



## GUILFORD COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Working to End Homelessness in Guilford County

### **Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting Minutes October 14, 2021 – 9:30 AM– 11:00 AM**

**Present:** Elizabeth Alverson, Debbie Bailey, Laura Baker, Will Bohaboy, Brad Bowers, Helen Cain, Edith Clifford, Corinth Camp, Bennita Curtain, Brian Evans, Tameria Fewell, Lashawna Forbes, Diane Gillon, Tina Gray, Natalie Hairston, Brian Hahne, Kelly Hedgecock, Steve Hess, Albert Hodges, Donna Hodges, Jackie Hundt, Becky Hunt, Scott Jones, Dorothy Kennedy, Shannell Lucas, Rase McCray, Donna McCormick, Traci McLemore, Michelle McNair, Heather Magill, Chewan Moore, Cheri Neal, Renee Norris, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Drennan Paylor, Chandler Posey, Shanna Reece, Deb Harris Richardson, Kecia Robinson, Sarah Roethlinger, Steve Sandercock, Megan Scales, Dr. Stephen Sills, Heather Skeens, Kentia Smith, Mark Sumerford, April Thompson, John Thompson, Josie Williams, Myron Wilkins, Leroy Wilson, Claretta Witherspoon

**Guests/First Time Attendees:** Maggie Amos, Shana Ayscue, Dr. Sylvia Burgess, Stefani Ledwell, Jane McDaniel, Judy Perlman, Myami Skertich, Mark Springfield

I. Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Palmer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Dr. Palmer asked that any visitors or first-time guests introduce themselves in the Zoom chat or audio.

II. Review and Approve Minutes – Dr. Palmer presented the minutes from the September 9, 2021 Membership Meeting for approval. Sarah Roethlinger made a motion to approve the minutes and Michelle McNair seconded the motion. The votes of approval were noted in the Zoom chat. There was no opposition, and the minutes were approved.

A. 2021 meeting dates (via Zoom meeting until further notice) – December 9, 2021

### III. CoC Funding and Resource Development

A. HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Brian Hahne said that there will be a called Board meeting and a called Membership meeting next week to approve the SPE Committee rankings for the applications.

- a. New and Renewal Project have been reviewed by the SPE Committee. The SPE Committee's recommendation for project allocations and priority ranking at a called CoC Board Meeting (October 20) and called CoC Membership Meeting (October 21).
- b. Week of October 25-29 – Project applicants will receive written notification of recommendation status.
- c. All applications will be submitted to HUD by November 16.

- B. City of Greensboro – Elizabeth Alverson said that the City has opened up the process to apply for ARPA funding. Applications are due on November 5. Technical assistance and more information are available on the city’s website.
- C. City of High Point – No update
- D. United Way of Greater Greensboro Housing – No update
- E. State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – The final applications and the regional application were submitted to the ESG Office on October 1.
- F. HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)
  - a. Coordinated Entry and Greensboro Housing Authority Update – Tina Gray said that 39 vouchers have been issued and currently searching for units. Tina said that the invoicing of the vouchers is being worked on. There will be a waiting list for referrals. Shana Ayscue from the Disability Advocacy Center asked about the vouchers and Tina replied that she would be glad to speak with her further.
- G. Guilford County
  - a. HUD Coordinated Entry Demonstration Project Phase II – Cheri Neal said that she has not heard back yet but is waiting to see if the CoC has been approved for the project.
  - b. UNCG CHCS Eviction Mediation Program – Dr. Sills said that Stefanie Ledwell has been hired as the Housing Resources Navigator for the program. Renee Norris has working with Legal Aid and some court cases have been resolved. Renee said that those who have attended the clinics have been assisted, including how to fill out application forms and assisting intakes with Legal Aid.
    - i. Dr. Sills said that NC Impact has filmed two segments to highlight mobile home displacement, the eviction mediation program, healthy homes, and environmental justice concerns. There will be a panel looking at affordable housing, pre- and post-pandemic. This will air on PBS next month.
  - c. County-wide Eviction Moratorium Plan – Cheri Neal said that the advocacy moratorium task force is on hold at the moment. There will be a meeting on Friday about preventing eviction and working with the court system.
  - d. Scott Jones expressed concern about job postings for the UNCG Eviction Mediation Program and the City of Greensboro’s Neighborhood Development Department. Both Dr. Sills and Elizabeth Alverson responded that the job application process was transparent and made available to the public. Scott also expressed concern that non-CoC members were included on today’s CoC Membership meeting. Brian responded that CoC Membership meetings are open to the public and not a closed meeting, however non-CoC members cannot vote.

#### IV. Collaborative Applicant Update – Cheri Neal and Brian Hahne

- A. COVID-19 Homeless Response Task Force – Brian said that the Task Force met on October 13. The shelters reported that volunteers are returning to serve. The COVID-19 positive rate in Guilford County has reduced. Over 1,500 clients have gone through the hotel.
  - a. Guilford County Isolation and Quarantine Hotel Site Update – The County has requested to keep the hotel open through March 2022 and will continue to need support from the CoC and shelters. This timeframe is in alignment with the white flag plan. The County has purchased 1,000 home testing kits and will work with the shelters on how to use the kits. Sarah Roethlinger asked who at the shelters are qualified to administer the home tests. Cheri replied that Susan Hawks from Public Health will be able to provide more information about the home tests.
- B. Crisis Response Team – Cheri Neal – No update
- C. Stronger Together Task Force – Dr. Pamela Palmer – No update
- D. Point in Time (PIT) Count – Brian said that PIT Count is currently being planned. It will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup> and more information will be shared.
- E. Strategic Plan Update – Jackie Hundt – Will be discussed at a later meeting.

