



## GUILFORD COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Working to End Homelessness in Guilford County

### Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

September 9, 2021 – 9:30 AM– 11:00 AM

#### Minutes

**Present:** Elizabeth Alverson, Debbie Bailey, Laura Baker, Bennita Curtain, Lisa Cowan-Dudley, Meredith Daye, Tina Gray, Brian Hahne, Michael Halford, Annette Harris, Blair Hedgecock, Kelly Hedgecock, Steve Hess, Albert Hodges, Donna Hodges, Jackie Hundt, Becky Hunt, Dorothy Kennedy, Charolette Leach, Jessica Littleton, Shannell Lucas, Brooks Ann McKinney, Michelle McNair, Heather Magill, Cheri Neal, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Rahael Pontillo, Chandler Posey, Shanna Reece, Deb Harris Richardson, Kecia Robinson, Dr. Stephen Sills, Bernita Sims, Ciara Smith, Kentia Smith, Mark Sumerford, Danice Taylor, Erin Williams, Leroy Wilson, Claretta Witherspoon

**Guests:** D Fulmor, Diane Gillon, Sheree Hardy, Jared Hunter, Adrienne Loffredo, Renee Norris, Quaneisha Payne

I. Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Palmer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The first-time attendees who introduced themselves were Renee Norris (UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies), Diane Gillon (Free Indeed Outreach), Sheree Hardy (Greensboro Housing Authority), Michael Halford (County Manager for Guilford County), Deb Harris Richardson (YWCA Greensboro), and Adrienne Loffredo (Room At The Inn).

II. Review and Approve Minutes – Dr. Palmer asked for a motion to approve the August 12, 2021 Membership Meeting minutes. Shanna Reece made a motion to approve the minutes and Bernita Sims seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the minutes were approved.

A. 2021 meeting dates (via Zoom meeting until further notice) – October 14, November 11, and December 9, 2021

III. Coordinated Entry Lead Update – Dr. Palmer requested for the Coordinated Entry update to be moved to earlier in the agenda. There are two areas of Coordinated Entry that need to be discussed by the Membership. Those areas are how Coordinated Entry will be managed moving forward and the transition of the Committee Chair.

A. Committee Report – Shanna Reece said that the Coordinated Entry Partnership and Confidentiality forms have been finalized. The forms will be sent out to those who participate in Coordinated Entry for agency signature. In response to COVID-19, Coordinated Entry has been used for shelter placement. The intention for Coordinated Entry is housing placement and transition plan is being worked on. The Committee has met twice with 211 and has an additional meeting scheduled for this afternoon. Shanna is working with Brian Hahne and the Partners Ending Homelessness' team to develop a timeline and transition plan.

B. There was a discussion about the transition of Coordinated Entry from shelter placement to housing placement. Brooks Ann McKinney questioned the September 30<sup>th</sup> transition deadline. Brian responded that the transition plan is meant to address the staff capacity and sustainability. Albert Hodges said that shelters must follow the NC DHHS guidelines as well as HUD policies and Shanna responded that each shelter has a different need to address. Bernita asked for a one-page info sheet about Coordinated Entry and Shanna responded that there is a Coordinated Entry Facebook Live as well as other materials available. Mark Sumerford said that the problem is that there are not enough shelter beds and housing available, regardless of who is responding to the phone calls. Cheri Neal said that all who are engaging with Coordinated Entry need to actively participate in the system and the weekly meetings. Charolette Leach also questioned the September 30<sup>th</sup> transition deadline and Shanna responded that Coordinated Entry has not had the opportunity to operate the way it was supposed to due to COVID-19. Bernita said that the CoC needs to address capacity issues, including seeking financial resources and reaching out to other agencies. Elizabeth Alverson said that Coordinated Entry should continue to prioritize a COVID-19 response and shared a link to Coordinated Entry Prioritization in the Zoom chat. Shanna reminded everyone that the Coordinated Entry staff is a small team who are doing additional duties beyond their job descriptions. Kentia Smith said that Partners Ending Homelessness is committed to this work but need to address the staff capacity issues. Dr. Palmer said that this is an opportunity to strengthen our Coordinated Entry system and processes. Michelle McNair said that she appreciates the work of the Coordinated Entry team, but more work needs to be done for a smooth transition. Cheri said that Susan Hawks from Guilford County Public Health Department has offered to assist shelters with COVID-19 response plan.

- a. Dr. Palmer asked for everyone to respond in the Zoom chat if they preferred for the transition to extend after September 30. In the Zoom chat, two people responded to keep the transition date as September 30 and 23 people responded to extend after September 30.

C. The Committee is meeting with 211 this afternoon. The date of the next Committee has not been scheduled yet. Dr. Palmer asked that the entire Membership and Board are invited to the next Coordinated Entry Committee meeting.

D. Chair Transition – Shanna will remain in the role as Committee Chair until the end of October and she will assist in the transition. One person has expressed interest in the Committee Chair position.

#### IV. CoC Funding and Resource Development

A. HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Jackie Hundt is reaching out to renewal applicants. She asked agencies to submit the Letters Of Intent and to remember the deadlines. This year, HUD has emphasized collaboration, including with health care and public housing agencies. HUD had a webinar last week to review.

