

Notes for Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition online/Zoom meeting  
Region 2 in the N.C. Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) for Homeless  
**January 5, 2023, 9:30 AM** The Haven hosting/Thrive account

**Persons on the call:** Regional lead: Emily Lowery.

**Emily Lowery** (The Haven of Transylvania County); **Kristen Martin, Nickie Kilgore, Tracey Gruver, Rachelle Dugan, Kristin Dunn and Josh Shelton** (Thrive); **Danita Simpson, Makala Perez, Haley Simons, Kenett Melgar and Trisha Ecklund** (Blue Ridge Health); **Amber Story** (Partners housing specialist); **Jenny Simmons** (NCCEH staff); **Micky Robinson** (Isaac Homes); **Kelly Landaverde** (WNCAP); **Sandy Harthan Devoid** (Pisgah Legal Services); **Phil Williams** (NC Works- Buncombe job center); **Robert Hooper** (WNC Source); **Alyce Knaflich** (Aura Home Women Vets); **Catherine Beaver** (Henderson County DSS); **Jessica Joyner** (Vaya Health); **Beth Branagan** (N.C. Homeless Education Program); **Elena Keller** (Eleanor Health Foundation- HOP program); **Morgan Abendroth** (Safelight); **Cpt. Sherrie Stokes** (The Salvation Army); **Jessica Ownbey** (Henderson County schools); **Katie Latino; Chris Berg.** *See also the **appended Chat transcription.***

**Emily Lowery** facilitated. She went over our ground rules statement; please see our Agenda.

**Minutes** of our December online meeting were approved by **common** consent. However, the secretary got two requests to fix December language in the Veterans part; a compromise version is **appended** following the Chat transcription.

The **BoS Steering Committee** December meeting considered and approved several at-large members to be added to its ranks: Linda Collins (an overseer of SSVF activities) and Kathryn Castleman were named.

Some word choices in the Governance Charter were changed, such as Domestic violence provider → Victim services/providers; Alternate → Regional Lead Alternate; Lived expertise consumers → Lived Expertise Advisory Council; and added more flexibility for Lived Expertise persons to serve in BoS.

An **unsheltered Point-in-time (PIT) count** is to be made for January 25<sup>th</sup>. Trisha Ecklund will organize this. A plan overview is available from Ashley Von Hatten at NCCEH. Rachelle Dugan is vetting the regional by-name list preparatory to PIT Count. Kenett Melgar said Suzanne Porter is working on a Rutherford resource fair for the afternoon of January 26<sup>th</sup>, but the final location and times are not set.

**Children and Youth Homeless Advisory Council, CYHAC:** Beth Branagan said the next meeting is Jan. 20, 9 AM by

Zoom; Project CATCH, run by the Wake Salvation Army. Also, the Community Engagement Project has been announced. A first meeting is set for January 11<sup>th</sup>; part of the effort will connect the PIT count to school district Homeless Liaisons.

**Lived Expertise Council:** Alyce said they will meet Friday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. Rachelle is part of a May 2 session proposal on veterans' providers for the 2023 *Bringing it Home* conference.

**Veterans:** Alyce said there is a scheduled Coordinated Entry for Veterans meeting on January 18 (9 AM), but there are problems in working with SSVF. A grievance filing is likely, which would go to Glenda Collins to rectify. A state level subcommittee for veterans will also be re-established.

**Federal Policy:** Alyce said the U.S. Interagency Council on the Homeless plans a New Priorities webinar for 2 PM, January 10; please register for Homeless Strategy 2023

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_SxG6OEzkrWanjYNYqND0Sg](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_SxG6OEzkrWanjYNYqND0Sg).

**PIT Count and Rutherford:** Trisha Ecklund **chatted** that her voice is failing. A State meeting following this will give details, though the Count will resemble that done last year. She expects to send more info by email.

Amber Story said a Rutherford count effort, led by United Way, may be provider based, with a coat drive. It's hoped they'll restart a local task force/group for homeless concerns, coordinating with a housing provider association.

Kenett Melgar said a Rutherford Health council is assembling a Q and A, with help from Blue Ridge Health and Partners as well as United Way.

Kristen Martin recommended seeking support through Jenny Simmons (on this call).

