



**Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting  
May 13, 2021 – 9:30 AM– 11:00 AM  
Minutes**

**Present:** Mike Aiken, Elizabeth Alverson, Debbie Bailey (staff), Brad Bowers, Kay Cashion, Ryan Cataldo, Edith Clifford, Tom Campbell, Meredith Daye, Alisha Doulen, Tamera Fewell, Lashawna Forbes, Tina Gray, Brian Hahne, Annette Harris, Kelly Hedgecock (staff), Steve Hess, Taylor Hicks, Albert Hodges, Donna Hodges, Jackie Hundt, Becky Hunt, Steve Key, Charolette Leach, Heather Magill, Michelle McNair, Cheri Neal, Jennifer Nichols, Angela Parker (staff), Shanna Reece, Kecia Robinson, Sarah Roethlinger, Bernita Sims, Kentia Smith (staff), Mark Summerford, Natalie Ward, Leroy Wilson, Thanena Wilson, Claretta Witherspoon

**Guests:** Mollie Blafer (Ready for School, Ready for Life), Melissa Pettis (Project CATCH), Aaliyah Mathews (YWCA Intern), Erin Williams (City of Greensboro Behavioral Health Response Team)

I. Welcome and Introductions – Thanena Wilson led the meeting in Dr. Palmer’s absence. Erin Williams from the City of Greensboro’s Behavioral Health Response Team and Melissa Pettis from Project CATCH Initiative introduced themselves as guests. Cheri Neal introduced herself as the new CoC Program Manager.

II. Review and Approve Minutes – April 8, 2021 Membership Meeting – Thanena asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Campbell made a motion and Albert Hodges seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the minutes were approved.

- A. 2021 meeting dates (via Zoom meeting until further notice) – June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 9, 2021

III. Collaborative Applicant Update

- A. Introduce Cheri Neal as the CoC Program Manager – Brian Hahne introduced Cheri Neal as the new CoC Program Manager. She started her position on April 12. Cheri is in the onboarding process, including meeting with the multiple agencies, learning about HMIS and Coordinated Entry, and participating with the HUD TA meetings to determine roles and responsibilities during the Collaborative Applicant transition.
- B. COVID-19 Homeless Response Task Force – Brian Hahne shared that the Task Force is now meeting every other week. This Task Force continues to be a great collaboration for the CoC. The Task Force is transitioning into recovery mode and there have been recent conversations about providing mental health resources for shelter and other support staff.

- a. Shelter Update

- b. Guilford County Isolation and Quarantine Hotel Site Update – The numbers at the hotel have decreased. 1,100 clients have gone through the quarantine hotel and the positive rate has been steady at 8%.
  - c. Vaccine Update – The vaccine rollout from the County has been successful and the vaccines will soon be made available for youth.
  - d. There was a discussion from Commissioner Kay Cashion, Charolette Leach, Cheri Neal, and Michelle McNair about the importance of recognizing the need and providing mental health resources. In the Zoom chat, Bernita Sims shared that WRLP has funding allocated for mental and behavioral health services for those who have difficulty paying for services.
- C. Stronger Together Task Force – Brian Hahne presented in Dr. Palmer’s absence.
- a. County Partnership – Cheri has been meeting with Task Force.
  - b. Collaborative Applicant Transition – HUD TA has provided a six-month work plan on the Collaborative Applicant transition. The HUD TA will help to determine roles and responsibilities for PEH and the County.
- D. Strategic Plan Update
- a. Stakeholder Engagement – Brian shared a stakeholders engagement chart as noted on the 2019 CoC Planning Grant application. This chart is how HUD defines what stakeholders are including participating in CoC meetings, voting and selecting the CoC Board, and participation in Coordinated Entry. Brian said that this information is a primer, and it will be further developed by the Strategic Planning Committee and CoC Board.
    - i. Shanna Reece offered to help update the list with the current Coordinated Entry partnerships.

#### IV. HMIS Update

- A. Committee Report – Dr. Stephen Sills was not present, and Jackie Hundt provided the update. She and Dorothy Kennedy have been meeting with HMIS users to address needs, as well as working on the PIT and HIC data.
- B. PIT Count Data Update – Jackie shared the 2021 PIT Count data. There was a total 477 homeless persons who were unsheltered, in shelters, or in transitional housing. The household types were identified as households with at least one adult and one child, households without children, and households with only children. This is the lowest number of persons who have been counted since 2009. Jackie said that 94% of households with children are Black or African American families.
  - a. Cheri asked if the tent camps were included in the numbers. Debbie responded that 50 camps in Greensboro and 19 camps in High Point were visited on the PIT

Count night and were included in the data. Cheri also asked if the County's quarantine hotel were included in the data. Debbie responded that those people were included in the count, as well as those staying at the IRC's white flag hotel.