- a. HUD NOFO was released on August 18.
  - b. CoC published the NOFO Request for Proposals including timeline on September 1 on the CoC website, the CoC Facebook page, and through an email communication.
  - c. Letters of Intent and required documentation are due on September 15.
  - d. Renewal and New applications are due on September 24.
  - e. All applications will be submitted to HUD by November 16.
- B. City of Greensboro – Elizabeth Alverson asked for contracts to be submitted to her. She reminded agencies that the contracts require DocuSign.
- C. City of High Point – No update
- D. United Way of Greater Greensboro Housing – No update
- E. State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- a. The final applications and regional application are due to the ESG Office on October 1.
- F. HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)
- a. Coordinated Entry and Greensboro Housing Authority Update – Cheri Neal said that she and GHA have met with HUD to clarify some information. HUD clarified that the applicants did not have to be taken from the By-Name List. Meredith Daye said that 53 applications have been received. Bernita asked for a definite timeline for when this process will be completed, and Cheri responded that everything should be resolved by the end of the month.
- G. Guilford County
- a. HUD Coordinated Entry Demonstration Project Phase II – Cheri said that the CoC has submitted a letter of support to the racial equity demonstration. It is not for funding but will provide HUD technical assistance support for this effort. Cheri should hear back next week if the CoC has approved for the next round of interviews. If accepted, this will be a nine-month process.
    - i. The CoC is involved with the statewide NC HMIS Governance Committee who is also participating in a racial equity project.
  - b. UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies Eviction Mediation Program – Dr. Sills introduced Renee Norris as the coordinator of the program. The goal of the program is to prevent eviction and assist people to remain housed. The team is canvassing complexes throughout the county and helping to remove barriers to

assist people, including translations and interpreters. Renee said the team is having good interactions with landlords, including information on ERAP. Dr. Palmer asked how this program will coordinate with Coordinated Entry and Dr. Sills said that Renee will interact with the Coordinated Entry. Dr. Sills shared the below links for Eviction Mediation Program:

- i. Proposal - <https://chcs.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Eviction-Mediation-and-Tenancy-Support-Program-.pdf>
  - ii. Mediation Flow Chart - <https://chcs.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Mediation-Navigation-Flow-Chart.pdf>
  - iii. Mediation Program - <https://chcs.uncg.edu/eviction-mediation-program/>
  - iv. Webinar on Rental Assistance - <https://chcs.uncg.edu/webinar-emergency-rental-assistance-mediation/>
  - v. Full time housing navigator position - <https://spartantalent.uncg.edu/postings/20513>
- c. County-wide Eviction Moratorium Plan – Cheri said County Manager Michael Halford is convening committees to address this effort. This is an opportunity to expand the work we are doing and develop partnerships.

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

- A. COVID-19 Homeless Response Task Force – Brian said that Guilford County has 12% positive rate and 47% of the County is fully vaccinated.
- a. Shelter Update
  - b. Guilford County Isolation and Quarantine Hotel Site Update – There are currently 12 clients at the hotel. A total of 1,468 clients have gone through the hotel with an 8% positive rate.
  - c. Vaccine Update
- B. Crisis Response Team – Cheri will provide an update next month.
- C. Stronger Together Task Force – Dr. Pamela Palmer – No update
- a. Collaborative Applicant Transition- Brian Hahne and Cheri Neal
- D. Strategic Plan Update – Jackie said that there will be a presentation next month. She may share a survey to Membership for feedback. Dr. Palmer asked if that the Strategic Plan update is discussed earlier on the agenda for next month’s meeting.

#### VI. HMIS Update – Brian Hahne

- A. Committee Report – Dr. Sills said that there are ongoing trainings for the HMIS users to improve data quality. The CoC is more involved with the statewide NC HMIS Governance Committee.

## 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
- D. Membership Committee – Beth Waters was unable to attend, but Brian shared that three organizations have submitted Membership applications. The organizations are Barnabas Network, A Joyous Transition Inc., and Free Indeed Outreach. Bernita made a motion to approve all three organizations and Kecia Robinson seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and all three organizations were approved.
- E. Nominating Committee – Bernita Sims – No update
- F. Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer – No update
- G. HMIS/Data Committee – Dr. Stephen Sills – Discussed earlier
- H. System Performance and Evaluation Committee – Bernita Sims – The Committee will meet on September 16 to review the ESG applications and make funding recommendations. Funding notifications will be emailed to the agencies afterwards.
- I. Coordinated Entry – Shanna Reece – Discussed earlier
- J. Appeals Committee – as Needed
- K. Executive Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer – No update
- L. Youth Committee – Sarah Roethlinger – No update

## VIII. Membership Announcements

- A. Shanna announced that the Stand Down event is Friday, September 10 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at Providence Place Baptist Church. This event is to assist veterans with services.

## IX. Old Business / New Business

- A. CoC Meet and Greet Event is tentatively scheduled for November.
- B. A baseball game at the High Point Rockers in late September or early October was suggested as a CoC event.
- C. Cheri said that the County has face masks available.

- X. Adjourned at 11:00 AM.

**Next CoC Membership Meeting on October 14, 2021, via Zoom**