



Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

Minutes

07.13.23

Attending: Chair Bernita Sims, Liz Alverson, Shana Ayscue, Debbie Bailey, Laura Baker, Chip Berry, Janet Blue, Will Bohaboy, Brad Bowers, Caitlin Bowers, Helen Cain, Tyra Clymer, Bennita Curtain, Meredith Daye, Cassandra Dean, Tiffany Dumas, Tameria Fewell, Denise Fulmore, Lori Gerlach, Sarah Glover, Crystal Gorham, Annette Harris, Deb Harris-Richardson, Kelly Hedgecock, Orel Henry, Albert Hodges, Debbie Hodges, Becky Hunt, Kenyatta Jennings-Richardson, Robbielene Lawson, Stefanie Ledwell, Lisa Lee, Rase McCray, Brooks Ann McKinney, Michelle McNair, Chewan Moore, Cheri Neal, Melissa Nettles, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Quiotti Ratliff, Shanna Reece, Kecia Robinson, Sarah Roethlinger, Ryan Ross, Megan Scales, Kristina Singleton, Ciara Smith, Kentia Smith, LaToria Smith, Mark Springfield, Erin Stratford-Owens, Mark Sumerford, Erin Williams, Leroy Wilson

Also Attending:

Sherea Burnett, Jessica Camire, Wilton Donnell, Laura Zbehlik

This was the regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Membership body. The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom platform.

I. Welcome and Introduction - Chair Bernita Sims

(Acknowledgement of any guests)

The meeting officially opened at 9:35am with welcome and greetings from Chair Sims. The following acknowledged themselves per the invitation from Chair Sims as guests:

Crystal Gorham (Greensboro Housing Authority)

Melissa Nettles (Cone Health)

Lori Gerlach (Sandhills Center)

Cassie Dean (Disability Advocacy Center)

LaToria Smith (Disability Advocacy Center)

II. Review and Approve Minutes – Chair Bernita Sims

A. Review Minutes of Meeting of 06.08.23

The minutes from the 6/8/23 Membership meeting were acknowledged as having been sent and received. A motion was made by Albert Hodges to approve the

minutes from the meeting as presented and the motion was properly seconded. After vote, the motion passed without objection.

- B. 2023 Meeting Dates (via Zoom until further notice)
Aug 10; Sep 14; Oct 12; Nov 9; Dec 14**

III. CoC Funding and Resource Development – Cheri Neal

- A. HUD NOFO (upcoming RFA)**

The HUD Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) was released on 7/5; the local release was 7/14. Completed applications for the HUD NOFO are due by 9/28. The hyperlinks are to be released 7/14, and a final draft is to come. DV Bonus funds are available, and not just for DV agencies; others that serve DV victims can apply. Admin costs are being extended to allow for a higher percentage that can be reflected for agencies. An agency does not have to be the lead Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to apply for HMIS funds. Agencies should update their information in eSnaps. Collaboration is strongly encouraged.

- B. State Emergency Solutions Grant**

Work on Emergency Solution Grants (ESG) is being done through the Systems Performance and Evaluation Committee (SPEC). The timeline is on the website. The ESG applications are being submitted in August.

- 1. Crisis Emergency Tree (Crisis Hotline)**

- Chair Sims spoke on work from out of the tree through the Greensboro Housing Authority. Education may be needed on vouchers.

IV. Municipal Partners and Housing Authorities

- A. City of Greensboro (Liz Alverson)**

ESG and Homeless Prevention RFP (CDBG Local Funds) applicants have been notified of recommendations; contracts are coming soon. Any questions should be forwarded to Liz Alverson. The Greensboro Entitlement Grant (Aids -impacted housing situations -HOPWA funds) program is looking to issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) for funding. Service areas for these funds can come from not only Guilford County, but also the counties of Randolph and Rockingham. Meetings for planning for Winter Shelter programs are underway; there are no Covid funds to assist. Updates should be coming in August or September.

- B. Greensboro Housing Authority (Meredith Daye)**

Crystal Gorham will be representing GHA going forward in the meetings. HUD has made available 4 buckets for Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV); Homeless; Domestic Violence; Homeless prevention; Diverting Homelessness. 38 of 40 vouchers have been leased as of today. If a voucher is lost after September 30, it cannot be reissued. Shelter Programs and Housing Opportunities have an allocation of 41 vouchers; they are close to being fully utilized.

EHVs can be ported throughout the country. There was some discussion about different types of vouchers and programs. The Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) supports permanent housing and not emergency housing. Training for providers may be a needed possibility.

C. City of High Point (Michelle McNair)

No decision has been made yet on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Home ARP funds have been released; an RFP will be issued. Work is being done on increasing the affordable housing market. Meetings with shelters are coming in the next few weeks to discuss Winter Shelter programs; there are funds in the budget but more funding is needed. There is completion on the Community Development Block Grants; grantees have been notified and contracts completed. In the next few weeks the 2023-24 grant period will begin.

1. Shelters Discussion

D. High Point Housing Authority

No Report

1. Ryan Ross (Open Door Ministry)

Ryan Ross spoke on the Day Center. Open Door Ministry (ODM) is looking to move to new location in 18-24 months and funding allocation is \$7.4MM. Fundraising for the Day Center will begin in October. The goal is to raise between \$12-13MM and building square footage to be 50,000-60,000 square feet. At maximum capacity, 82 beds can be accommodated, but the plan is to get to 110-125 beds. The goal is to develop partnerships where agencies can meet at the facility with people who need support. Operations at Oak City Cares (Raleigh, NC) and Transitions (Columbia, SC) are models for the planning. Collaboration is desired and is underway with Davidson County Community College and Guilford Technical Community College to help with job readiness programs. The goal is to provide more stable permanent supportive housing by developing small living facilities on the property. The project is not a High Point only vision, but a Guilford County vision, and a Greensboro vision. The plan is for housing men for now but at some point looks will be given to other programs.

