



# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

www.ncceh.org/BoS

## NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Minutes

August 4, 2020

**Regional Leads Present:** Destri Leger, Kristen Martin, Gail Henson, Teena Willis, Melissa McKeown, LaTonya Penny, Marie Watson, James Mercer, LaTasha McNair, Lakitra Claude, Jim Cox

**At-Large Members Present:** Eric Edwards, Deena Fulton, Parker Smith, Ellen Blackman, Anna Gray Watson, Angela Harper King, Lisa Philips, Brooks Ann McKinney

**SC Members Absent:** Emily Locklear, Tharesa Lee, Michael Dineen

**Interested Parties Present:** Arwen March, Bonnie Harper, Leonard Tillery, Renee Urban, Natasha Elliott, Joshua Edwards, Manuel Hyman, Teresa Robinson, Lorelei Watts, Rebecca Snyder, Joel Rice, Nicole Dewitt, Tonya Freeman, Kimberly Hemphill, Monica Frizzell, Kris Mueller, Emily Lowery

**NCCEH Staff Present:** Brian Alexander, Debra Susie, Kevin McNamee, Ashley VonHatten, Andrea Carey

### 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 as a whole at the beginning of the meeting. Without changes or objection, the consent agenda was approved by common consent.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Brian Alexander reported that, although we do not yet have the comprehensive list, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) began releasing award letters for both ESG-CV Crisis Response and Back@Home applicants last week. NC BoS CoC has some counties in Regions 8, 9, and 10 that are not covered under current applications, so some Back@Home letters will not go out until final coverage is determined. Since the operating period must be two years from start date, contracts will run from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. Grantees will still be able to pay for expenses from March 10, 2020 forward but cannot be reimbursed until contracts have been signed.

NC DHHS will offer two future ESG RFAs:

- The NC ESG Office confirmed that the annual ESG allocation RFA will arrive first
  - Funding for calendar year 2021
  - Streamlined process, likely with easy renewals for 2020 ESG agencies
  - Similar application and documents from 2020 competition required for new applicants
- The second ESG-CV allocation will likely come at the beginning of 2021
  - Funding through June 30, 2020
  - Current ESG-CV grantees will indicate their need for additional \$ in short process with current contract amended
  - New ESG-CV applicants will go through a similar application process to ESG-CV round one.

After sharing positive feedback from the NC Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) office regarding the NC BoS CoC's ESG-CV funding process, Brian asked for input from the Steering Committee. LaTonya Penny said she appreciated that the Regional Lead was not responsible for everyone's applications, leaving each agency responsible for itself. Melissa McKeown strongly agreed and said that NC BoS CoC staff writing the Regional Application made their lives much easier. She and Kristen Martin agreed the process would have been better had more time been given for the application prioritization and recommendation part required from Regional Committees.

Brian asked the Steering Committee to consider giving the NC ESG office permission to share monitoring results and corrective action plans with the CoC. This access would help the NC BoS CoC to make better funding decisions and assist staff to develop technical assistance plans. Gail Henson moved to give this permission; Melissa McKeown seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously.

Ashley VonHatten outlined some assumptions regarding eligibility and prioritization.

1. Rapid rehousing is an intervention that can work for everyone in need of rehousing assistance including those who ultimately need PSH
2. Diversion and rapid resolution conversations will happen with 211 and rehousing agencies at intake
3. Well-targeted prevention can assist with expected increase in at-risk households
4. Ask minimum amount of questions to enroll
5. Prioritization by risk, barriers, and community impact
6. Funding may provide opportunity to house majority of people experiencing homelessness in some communities
7. Will adjust prioritization based on real-time need and enrollment data, in partnership with NC BoS CoC regions

Ashley shared a table that compared Back@Home eligibility by income and living situation for Prevention vs. Rapid Rehousing. In designing prioritization, referrals will be triaged initially based on lethality and the number of barriers a household faces to get into permanent housing. For all referrals, rehousing agencies will work to identify emergency housing while they are working on the housing plan. Back@Home agencies and communities will monitor data to understand how best to balance rapid rehousing and prevention. An example was shared for prioritizing households at higher lethality risk or with a large number of barriers.

