



## GUILFORD COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Working to End Homelessness in Guilford County

### **Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting**

**January 13, 2022 – 9:30 AM– 11:00 AM**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Elizabeth Alverson, Laura Baker, Mollie Blafer, Will Bohaboy, Christine Byrd, Tom Campbell, Renae Cleveland, Edith Clifford, Meredith Daye, Tamera Fewell, D Fulmor, Alicia Giggetts, Dorothy Graves, Tina Gray, Brian Hahne, Annette Harris, Kelly Hedgecock (staff), Albert Hodges, Donna Hodges, Jackie Hundt, Becky Hunt, Scott Jones, Katherine Kelly, Dorothy Kennedy, David Kolosieke, Charolette Leach, Stefanie Ledwell, Jackie Lucas, Heather Magill, Rase McCray, Michelle McNair, Cheri Neal, Renee Norris, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Drennan Paylor, Andrew Prochet, Deb Harris Richardson, Kecia Robinson, Megan Scales, Dr. Stephen Sills, Bernita Sims, Danice Taylor, John Thompson, Erin Williams, Leroy Wilson, Thanena Wilson, Clar-etta Witherspoon

I. Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Palmer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. On behalf of the YWCA shelter, she thanked Liz Alverson, Robbielene Lawhorn, and Michael Pearson for their recent assistance with a family experiencing homelessness. Christine Byrd and David Kolosieke from Habitat Greensboro and Alisha Giggetts from the Triad Health Project introduced themselves.

II. Review and Approve Minutes – Dr. Palmer presented the December 9, 2021 Membership Meeting minutes for approval. Tom Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes and Tina Gray seconded the motion. There was no opposition, and the minutes were approved.

- A. 2022 meeting dates (via Zoom meeting until further notice) – February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8, 2022

### III. CoC Funding and Resource Development

- A. HUD Waivers for CPD Grant Programs to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 – Shanna Reece wanted to discuss this agenda item but was not present.
- B. City of Greensboro – Liz Alverson said that the Regency Hotel is available. Kristina Singleton and Michael Pearson are the contacts for individual placements, and Liz and Michael are the contacts for family placements. White Flag has been issued for a few nights recently and will be used again this weekend due to inclement weather. The White Flag shelter is being held at First Baptist Church in Greensboro.
- C. City of High Point – Thanena Wilson said that the City received approval from HUD for winter shelters. Michelle McNair is working on contracts with the High Point shelters. Michelle McNair said that the City is not managing the winter shelters, but is providing resources for the shelters. VITA tax services will be available to assist the homeless in

High Point. For more information or interested in volunteering with the tax services, contact Megan Scales.

- D. United Way of Greater Greensboro Housing – Brian Hahne said that the funded agencies will meet soon to discuss the funding, successes, and challenges.
- E. State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – Albert Hodges said that the State ESG office has funds available for COVID-19 funding that has not been spent. He spoke Lisa Worth at the State ESG Office, and she said that a rapid rehousing temporary waiver should be approved by the CoC. Dr. Palmer asked Brian and Cheri to assist with drafting a communication for the waiver. Dr. Palmer, on behalf of the Executive Committee, made a motion and Bernita Sims seconded the motion to draft a waiver communication. There was no opposition, and the motion was approved. Bernita recommended that the SPE Committee lead the process. Thanena Wilson, as the SPEC chair, asked to be included in the communication. The waiver will be discussed and voted on at the January 19<sup>th</sup> CoC Board meeting.
- F. HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) – Tina Gray said that three vouchers have been used and 37 families are searching for housing. She asked for anyone to contact her if there are voucher issues so that she can track the information. She asked for agencies to request extensions of the vouchers. The waitlist is being paused until GHA hears if more vouchers will be available.
- G. Guilford County
  - a. UNCG CHCS Eviction Mediation Program – Renee Norris said that clinics are being held. The Center is communicating with property owners and tenants. Bernita asked who the Center is reporting out to with information such as the number served, and how many are in High Point and Greensboro. Renee said that the data is going to Cheri Neal and that they are collecting demographic. Bernita asked what is happening with those who are evicted, and Renee replied that those people were given information from Legal Aid to appeal the eviction decision.
  - b. County-wide Eviction Moratorium Plan – Cheri Neal – No update

IV. Collaborative Applicant Update – Cheri Neal and Brian Hahne – Dr. Palmer said that conversations continue to HUD TA about the Collaborative Applicant transition. The Governance Charter is being reviewed to include the transition and the changes to the Charter are in direct alignment with the transition.