#### V. HMIS Update – Brian Hahne

- A. Committee Report – Brian presented the following documents to the Membership to vote for approval.
  - a. North Carolina HMIS (NC HMIS) Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) MOU – Shanna Reece made a motion to approve the MOU and Sarah seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the MOU was approved.
  - b. Qualified Service Organization Business Associate Agreement (QSOBAA) – The agreement was due to updated and has been reviewed by the HMIS Committee. Shanna made a motion to approve the agreement and Sarah seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the agreement was approved.
  - c. Release of Information (ROI) – This document has been reviewed by HMIS Committee. Albert Hodges made a motion to approve to ROI and Shanna seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the ROI was approved.

#### VI. Coordinated Entry Lead Update – Brian Hahne

- A. Committee Report – Shanna Reece said that the Coordinated Entry partnership and confidentiality agreements have been emailed out. These forms should be signed before attendees can participate in the weekly Coordinated Entry meetings.

## VII. CoC Committee Reports

A. Housing Resource Committee – Scott Jones – No update

B. Governance Committee – Bernita Sims – No update

C. Advocacy and Public Relations Committee – Gattis Long – No update

D. Membership Committee – Beth Waters was not in attendance. Brian said that RHA Health Services and Disability Advocacy Center have submitted applications for membership. Dr. Palmer asked for a motion to approve both agencies for membership. Shanna Reece made a motion to approve and both Michelle McNair and Dr. Sills seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the membership applications were approved.

E. Nominating Committee – Bernita Sims was not in attendance. Dr. Palmer presented Will Bohaboy from Open Door Ministries as a Board Member to fill the Chronic Direct Service Provider vacancy. Sarah Roethlinger made a motion to approve Will as a Board member and Deb Harris Richardson seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the motion was approved.

F. Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer – No update

G. HMIS/Data Committee – Dr. Stephen Sills – No update

H. System Performance and Evaluation Committee – Bernita Sims – No update

I. Coordinated Entry – Shanna Reece – No update

J. Appeals Committee – as Needed – No update

K. Executive Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer – No update

L. Youth Committee – Sarah Roethlinger shared in the Zoom chat that HUD has tasked the CoC to count youth up to 24 years old in the PIT Count. The Youth Committee is helping the PIT Count Task Force in these efforts. Youth homelessness is often called the invisible problem because it is difficult to identify this population. The Youth Committee is meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Please contact Sarah if you are interested in helping the Youth Committee.

## VIII. Membership Announcements –

A. The November 11<sup>th</sup> CoC Membership meeting was canceled due to Veterans Day observances. The next Membership meeting will be held on December 9, 2021.

B. There was a question in the Zoom chat if High Point agencies could apply for the City of Greensboro ARPA funding. Elizabeth Alverson responded that the funding is only available for Greensboro agencies. Dr. Sills responded in the Zoom chat that the County's ARPA will be forthcoming.

## IX. Old Business / New Business

A. Guilford County Leadership/Guilford County CoC Membership Work Session: American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Resources

- a. Dr. Palmer shared the County's Recovery funds website, which included a timeline and public engagement community opportunities. Dr. Sylvia Burgess assisted Dr. Palmer with the Poll Everywhere feature to gather answers for the questions. Dr. Palmer also asked for comments in the Zoom chat.

- b. The first question was: How should Guilford County spend ARPA funds to address homelessness in Guilford County?
  - i. Affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and diversion were the top priorities listed from Poll Everywhere.
  - ii. In the Zoom chat, there was a comment that we need a plan to address short-term needs (shelter capacity), along with long-term needs (affordable housing). Another comment said that Rapid Rehousing vouchers were needed for African American single female families in order to address homelessness, racial equity, and homeless families with children. Another comment said that helping youth in crisis can prevent long term problems with youth and in the community. There was a question if the ARPA funding would be available to help shelters in High Point for winter shelters/white flag?
- c. The next question was: Which of the “eligible uses” are concepts we should use to address the top priorities?
  - i. Dr. Palmer shared the eligible uses on the ARPA website: support public response, address negative economic impacts, premium pay for essential workers, replace public sector revenue loss, and water/sewer.
  - ii. In the Zoom chat, there was a comment that 0% permanent loans for affordable housing is sustainable and will continue to support future projects as it gets paid back. There was a question of how to be one step ahead to keep people housed? There was a comment that 30% grants for financially approved projects will help expediate affordable housing projects. There was another comment to donate vacant county and city properties to non-profits to use for affordable housing.
  - iii. Cheri reminded everyone that the priorities should be sustainable. She also encouraged agencies to think about capacity issues.
- d. Dr. Palmer will combine the information and share with the Executive Committee. Brad Bowers said that shelters in High Point have submitted requests to the City of High Point to provide funding for one year and five-year requests, particularly for winter shelters. Sarah Roethlinger asked if the funding could address crisis response, particularly for families with children and for youth. Leroy Wilson asked about the next steps after this information is recommended to the County Commissioners and if a collaborative application will be submitted. Dr. Palmer responded a collaborative application is intended to be submitted to the County.
  - i. There were comments in the Zoom chat that this was a helpful and inclusive exercise.

X. Adjourned at 11:00 AM

**A Called CoC Membership meeting on October 21, 2021. The next CoC Membership Meeting will be held on December 9, 2021, via Zoom**