Barriers for Prioritization			
Currently at-risk of losing housing subsidy or subsidized unit (Targeted Homeless Prevention only)	No income	Household size of 5 or more	Felony conviction among household members
Unaccompanied youth (under 25)	One or more children under 6 and/or pregnant	2 or more episodes of homelessness in prior three years	Vacated a unit 3+ times in prior 7 years and/or ongoing rental arrears
Adult in household has severe and persistent disabling condition	Household from disproportionately impacted populations	Current homeless episode is 1 year or longer	Unsheltered (RRH only)
No lease in name in last 3 years	Victim of DV in prior 6 months	Veteran, not eligible for VA services	Child in household has a severe and persistent disabling condition

Ashley shared a process map along with information on two data systems to support coordinated entry:

- With HMIS, rehousing agencies will have three projects:
  - CE Project- shows who is referred but not yet enrolled
  - Rapid Rehousing Program- shows who is enrolled in program
  - Prevention Program- shows who is enrolled in program

The goals are to capture all required HUD data elements; ensure CoCs comply with CE Data Standards; pull necessary HUD reports; allow CoCs to see who is referred to Back@Home, and potentially pull people from the list if needed
- For NCCARE360, Back@Home will be one “agency” in the system with rehousing agencies listed as separate programs. Goals are to facilitate electronic referrals with ROI, paperwork reminders, etc.; provide better program reporting to communities and the state; and assist rehousing agencies with referrals to other programs.

NC BoS CoC regions will customize with the following options:

1. Prioritize housing referrals for people on the referral list for too long and/or not served by Back@Home
2. Design a surge strategy
3. Identify local COVID needs to include in Back@Home prioritization
4. Type of access for the HMIS Back@Home CE project- reports or ability to do data entry  
Back@Home CoC referral process- use 211 or NCCARE360 platform

Communication and transparency are a priority within the coordinated entry process.

- Regular reports and dashboards about the overall impact of Back@Home through NCCARE360, especially want to track percentage of prevention spending
- Scheduled HMIS reports or access to the HMIS Back@Home CE project for designated CoC staff or coordinated entry staff to see who is referred to Back@Home
- Rehousing agencies will attend and participate in local CE meetings
- Ability to take someone off the referral list for Back@Home if another housing plan exists or it is taking too long to serve them
- Ability to refer people directly to Back@Home through NCCARE360 if 211 is a barrier

### **Point-in-Time and Housing Inventory Count**

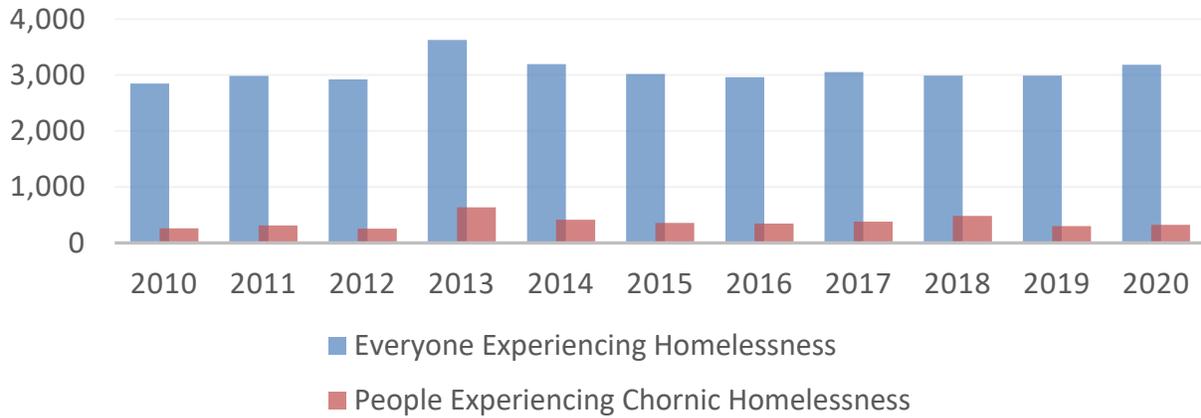
Andrea Carey presented the data generated by the January 29, 2020, Point-in-Time Count (PIT) and submitted to HUD for the NC BoS CoC. There is some limited data available by region, including by household type, sub-population (Vets, youth, chronically homeless), and living situation (unsheltered, ES, TH). PIT data by county and region is posted ([ncceh.org/datacenter/pitdata](https://ncceh.org/datacenter/pitdata)). Specific requests for data should go to the NCCEH Data Center ([hmis@ncceh.org](mailto:hmis@ncceh.org)).

A majority (or 2,253) of the people experiencing homelessness, and chronic homelessness, were in adult-only households, which can include more than one adult. Adults with children households comprised 915 people. Sixty-one percent in the PIT count were sheltered; 39%, unsheltered.

