



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Minutes

May 4, 2021

Regional Leads Present: Kristen Martin, Arwen March, Teena Willis, Andrea Merriman, LaTonya Penny, James Mercer, DJ Coles, Lakitra Claude, Peter Peedin, Lenize Patton

At-Large Members Present: Pam Atwood, Ellen Blackman, Jason Gray, Angela Harper King, Brooks Ann McKinney, Lisa Phillips, Jefferey Rawlings, Cassandra Rowe, Isaac Sturgill

SC Members Absent: Destri Leger, Marie Watson, Emily Locklear, Tharesa Lee, Eric Edwards, Kelly Ross Benton

Interested Parties Present: Emily Lowery, Tonya Freeman, Bonnie Harper, Samantha Hall, Natasha Elliott, Jim Cox, Monica Frizzell, Tammy Gray, Kyna Grubb, Chrishonda Ham, Kimberly Hemphill, Jeanette Henderson, Karen Kennedy, Alyce Knaflich, Derek Lancour, Amy Modlin, Tina Ray, Teresa Robinson, Leonard Tillery, Barbara Vinson, Lori Watts, Michele Welsh

NCCEH Staff Present: Brian Alexander, Andrea Carey, Kevin McNamee, Debra A. 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.

Letter of Support for Rowan Helping Ministries' new VA application

The Steering Committee approved a letter of support as part of a VA application from Rowan Helping Ministries to build a new transitional housing apartment building. This will allow the agency to move 9 VA GPD beds from the congregate shelter to provide increased privacy and a safer environment to serve Vets with PTSD and other mental illnesses. The agency's goal is to house each person served within 30 days. A motion was made by Arwen March; and a second, by Pete Peedin to approve this request, which passed with a unanimous vote.

FY21 CoC Competition Update: Funding Priorities and Project Review Committee

Not much has changed on this front. The FY2021 CoC Program NOFA is to be announced later in the year. The Intent to Apply form is mandatory for all agencies applying for new CoC funds and has been posted to the NCCEH website at <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/>

- Any agency wanting to apply for a new CoC project in the FY21 competition is required to submit a form.
- Asks for preliminary information about proposed project(s).
- NCCEH staff will review and follow-up with the agency to discuss:
 - Any agency that submitted an Intent to Apply form for the FY20 competition does not need to submit another.
 - Staff will schedule follow-up calls later in the year once we have more details.

Rolling-basis, non-binding

Deadline: 2 weeks after NOFA release

The Funding and Performance Subcommittee has updated CoC Funding Priorities to present to the Steering Committee for approval. Minor changes were made to the FY20 CoC Funding Priorities document:

- Dates
- Minor word updates without substantive changes
- Consideration of pandemic when making decisions regarding re-allocations
- New Projects Grid updated:
 - Used 2020 Point-In-Time count data
 - Used FY20 CoC awards to update funding totals and number of beds per region
 - Added number of projects to chart in the Appendix

Draft FY21 CoC Funding Priorities: <https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/page/3acfb664/2021-coc-funding-priorities-draft.pdf>

These changes were approved unanimously after a motion from Dr. LaTonya Penny and a second from Jeffrey Rawlings.

Public Policies and Resources from the American Rescue Plan Act

With the help of several at-large members, a series of slides were presented, showcasing provisions from the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act that could benefit North Carolinians experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The slides with greater detail are posted here: <https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/page/7dabda6f/bos-sc-meeting-slides-ppt-5-4-2021-final.pdf>.

- **Cash/near-cash benefits:** The best way to ensure the third round of economic impact payments (EIP) and multiple tax credits get to eligible recipients is to conduct robust outreach and help with filing income tax forms with the IRS, so that ALL payments reach people with no or low income, who do not typically file tax returns. This includes

households where children have Social Security numbers, but parents do not. It is also possible for those who did not get a first and second EIP or got less than the full amount to receive this payment through a Recovery Rebate Credit. These tax credits have various combinations of expanded eligibility, advance payment options, refundable tax credits, and increased benefits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- **Emergency housing assistance for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness:** States and municipalities often must elect to receive federal housing funds, agree to requirements and prohibitions for its use, and spend it by a certain time. In some cases, unspent funds by one state can be reallocated to eligible grantees in another. The NC General Assembly is moving legislation that would apply process requirements on federal housing funds that are not mandated by HUD, thus slowing deployment of resources and risking the full application of the state's federal allocation by the federal deadlines imposed.

