

**Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**10.12.23**

**Attendance:**

Chair Bernita Sims, Liz Alverson, Laura Baker, Chip Berry, Caitlin Bowers, Debora Debora Braden, Sherea Burnett, Kate Calannio, Corinth Camp, Tom Campbell, Edith Clifford, Caitlin Cosner, Bennita Curtain, Tiffany Dumas, Tamera Fewell, Shonta Fleming, Genesis Gardner, Crystal Gorham, Annette Harris, Debra Harris-Richardson, Albert Hodges, Donna Hodges, F Hopkins, Pamela Ingram, Kenyatta Jennings-Richardson, Nevah Jones, Robbielene Lawhorn, Stefanie Ledwell, Lisa Lee, Jeanelle Lindsay, Jessica Littleton, Jodi Lorenzo, Heather Magill, Jane McDaniel, Michelle McNair, Justine Moton, Nicole Mueller, Dewey Mullis, Cheri Neal, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Angela Parker, Drennan Paylor, Ann Pinto, Charlisa Powell, Sophie Probert, Andrew Prochet, Martina Ratliff, Kecia Robinson, Sarah Roethlinger, Latoyha Sapp, Dorian Sylvester, Kristina Singleton, Alex Smith, Erin Stratford-Owens, Mark Sumerford, Leroy Wilson, Claretta Witherspoon, Yamese Wyrick, Liz Zimmer

**Also Attending:**

Jessica Camire, Wilton Donnell, Jennifer Hurdle, Arria Moore, Laura Zbehlik

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

**I. Welcome and Introduction – Chair Bernita Sims**  
**(Acknowledgement of any guests)**

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:37am by Chair Sims. There was a welcome, and then guests were acknowledged: Kate Calannio and Jodi Lorenzo (Sanctuary House); Martina Ratliff (Family Nurse Practitioner); Nevah Jones and Charlisa Powell (Legal Aid of NC); and Yamese Wyrick (Veterans' Affairs)

**II. Review and Approve Minutes – Chair Bernita Sims**  
**A. Review Minutes of Meeting of 09.14.23**  
**B. 2023 Meeting Dates (via Zoom until further notice)**  
**Nov 9; Dec 14**

The minutes from the September 14 meeting were acknowledged as having been sent and received. There was a noted correction to be made; Debra Harris-Richardson, not listed, stated that she was present at that meeting. A motion was made by Tom Campbell to approve the minutes as submitted with the noted correction to be made. The motion was seconded. After question and vote, the motion passed to approve the minutes as submitted with the noted correction without objection.

**III. Action Items**

**Sarah Roethlinger**

**A. New Members – Corporation of Guardianship  
Docare Foundation  
Montagnard Dega Association  
Guilford County Animal Services**

The above-listed agencies, having been vetted by Membership Chair Beth Waters, were presented for CoC Membership. Sarah Roethlinger, Interim Chair in Chair Waters' stead, made a motion to recommend these agencies for membership into the CoC. The motion was seconded. After question and vote, the motion to approve the above-listed agencies for CoC membership passed without objection.

**B. QSOBBA Policy Approval**

[qsobbaoct2023.pdf](#)

This topic was decided to be tabled until the November meetings.

**IV. CoC Funding and Resource Development – Cheri Neal**

**A. HUD NOFO (Local HUD NOFO Competition-submitted 9/28/23)**

The funding applications were submitted on September 28. Thanks were given to partners for work and support provided.

**B. State Emergency Solutions Grant (submitted 8/18/23)**

This has been received within the last couple of weeks. Funded grantees have been contacted and are working on their contracts that were due Tuesday.

**1. Street Outreach**

There was mention of needing to decide how to move forward with street outreach changes by Partners Ending Homelessness (PEH). There were discussions on training sessions to improve the funding process and a request to have a debriefing before March to focus on what drives the data. Cheri Neal expressed thanks to the Collaborative Applicant (C/A) Team for the work done. There was also discussion around where points were lost and the impact on bonus dollars in light of competition around the country.