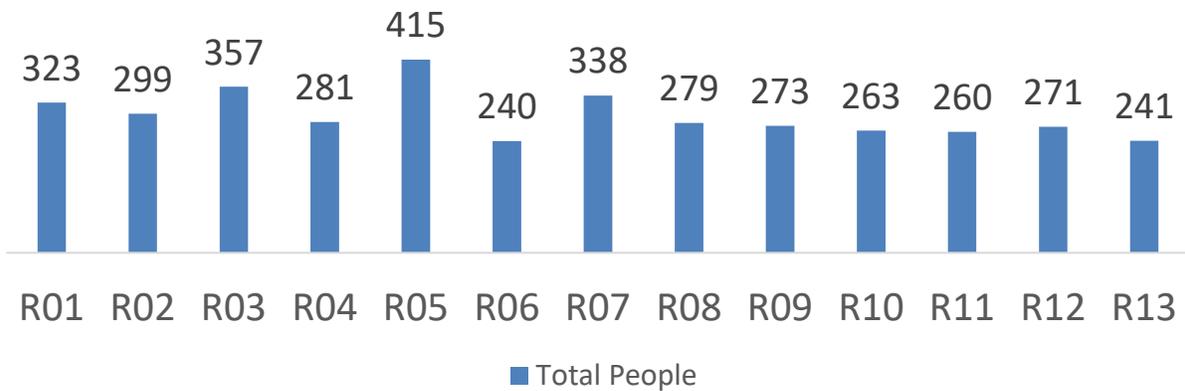
Multiple methods were used to count people who were homeless, including the use of a new phone app, which was used in 100% of the count for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Three resources were utilized in counting people experiencing sheltered homelessness:

- HMIS, 1,089 or 50%
- Phone survey, 585 or 27%
- App, 515 or 23%

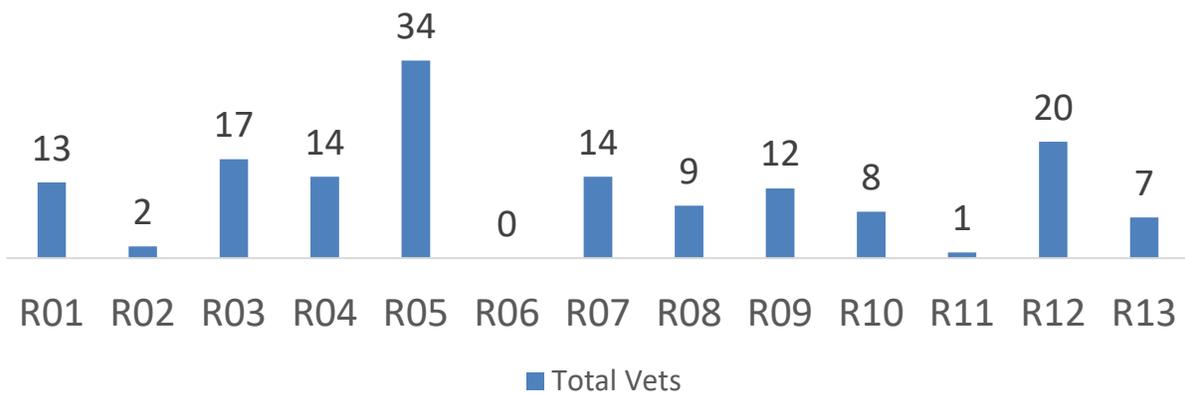
## People Counted in PIT, 2010-2020



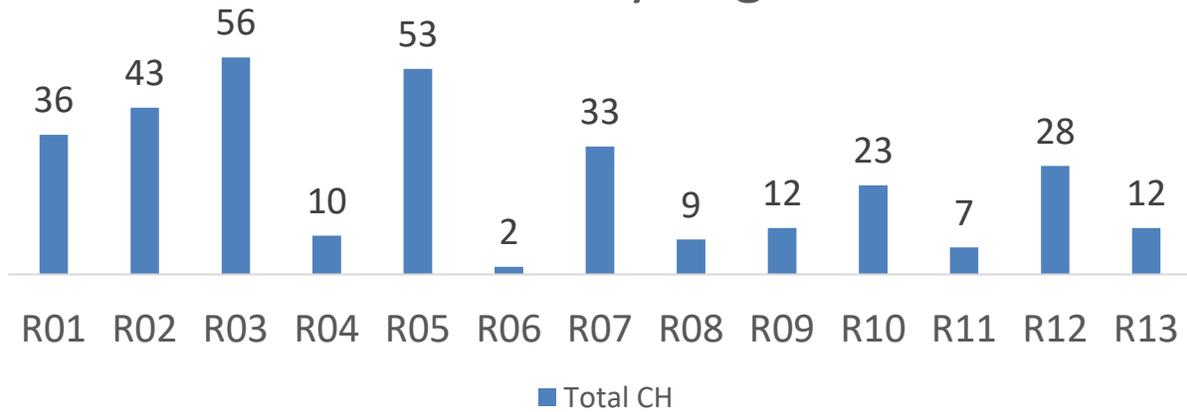
## Total People Counted by Region Across the NC BoS CoC 2020