- A. COVID-19 Homeless Response Task Force – Brian Hahne – The Task Force met yesterday and has been meeting since March 2020.
  - a. Shelter Update – The County has asked for more accurate numbers on bed availability and waitlist.

- b. Guilford County Isolation and Quarantine Hotel Site Update – The number of guests is over 1,600 since March 2020 at a 9% positive rate. The omicron variant is impacting the County numbers.
  - c. Vaccine Update – The County has purchased testing kits and has provided training. This should help to reduce the number who may need to go to the quarantine hotel.
- B. Stronger Together Task Force – Dr. Pamela Palmer
- a. Small Group ARPA Discussion – December 2021 – The County facilitated a conversation with how to use the funds. Dr. Palmer thanked those who attended. At the October Membership meeting, she has collected data and is working on presenting this data.
- C. Point in Time Count – Cheri Neal and Dr. Stephen Sills – Dorothy Kennedy said that PIT is in two weeks and volunteer trainings are being held. The PIT is on January 26<sup>th</sup>. She asked if anyone is interested in volunteering to contact her. Some volunteers have already dropped out. Donations are still needed and will be working on packing donation bags.

#### V. HMIS Update

- A. Committee Report – Dr. Stephen Sills said that the Committee has been involved in the PIT. There will be training for executive leadership soon. Dr. Sills announced that he is leaving UNCG and will no longer be involved with the CoC after February. Dr. Palmer, Bernita, and Brian thanked Dr. Sills for his leadership as the HMIS Chair and congratulations on his professional endeavors.

#### VI. Coordinated Entry Lead Update

- A. Bernita provided an update about the CoC's plan for a 24/7 Coordinated Entry hotline. There were organizations who were willing to participate in a 24/7 phone line. An interim plan was developed and given to the City and County. The Coordinated Entry funds do not allow for what is being requested to do. Dr. Palmer said that this discussion and response is moving to the Coordinated Entry Committee. Scott Jones said that a green book is being worked on for food sources and wants to make a book for shelter resources. Liz Alverson said that she and Cheri are working on a resource guide available, and she anticipates having more information by the next Membership meeting. Liz said she would reach out to Michelle McNair to verify High Point information. Brian said that PEH is working on internally making changes to better assist with the Coordinated Entry phone line.
- B. Committee Report – Will Bohaboy – No update

#### VII. CoC Committee Reports

A. Housing Resource Committee – Scott Jones – He is trying to find out where affordable housing plans are being submitted in Greensboro and High Point.

B. Governance Committee – Dr. Palmer said that some changes will be made to the Charter regarding the Collaborative Applicant transition.

C. Advocacy and Public Relations Committee – Brian thanked all who participated in the Homeless Memorial Services in December.

D. Membership Committee – Beth Waters – No update

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 – Thanena Wilson – The committee will meet sometime soon.

I. Coordinated Entry – Will Bohaboy – Discussed earlier

J. Appeals Committee – as Needed – No update

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

L. Youth Committee – Dr. Palmer said that Youth PIT Count is being planned. Cheri Neal said that the Youth PIT Count is targeting NC A&T, UNCG, and GTCC. She asked for volunteers for the Youth PIT. Drennan Paylor said that there has been an increase in housing requests for the Guilford County Schools system and she is referring families to other agencies. There are limited funds available for emergency resources such as three-nights in hotels.

VIII. Membership Announcements – Dr. Palmer asked for any membership announcements to be added to the Zoom chat.

A. Free, basic tax assistance is available in High Point. It is appointment based and people may sign up for appointments at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/hptax> or call [336-883-3041](tel:336-883-3041). General questions can be sent to [vita@highpointnc.gov](mailto:vita@highpointnc.gov)

IX. Old Business / New Business

X. Adjourned at 11:00 AM

**Next CoC Membership Meeting on February 10, 2022, via Zoom**