



# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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## NC Balance of State CoC Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes 07.28.22

**Members Present:** Melissa McKeown, Bonnie Harper, Tonya Freeman, Sarah Lancaster, Alyce Knaflich

**NCCEH Staff Present:** Brian Alexander, Andrea Carey

### Minutes:

- Brian welcomed members of the subcommittee and highlighted the meeting agenda.
- Brian introduced the Special NOFO funding for people experiencing homelessness with severe service needs.
  - CoC Plan was sent ahead to members. Not asking for formal approval today because plan is in draft form in order to reach other stakeholders. Seeking feedback and tentative approval of the concept so that Lived Expertise Advisory Council and the Steering Committee can also review it.
  - The CoC's Plan is required for the applications to begin. It is an important foundation for competing against all other 400 CoCs across the country.
- Both Unsheltered and Rural set-asides have requirements for the CoC Plan:
  - Brian discussed the overall plan's sections and highlights the responsible parties for finalizing each section.
    - The FPS focal point will be Section E: Identify and prioritize people experiencing or with histories of unsheltered homelessness
  - Brian reviewed background considerations that the CoC used to draft the plan. He discussed the difficulties over the past several years balancing the abundant funding with the capacity of CoC staff and agencies.
- CoC Plan for Unsheltered Homelessness set-aside
  - Centralized approach to ensure scalability and address coverage issues
    - Traditionally attempts to reach people experiencing unsheltered homelessness have been unable to meet folks where they are across counties.
    - With ESG-CV funding, agencies found it confusing to have decentralized parallel system of referrals

CoC staff propose using a centralized approach in our plan to ensure widest coverage and to build capacity.



- Funding would include the Special NOFO funding but could also anticipate additional sources like the General Assembly’s set aside for Rapid Re-Housing and ENCORE funding for rental assistance.
- The Oversight Agency would braid the appropriate funding for households
  - Would administer grants, manage cashflow, provide financial assistance to households, contract with regional service providers, provide the 25% match, and provide big picture oversight
- Financial assistance coordinator
  - Ensure landlord support to quickly and regularly pay for units
  - Would be able to hold units so that clients could be housed much more quickly
  - Eliminate most admin for rental assistance side of work for service providers
- Regional Service Providers
  - Provide outreach, shelter placement, assess for CE, tenancy supportive services for clients once housed
  - This would fully fund case management with a guaranteed salary for say, serving 50 clients with a 1:25 client ratio. Service Provider would then know they could hire two case managers.
- Feedback and Questions
  - Melissa asked about deadlines – Brian acknowledged the three funding competitions. This Special NOFO is due Oct 20. Only the Oversight agency applications would need to be submitted during this time. Regional Service Provider applications would be through an RFP later.
    - When would this process start? – Brian says awards won’t come out until first quarter 2023, then contracting begins. Don’t expect contracts until fall of 2023. Then, once the contract is signed the ‘start date’ can still be after the contract’s effective date to allow for planning. The soonest projects would start would be fall of 2023.
  - Sarah asked, “Will we be getting stakeholder feedback per special NOFO - healthcare agencies, housing authorities, etc. Is there an oversight agency in mind? Can there be multiple oversight agencies?
    - Brian answers that there are some agencies that have been considered or has some experiences, NCORR, DHHS, Commerce Dept. However, there would be an open application. Only one oversight agency would be selected for CoC wide implementation. The state has been considering a state-wide model but that’s not in place.

- Bonnie suggests a state agency to Indian Affairs be encouraged to apply.
        - Brian confirms that the application would need to be open but that NCCIA could potentially serve as either/both the Oversight Agency and Financial Assistance Provider. Ongoing conversations to make sure that partners are aware of the plan and opportunity. The regularly vetting and scoring process will occur and the CoC will support the agency ultimately selected to ensure a successful overall application!
    - Sarah also asked, “Is there a State that already follows this model?”
      - Brian – no statewide initiative that we know of, but LA, San Diego, and some other communities have centralized like this. Those CA communities have seen a dramatic reduction of time to move-in and lease up rates.
      - Brian will send a summary doc from CA communities to the sub-committee
    - Tonya asked, would there be an opportunity for local providers to contribute to decisions made at the oversight agency level and would the other NC CoCs also be included in the plan?
      - Brian confirmed that this plan is only for the Balance of State. However, this is in a larger context of planning the state is doing for spending other dollars.
      - Brian also clarified that the Tentative Timeline for August 11<sup>th</sup> is being revised in order to pivot to a centralized plan. Only an oversight agency role would accept applications this summer. If the CoC Plan is approved, then a revised timeline for Service Provider and Financial Coordinator role applications will be released.
      - Brian reviewed the places where local input would be integrated into the planning process should the BoS be awarded including but not limited to the Funding and Performance Sub-Committee, Racial Equity Sub-Committee, Lived Expertise Advisory Committee, and the Coordinated Entry Council.
  - The CoC Plan also supports efforts to update the CE Assessment
    - The BoS is participating in HUD TA and has formed a diverse Core Team to improve equity in our CE system. The CoC has also been working with health leaders on other projects, including research.
    - The CoC Plan would leverage those groups/relationships to form a workgroup and implement a more detailed plan for implementing a new tool. Goal to implement in early 2023.
  - Next Steps: approving a concept
    - Melissa motion to approve concept, Bonnie seconds.
    - Discussion followed for how to include more feedback from regional partners. Particularly this has been difficult with HUD’s timeline. Concerns heard and shared by the CoC! Brian to send the CoC Plan draft to the Steering Committee and encourage members to share regionally too.
    - Motion passes unanimously.
    - Invitation extended to Steering Committee meeting August 2<sup>nd</sup> for additional feedback and discussion opportunity

- Next meeting: Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 11 AM