**V. Municipal Partners and Housing Authorities**

**A. Greensboro Housing Authority – Crystal Gorham**

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) had a strict deadline of 9/30 for vouchers to be issued; all 40 vouchers have been leased and therefore, allocation can be retained. There is continued teaching and education in place; a peer group has been started. For Shelter & Homes, 36 of 51 vouchers have been released. For Housing Opportunity, 34 of 43 have been allocated.

**B. City of Greensboro – Liz Alverson**

Beginning next week, work on the Doorway Project (30 Pallet Shelters) should start, with an expectation for the program to begin November 1. Referral forms should go out next week to the same agencies as last year for unsheltered individuals. With the Regency no longer being an option, prioritization will be determined based on severe disability and the elderly. Recipients will be contacted by the Doorway Request for Proposal (RFP) agency. The end date for the Doorway Project is March 31, 2024. The process will involve working through the Wait List as beds become available. There is no Covid funding for hotel assistance. The Doorway Project is for individuals and not families. A request was made for partner/agency assistance for families. Safe Parking, held at The Interactive Resource Center (IRC), is the option for families, which is available for overnight. There was some discussion about this and the tentative, but not yet solidified, date of November 15 for IRC to begin 24/7 operations.

**C. City of High Point – Michelle McNair**

The city is working with a nonprofit (to be identified at a later date) for homeless services; this operation is not like the proposed Day Center functions. The offerings include meals, a food pantry, clothing, and a place to shower. Work is being done on the logistics: details are forthcoming. The city has not yet announced American Rescue Plan Awards (ARPA) yet. Home ARPA funds process is expected to begin in the next 6 months. Work is being done to implement signage at 3 locations with information to discourage panhandling. The city is checking with local agencies for winter shelter. Upcoming events were mentioned; the details should be forwarded to the C/A for membership/community distribution/communication.

**D. Open Door Ministries (High Point Day Center) – Michelle McNair**

Michelle McNair gave the report on the Day Center in Ryan Ross' absence. Funding has been secured in the amount of \$7.4MM for the Day Center, with the location of 410 Brentwood still being the proposed location. The City of High Point and Guilford County has been engaged to assist with zoning to acquire the property.

## **Open Door Ministries (High Point Day Center) - Continued**

There is hope that currently uninstalled shelter pallets will be ready by mid-November. ODM served 7300 meals in the last month. Through the food pantry, 279 families and 529 individuals were served. There were 10 individual veterans who moved into housing. The shelter currently has 45 beds filled; 5 more are to be added/month with the goal of having 60 by year-end. A new staff member has been hired to assist with emergency assistance and housing. Thanks were expressed for the street outreach efforts by Partners Ending Homelessness (PEH), since that program has ceased as it formerly operated.

### **E. Guilford County**

#### **1. Guilford County Animal Services**

No Report

#### **2. UNCG CHCS Eviction Mediation Program Data – Stefanie Ledwell**

In September, there was an uptick in call volume (105, of which 7 were homeless or were staying in their cars), thought to be driven primarily by rent/rental assistance/housing needs as opposed to utility support. The program wanted to stick to HUD-based fair market rental levels.

#### **3. Legal Aid of NC -Charlisa Powell**

Charlisa Powell announced that they had received a 1-year grant from Veterans' Affairs to provide support for veterans experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. The funding would go to help not only support for housing, but for aid in helping with benefits. The target market is the Triad area. Nevah Jones was introduced as new staff and noted for being a veteran who went to law school.

## **VI. Collaborative Applicant/CoC Lead – Cheri Neal**

### **A. HUD Technical Assistance**

#### **1. Strategic Plan (approved extension of current plan to March 2024 in Sept Board/Exec meeting)**

Cheri Neal and Dr. Pamela Palmer continue efforts towards work on a new strategic plan.

#### **2. Coordinated Entry TA**

A reach was made for Coordinated Entry (C/E) TA assistance, but there has not been an update. Other options are being considered. There should be more of an update by next month.