Amber serves on a panel for Homeless Awareness Week, and said more involvement from 'policy people' is needed, a broader community problem solving effort. There are school system concerns, hotel space is used for dozens of families. It appears a Silo problem; there may be grievances against providers, and collaboration should help.

**Transylvania update:** Emily said a Brevard City Safety committee in December looked at creating a misdemeanor offense that amounted to criminalizing homelessness. Public response at a community forum aired concerns – largely about an encampment by a community garden – heightened by a medical emergency. Amber praised Emily for clarifying things in an interview on WLOS. Based on these the City Council stopped short and requested more work at the Safety committee. Last night some reconsideration occurred with Emily and Kristen appearing at the committee. Jenny Simmons and Kristen said such support can also help in Rutherford, and avoid a 'pitchfork scenario'. Brevard is coming to understand the systemic impact of affordable housing.

The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, February 2, at 9:30 AM** on Zoom.

- With respect, Chris Berg

## **Chat [transcribed]:**

Alyce Knaflich Aura Home Women Vets 828-771-6979

Kristin Dunn, Thrive

Amber Story - Partners

[Kelly Landaverde] Good morning - WNCAP

Beth Branagan - NCHEP

Danita Simpson - BRH/SO

Nickie Kilgore - Thrive

[Alyce Knaflich] Webinar US Agency Council on Homelessness Jan 10 2 pm

[registration link moved to Notes]

Kristen Martin - Thrive

Elena Keller - Eleanor Health Foundation (HOP program)

Makala Perez, BRH

Josh Shelton - Thrive

Tracey Gruver - Thrive

Rachelle Dugan - Thrive

Phil Williams - NCWorks (Asheville) DVOP

Kenett Melgar BRH

Good Morning! Morgan Abendroth - Safelight

Sandy Harthan Devoid Pisgah Legal Services

Good Morning everyone. Robert Hooper, WNCSOURCE

[Trisha Ecklund, Blue Ridge Health] Hey im here but cannot talk my vokce is just about gone -- I'll chat in the update for PIT as much as I nknow

Jenny Simmons, NCCEH, NC Balance of State

[Kristin Dunn] and [Kelly Landeverde] [comments on Zoom connectivity]

[Trisha Ecklund] I'll be attending the state PIT count meeting directly

following this one and will be sending out the updates. But basically we will

be doing the PIT count similar to last year. I'll sent the rest of the updates when we wrap up that meeting. Amber - I'll send you the update from the state meeting as well.

[Beth Branagan] CHAC update (due to my bad internet connection): CHACd next meeting Jan. 20th at 9:00 am with folks from Project Catch presenting via Zoom. Also the first ECH task force meeting is January 11th from 1:00 - 3:00 via Zoom.

[Elena Keller] I have to hop off for a 10 o'clock meeting, thanks!

Catherine Beaver - Henderson County DSS - sorry just remembered to put my info in the chat

[Haley Simons] From what I remember from the City Council meeting as well, members proposed that the City also revisit their larger approach to affordable housing and homelessness in the area as a whole so I'm hoping for more larger policies that will change more systems around

[Catherine Beaver] Emily, you have the best heart. I so appreciate your passion

[Amber Story] I got you Kristen! Hahaha

**Corrections to December minutes** (composite of two requests):

### **Veteran Updates:**

The BoS is reconstituting and nominating a 'state-level' vets subcommittee. Glenda Collins has state responsibilities for SSVF programs, she is active in this reworking. She oversees the ABCCM programs.

Rachelle Dugan is setting up a regional vets subcommittee. They will meet Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM. She will be contacting vets on our by-name list. The goal of the vets subcommittee is to ensure that the vets experiencing homelessness in our region are on the by-name list and that they are receiving appropriate and equal treatment while awaiting resource openings. Alyce works with vets to help get them connected to area services and accompanies them to appointments.

VA is taking new project grant applications, for SSVF grants or Grant and per-diem support. Sent out NOFO to housing agencies in September. Talk to Alyce for more information.

Aura Home Women Vets aided a Veteran woman being evicted that received no support (no response) from local veteran serving agencies in Charlotte. Aura Home paid partial rent and worked with property manager to prevent eviction as we found other community resources for support.

Ellis Pinder introduced Phil Williams, a career advisor out of Asheville, who will be helping in Henderson County also.