Here are the total amounts allocated nationally in the ARP Act:

- \$21.6 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance for low-income people
- \$5 billion in Emergency Housing Vouchers for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- \$5 billion in homelessness assistance via the HOME program
- **Food assistance:**
 - Extends, through September 2021, a 15% increase in SNAP benefits and the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program, which provides grocery benefits to replace meals children miss when they do not attend school or childcare in person.
 - Investments in WIC, including support for innovative service delivery models and a temporary hike in the number of fruits and vegetables participants can obtain as a state option. The latter is only a four-month state option that will increase the monthly value of WIC foods by 70% to 75%--a state option for 4 months.
- **Health:**
 - Provides a one-year increase in federal funds for home- and community-based services (HCBS)
 - Provides generous subsidies to reduce premiums and cost-sharing for people who receive unemployment insurance payments in 2021
 - Creates a state plan amendment **option** for NC to extend Medicaid coverage to postpartum people for 12 months, up from 60 days under current law (as of April 1, 2022 and for subsequent five years).
 - Gives NC a significant incentive to expand Medicaid in the form of a two-year, 5-percentage-point increase in its base Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). This would provide a way for the state to cover treatment for people whose incomes are too high for Medicaid but too low for the marketplace premium tax.
- **Fiscal aid for states, localities, tribal nations, territories:**

- To help address revenue shortfalls, provide premium pay to essential workers, and pay for needed broadband, water, and sewer infrastructure projects cover costs through Dec. 31, 2024.

Jerry Jones, National Field Director with the National Alliance to End Homelessness, helped wrap up this segment to share information about NAEH's Capitol Hill Day on Wednesday, June 16. Registration for meetings with NC congressional representatives to address elements of the Biden Administration's Jobs and Infrastructure plan is <https://endhomelessness.org/capitol-hill-day-2021/>.

Increasing Unsheltered Access to Coordinated Entry

The Steering Committee was asked to consider changes to the current PIT Lead role to facilitate unsheltered access. A new Unsheltered PIT Lead would serve as the regional point person for providers. This proposed lead would:

- Coordinate with the regional CE Lead to meet two goals:
 - Facilitate the regional plan to connect people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to the CE system and BNL
 - Evaluate monthly progress on connecting people living unsheltered to the BNL
- Ensure data collection happens for all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Engage providers/organizations/stakeholders to understand the process
- Provide technical assistance as needed

To change the PIT Lead role, the CoC needs to approve these proposed changes to the Governance Charter.

- Changes the name of the role to Unsheltered PIT Lead
- Changes the role to focus exclusively on connecting people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to the CE system and BNL
- Becomes a year-round role, coordinating with the CE Lead and regional stakeholders
- Elected annually by May 1st

Acceptance of these proposed changes was moved by Arwen March and seconded by Kristen Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings and Reminders

The Steering Committee was directed to review the following meetings and reminders for April 2021.

- **COVID-19 Local Leadership Response Sharing Call, Every other Wednesday, May meetings: May 12 and 26, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.**
Presentation: <https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness>
Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733
- **Healthier Together Summer 2021 Grants Application Deadline, Friday, May 14**
Learn more: nccounts.org/funding-opportunities

- **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting**, *Monday, May 17, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.*
Presentation: <https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness>
Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733
- **Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting**, *Wednesday, May 19, 9:00 – 10:00 A.M.*
Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>
Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621
- **BoS HMIS User Meeting**, *Thursday, May 20, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.*
Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1464/>
- **Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting**, *Thursday, May 27, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.*
Presentation: <uberconference.com/brianncceh>
Audio: (401) 283-4752 Pin: 13939
- **Bringing It Home Conference**, *Tuesday and Wednesday, June 8 and 9*
Registration: <https://nchousing.org/bringing-it-home-2021/>

Next Steering Committee Meeting is Tuesday, June 1, 10:30 AM – 12:00 P.M.