheduling a conference call with the Schoolhouse Connections head in Georgia to talk about processes. **Alyce Knaflich** asked that the training date be sent out to all in the coalition. Beth asks for RSVP’s to her for those wanting to take part. [email address?]

Coordinated Assessment(CA): Emily reported an unsuccessful effort to establish assessment links in Rutherford last week. Assessment meetings will continue as usual in April, with a face-to-face meeting April 11 at 8[?] AM, and a call-in meeting April 23 at 10 AM. (The routine dates are second Thursdays and fourth Tuesdays).

Resources: The Hendersonville Housing Authority has reopened the waiting list for two-bedroom units. Thrive has three household intakes in progress. There are verifications which need more work, including about ‘chronicity’ (how long homeless), disability, and income.

The ongoing effort to move case information from Excel spreadsheets to HMIS (with verifications) is half done. A bright spot was two households that found housing on their own. The CA committee is planning a landlord recruitment event – no date set yet, but please think about how to outreach for this. An estimate about our case list is 1/3 needing PSH, 1/3 rapid re-housing (RRH), and 1/3 would be able to access ‘affordable housing’.

Veterans: David Carr and **Andy** ___ said a woman vet from Transylvania County got voucher assistance, while a woman vet in Haywood was found ineligible but was able to access a job at \$13.50/hour. A male vet in Rutherford got to move into housing. A Henderson vet (evictee) had made do in a storage unit but is looking for housing (and needs income). Funds for the employment and training program are spent out at present. VA staff **Joelle Sliedinger** and **Amanda Stancell** can access HUD-VASH vouchers for vets that qualify. **Alyce** reported a woman vet in Haywood in need (and gave her cell number). **Tina Wills** reported a Foothills Vets Stand-down in Hickory on April 12 from 9 to 2; van transportation will be available, and fliers were passed around in Hendersonville.

Emergency Solutions grant (ESG): A June 6th face-to-face meeting is planned.

Announcements: Tina _____ starts service July 1 as housing manager for Partners Behavioral Health Management in

Rutherford. Educational events are planned involving providers, consumers and families, in part to increase community visibility.

Henderson: Kristen Martin reported that Thrive has seen some families pull out of the wait list -we celebrate that. **Carrington Cosby** and **Stephen** ___reported trainings at Safelight and at BRCHS, with sites to be set in Transylvania by next week, and three sites through BRCHS, and one at United Way in Rutherford, also at (?) Family Preservation of the Blue Ridge. Assessments will continue at the Rescue Mission. [needs edits]

Alyce reported meeting with the Hendersonville mayor, and manager John Connett to update him on affordable housing. The Gray Mill project will get Council attention (and voter attention).

Re: the Aura Homes property, she hopes to set up a 'one stop shop' for intakes. An architect is working on setting up areas in their building for laundry, showers, mail, therapy. A healing garden is envisioned as a source of dignity. The Aura Homes architect sought permits for demolition and repair. They hope to rebuild for about \$400K. The facility could then serve 6-12 homeless women vets in rooms with own vanity and shared bath.

Alyce said Joseph House project moved to Shepherd St, but is not now a day center.

Carrington and Library director **Trina Rushing** discussed client rights/panhandling/free speech concerns re the library. Trina said the library is developing computer classes, to be offered in a learning lab, with a mission/focus.

NCCEH Conference is on May 21-22 in the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. \$100/person fee. **Emily, Alyce** and **Kristen** attended last year, and found it helped them brainstorm for regional actions

The next Southern Mountains Coalition meeting is May 2, at 9:30 AM, at *Blue Ridge Community Health, community room, Hendersonville.*

With respect, Chris Berg, secretary