- b. Shanna asked if these numbers were lower because of COVID-19 because the numbers look low compared to the By-Name List. Debbie responded that the persons and camps that were visited on the PIT Count night included people who were not previously known about. She said that Angie Parker from the PEH Street Outreach team is engaging those people though some are not ready for housing resources. Brian said that the shelters were at 50% capacity during this time.
- c. Bernita requested for this year's data to be compiled in one chart with data from the previous years so that the CoC can see the historical context. Brian said that Jackie and Dorothy could work on providing that information.
- d. Commissioner Cashion expressed concern about the number of children and students who are homeless. Jackie responded that the school systems are required to provide data to the federal government and that they use the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. Commissioner Cashion said that more attention needs to be given to this area. Brian replied that work is being done to bring the Guilford County School representation back on the CoC Board. He said that Dr. Sills is concerned about gathering information on the number of homeless college students. Sarah said she would work on engaging UNCG more in future PIT Counts.

#### V. Coordinated Entry Lead Update

- A. Committee Report – Shanna Reece said that the committee met to review the HUD assessment document. She will put together a report on the findings and document best practices.
- B. Debbie Bailey shared the Coordinated Entry dashboard: A total of 2,112 phone calls were received to date from April. 313 assessments have been completed. 438 people were assisted in finding shelter. 36 people were referred to permanent supportive housing. 152 people were referred to rapid rehousing. From January-March 2021, 12% of people were diverted. The average length of time for people transitioning into housing is 98 days, but it keeps fluctuating. No program denied a referral from January-March. PEH's Street Outreach program started in December, the numbers of referrals have increased, and the By-Name List has increased.

#### VI. Nominating Update

- A. Committee Report – Thanena Wilson presented the slate of Board elections for 2021-2022. The new Board member recommendations are Edith Clifford, Brian Evans, and Heather Magill. She also recommended that Brian Evans’ representation is changed from Government to EMS/First Responders. The recommendations for reappointment are Mark Sumerford, Thanena Wilson, Dr. Pamela Palmer, and Shanna Reece. She also recommended reclassifying Scott Jones’ representation from Community Minded Individual to Affordable Housing Developer. Thanena opened the floor to ask for any additional nominations and none were presented.
- B. Board Election – Thanena presented the slate of nominations and recommendations for a vote. Those who were nominated were recused from voting. Bernita made a motion to approve the nominations and recommendations and Brad Bowers seconded the motion. Thanena asked for any votes of opposition and none were received. The nominations and recommendations were approved.

## VII. CoC Committee Reports

- A. Housing Resource Committee – Scott Jones – No report.
- B. Governance Committee – Thanena Wilson – No report.
- C. Advocacy and Public Relations Committee – Gattis Long – No report.
- D. Membership Committee – Bernita Sims presented one application for Membership. Akachi Solutions LLC is in Greensboro and provides mental health, substance abuse, rehabilitation, and psychoeducation services. Their CEO is Shannell Lucas, and their voting representatives are Algernon Clark and Christina Martin. Bernita made motion to approve their membership and Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the application was approved for membership.
- E. Nominating Committee – Thanena Wilson – Discussed above
- F. Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer – No report.
- G. HMIS/Data Committee – Dr. Stephen Sills – Discussed above
- H. System Performance and Evaluation Committee – Thanena Wilson shared that PEH is in the process of the annual monitoring of funded agencies. The agencies who will be monitored will be contacted soon.
- I. Coordinated Entry – Shanna Reece
- J. Appeals Committee – as Needed
- K. Executive Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer
- L. Youth Committee – Sarah Roethlinger said that the committee is planning an outreach event this summer. They are also looking into way to outreach through social media.

## VIII. Old Business / New Business

- A. Project CATCH – Melissa Pettis from the Salvation Army Wake County. She was filling in for Shakeda Muldrow, who is the project manager. She explained that this three-year is a statewide initiative and caters to children and family experiencing homelessness.
- B. HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers - Tina Gray explained that the Greensboro Housing Authority has been awarded 40 vouchers from the Emergency Housing Vouchers from HUD, starting July 1. The program assists those who are homeless, at risk of

homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, and recently homeless. As well, the Shelter Plus Care grant has started and vouchers are currently available for those who are homeless and disabled. Tina thanked Ciara Smith for her hard work on utilizing the vouchers for her program. Tina requested for veterans to be referred to Shanna for Foxworth II. Debbie and Cheri will coordinate a meeting with Tina. HUD is providing multiple informational webinars on the process.

- C. Social Security benefits process - Cheri said that she has reached out to the Social Security administration and will serve as a liaison to the administration for the CoC agencies. She will be meeting with the administration next week. Jennifer Nichols suggested that the CoC agencies give Cheri a list of questions and issues that need to be addressed.

IX. 11:15 AM – Meeting adjourned

**Next CoC Membership Meeting on June 10, 2021 via Zoom**