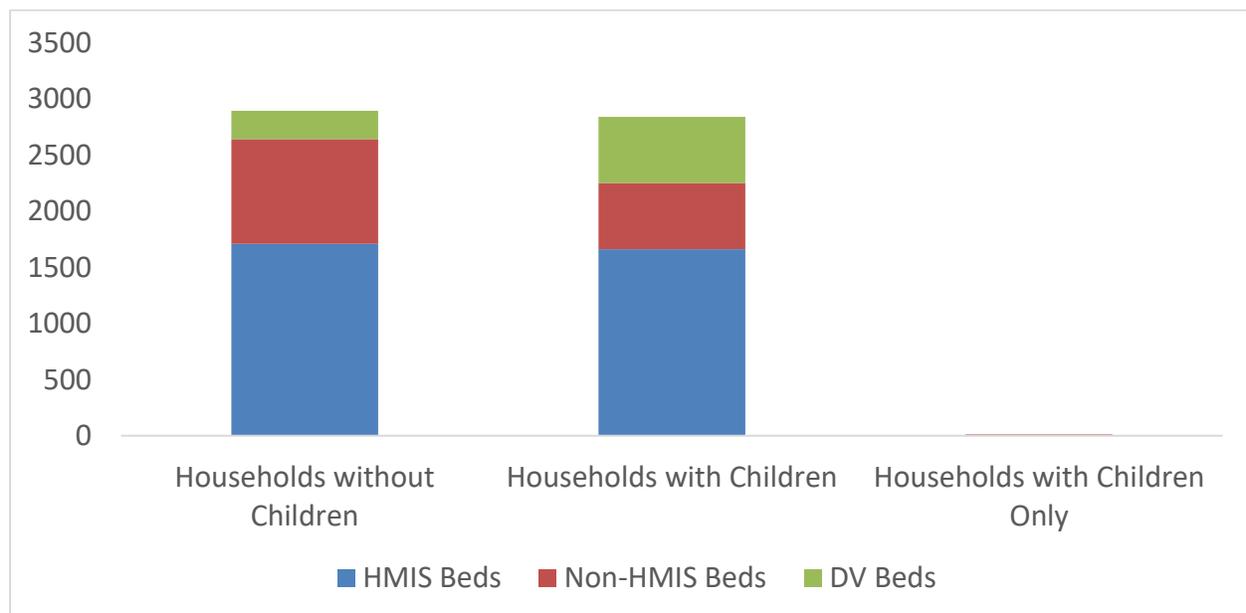
## Total Veterans Counted by Region 2020



## Total Experiencing Chronic Homelessness by Region 2020



## Housing Inventory Count: HMIS beds



### Racial Equity Subcommittee

Dr. LaTonya Penny reported that the Racial Equity Subcommittee and NCCEH are finalizing a contract with C4 Innovations to provide racial equity training for the Steering Committee and the Racial Equity Subcommittee, tentatively scheduled for November. The Racial Equity Assessment Workgroup met July 17 and, after its August meeting, anticipates presenting the Racial Equity Assessment to the Steering Committee at its September meeting. The subcommittee hosted the first Racial Equity Dialogue on July 27, attended by over 60 people and featuring a panel discussion entitled, "Police Brutality, Anti-Blackness and Community Response in BoS." Subsequent topics are scheduled over the next few months:

- Systemic Racism & Impact on Homelessness, Tuesday August 25, 12:00pm

- Racism in the Justice System and Re-entry - September
- Racism & Voting- TBD

### North Carolina Homeless Education Program

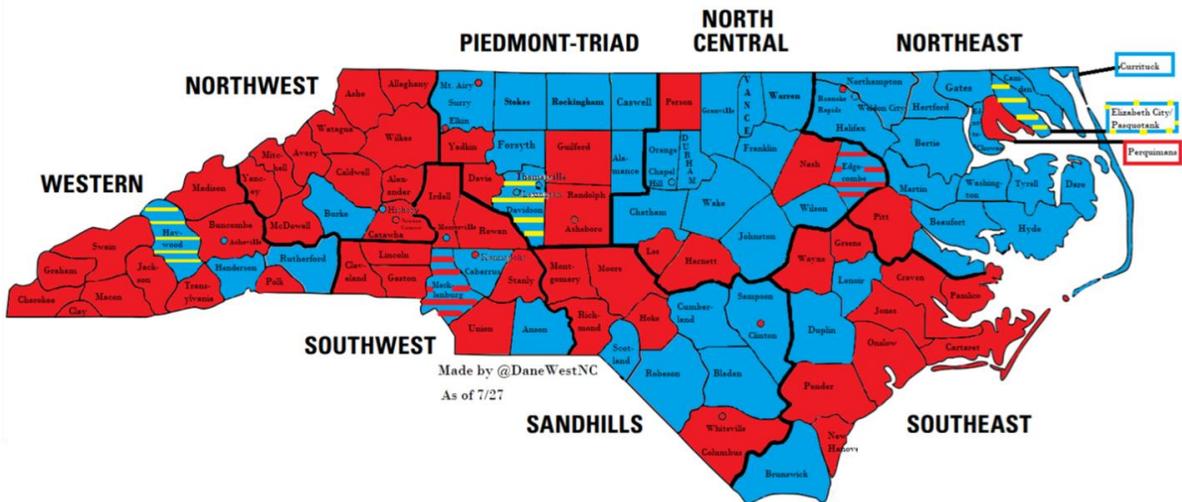
Lisa Phillips, State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth with the NCDPI Office of the Deputy State Superintendent of Innovation, presented information and resources for children and youth experiencing homelessness in the state. The education sector defines homelessness as Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate (meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments) nighttime residence. A living situation must meet all three for a child to be considered homeless, and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

- 2019-2020 SY: 28,240 homeless children and youth in grades K-12
- 2018-2019 SY: 36,733 homeless children and youth in grades K-12 (hurricanes impacted these numbers)

“Lighting Our Way Forward” is North Carolina’s [Guidebook](#) for reopening public schools and outlines three plans, implemented across the state per the map below.

- PLAN A: MINIMAL SOCIAL DISTANCING
- PLAN B: MODERATE SOCIAL DISTANCING
- PLAN C: REMOTE LEARNING ONLY

## The State of NC School Districts



Other resources:

- Homeless Liaison Strategies, <https://hepnc.uncg.edu/covid-19-resources-for-homeless-liaisons/>
- SchoolHouse Connection FAQ on COVID & Homelessness, <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TlteU6XatUxuX-kUIhk2BLDystQ3IlwrvBri-gkgmS0/edit>

### **HUD Proposed Amendment to Equal Access Rule**

Kevin McNamee shared information about a proposed rule change that would roll back 2016 protections under HUD's Equal Access Rule that ensures ". . . access to HUD programs without regard to a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status." This change would allow single-sex emergency shelters receiving HUD funds to deny transgender people access based on their sex assignment at birth. Published on July 24<sup>th</sup>, there is a 60-day comment period that ends on September 22, 2020. Along with state partners, NCCADV, Equality NC, and national partners NAEH and NLIHC, NCCEH opposes this proposed rule, as it is in direct opposition to our efforts to reduce barriers to shelter and promote a Housing First philosophy. HUD reports that there have been no documented incidents of trans people hurting other residents or cisgender men pretending to be trans women to gain access to women's shelters. Comments can be submitted through the "Housing Saves Lives" portal at <https://housingsaveslives.org/>. Other considerations:

- Proposed rule does not affect a CoC's ability to set funding priorities and written standards;
- NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy remains a part of CoC written standards and funding priorities and is not subject to change from this rule; and
- Though rule in effect could allow discrimination against trans people, it does not compel shelters to- "can" vs "must."

### **Upcoming Meetings and Reminders**

Before ending the meeting, Kevin reviewed these meetings in August:

**COVID-19 Local Leadership Response Sharing Call, Alternating Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M. This month's meetings: August 5 and 19**

Presentation: <https://www.gotomeet.me/NCEndHomelessness>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733

**Coordinated Entry Council Meeting, Monday, August 17, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.**

Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621

**Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting, Wednesday, August 19, 9:00 A.M.**

Presentation: <https://www.gotomeeting.me/NCEndHomelessness>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 975-793-733

**BoS HMIS User Meeting, Thursday, August 20, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.**

Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1379/>

**Racial Equity Dialogue Series: "Systemic Racism and Impact on Homelessness," Tuesday, August 25, 12:00–1:00 P.M.**

Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1432/>

**Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting, Thursday, August 27, 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Presentation: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621>

Audio: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 791-696-621

**The meeting adjourned.**

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.