E. Guilford County

1. UNCG CHCS Eviction Mediation Program (Data) – Stefanie Ledwell

Numbers are higher after the close of the rental assistance program. From the Housing Navigation cases, 16 of 35 people currently experiencing homelessness reached out.

[evicmedrept071323.docx](#)

2. Legal Aid of NC – Janet Blue

In June, 207 households were seen through Legal Aid and the clinic. There is some overlap in numbers but 165 came through the courthouse; 103 were court cases; 67 were walk-ins and 87 were seen through Legal Aid. The number of walk-ins has increased. The Greensboro clinics are open on Tuesdays at 9am and

2pm and Wednesdays at 2pm. The High Point clinics open at 1pm on Mondays and 10am on Thursdays.

There was mention of the collaboration of UNC-G, CHCS, and Legal Aid despite of the 6/15 discontinuation of Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds and their resourcefulness to prevent eviction and support diversion.

3. Tenant Leadership Academy – Cheri Neal

The Tenant Leadership Academy finished up its last session with graduation and will be on a pause.

V. Collaborative Applicant – Cheri Neal

A. HUD Technical Assistance

1. Strategic Plan

TA assistance has been approved for strategic planning. There is current dialog as to what the plan will look like.

2. Coordinated Entry TA

The C/E TA is on pause. It was recommended that the C/A and PEH teams attend community workshops around coordinated entry.

B. Infectious Disease Homeless Response Taskforce

The meetings have been moved to bi-monthly and one is scheduled for this month. Collaboration is in place with the shelters and the Department of Public Health. Advocacy needs to be made for partnerships around healthcare to help with funding. A meeting is scheduled for 7/26 at 1pm.

MOU Review/Vote

Review of the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are underway and will be reflective of C/E and HMIS additional funding from the county. The review results will be on the agenda for next month.

1. Collaborative Applicant MOU

2. Coordinated Entry MOU

3. HMIS MOU

VI. HMIS Lead– PEH (Erin Stratford-Owens)

A. HMIS Annual Evaluation Status Update

B. Monthly HMIS Data Report

[June 2023 Monthly Data FINAL 7.10.23.pptx](#)

Jasmine Crosby was hired as the HMIS Reporting Specialist, filling the position that was vacated. Megan Hoyt, Housing Support Specialist, will now handle the by-name list.. Navigators will be hired pending funding and will be handling phone calls and emails and not helping with street outreach

VII. Coordinated Entry Lead – PEH (Erin Stratford-Owens)

A. CE Annual Evaluation Status Update

B. Monthly CE Data Report

On weekend calls to C/E, a weekend Navigator will be hired and function in a fairly autonomous role. This person will make decisions on emergency housing hotel vouchers. Structure is being built into the program. The purpose is to provide access to resources and provide 7-days a week service. There is some uncertainty as to a timeline when all will be in place. There was discussion on the involvement of the Coordinated Entry Committee with Partners Ending Homelessness (PEH) with the Navigator and hotel vouchers.

VIII. Stronger Together Task Force – Dr. Pamela Palmer

A. Homeless Shelters Meeting - TBD

B. CoC Press Conference

C. Inter-Local Committee

Strategizing on Inter-Local strategic planning is progressing.

D. Guilford County Homelessness Task Force

There was mention of the funding allocations to CoC agencies by the Homelessness Task Force.

Encouragement was given by Dr. Palmer for the progress within the CoC; the essence is to be a unified CoC.

IX. CoC Committee Reports

A. Membership Committee – Interim Chair Sarah Roethlinger

A meeting is to be held Monday at 11am to discuss any submitted applications

B. Nominating Committee – No Report Submitted

The CoC Board list is being reviewed. Meetings occur every other month and a person with lived experience is needed for the Board

C. Governance Committee – Chair Bernita Sims

A Doodle Poll is to be sent out. The goal is to finish the work on updating the charter by month-end

D. Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer

Work is progressing; a request was made for a membership list if available

E. Advocacy and Public Relations Committee – Vacant (needs chair)

F. Systems Performance and Evaluation Committee – Vacant (needs chair)

Chair Sims serving as Interim Chair in the midst of the funding cycle. See IIIB

G. Appeals Committee – As Needed

H. Youth Committee – Sarah Roethlinger (No Report Submitted)

I. Housing Resource Committee – Scott Jones (No Report Submitted)

J. Executive Committee – Chair Bernita Sims

Appointments were made and interim chairs have stepped up. Report-outs/updates are forthcoming. Sarah Roethlinger is the Interim Chair for the Membership and Nominating Committees. A new permanent chair is needed for SPEC. There was mention of getting the Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion Committee started. Mention was made of a consolidated team.

X. Membership Announcements (please see calendar on CoC website)

A. Renewal Applications/Forms Process(es)- May 1

Annual forms are due per the governance charter for voting purposes. They are due 7/1 for compliance. All agencies need to complete the Conflict of Interest form.

B. Membership Portal (Sherea/Jennifer)

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/human-services/continuum-of-care/coc-member-portal>

A request was made to like the Facebook page.

XI. Old Business/New Business

A. Membership Process – update organization profiles

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/human-services/continuum-of-care/membership>

B. Discussion – CoC Engagement Meeting (1/2 day session)

There was some discussion as a location is needed and the strategic plan needs to be incorporated for a Fall engagement meeting. The current strategic plan expires December 31, 2023.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was called to adjourn at 11:14am.