### **B. Infectious Disease Homeless Response Taskforce**

Collaboration efforts have included Guilford County Public Health Department in the midst of staff changes they are experiencing. As a result from meeting, there should be an expectation for clean-cut data.

**C. Upcoming Meetings**

**D. DEI Committee**

Recruitment is ongoing for committee members. A Chair may be selected soon. Some data on racial equity came out recently, with updates forthcoming.

**E. PWLE Advisory Board**

The Board is moving along; several people have been identified to help. An update should be provided next month.

**F. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Update**

Meetings have been held; assistance from members agencies was requested. There is a search for a location to serve as homebase, and the preferred site would be between Greensboro and High Point.

**VII. HMIS Lead – PEH (Sherea Burnett)**

**A. HMIS Annual Evaluation Status Update**

**B. Monthly HMIS Data Report**

[HMIS Lead, CE Lead Report - September 2023 \(Monthly Data\).pdf](#)

**VIII. Coordinated Entry Lead – PEH (Sherea Burnett)**

**A. CE Annual Evaluation Status Update**

**B. Monthly CE Data Report**

**C. Coordinated Entry Access Points Update**

A look is being given to provide more user-friendly reporting; feedback was requested. As of October 5, Rapid Rehousing numbers had increased, thought to be primarily driven by evictions involving children and the elderly. The C/E Assessment group is meeting today. As assessments come in, prioritization adjusts. The approach is a no wrong-door approach. Work is being done on a backlog; thanks were expressed for support from Chair Sims and WRLP, Dr. Palmer, and Will Bohaboy. Job opportunities have been Posted in the CoC Newsletter, Emergency Support Grant (ESG) ListServ, and other outlets. New access points are being added monthly. The upcoming phone lines will be in operation from 8:30am-5pm Monday-Friday and not 24/7. There was some discussion around calls from those already receiving services, and Domestic Violence victims being in the numbers.

**IX. Stronger Together Task Force – Dr. Pamela Palmer**

**A. Homeless Shelters Meeting**

Efforts are being made to meet with the shelters; more information is forthcoming.

**B. CoC Press Conference**

A CoC gathering that has a focus on capacity-building was stated. A tentative date of February 16 was suggested. It was also mentioned that efforts to secure help for Strategic Planning have been taken. An ask was made of membership for direction to any resources that could help with the process.

**C. Inter-Local Committee**

Chair Sims spoke on this committee and its makeup and origin. A focus is to build out the system. A summary was provided with mention of the CSH Consulting group having a contract be put in place, and the committee being brought about for municipality collaboration.

**D. Guilford County Homelessness Task Force**

The origins of this Task Force were provided. There have been no recent meetings but one may possibly be scheduled around mid-November.

Kristina Singleton expressed her thanks for support after a meeting with Ryan Ross about some miscommunication around the Doorway Project.

**X. CoC Committee Reports**

**A. Membership Committee – Beth Waters**

Made in the meeting (new members)

**B. Nominating Committee – Sarah Roethlinger**

Chair-Elect to be addressed in upcoming Board meeting. A new nomination may be presented at the next meeting. An appeal was made for anyone with lived experience that could serve on the Board, preferably someone outside of agency organizations.

**C. Governance Committee – Chair Bernita Sims**

Updates may be forthcoming

**D. Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer**

Discussed earlier (see VI-A-1 and IX-B)

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

Stressed need for a Chair and the importance of telling the CoC story

**F. Systems Performance and Evaluation Committee – Renee Norris**

Work had been finished. There was no update

**G. Appeals Committee – As Needed**

**H. Youth Committee – Sarah Roethlinger**

This committee is working with the Point-in-Time (PIT) count. Help was requested for a youth-focused count for those up to 24 years of age. There will be an app to help with the process.

**I. Housing Resource Committee – Vacant (needs chair)**

Conversation is needed with Laura Baker

**J. Executive Committee – Chair Bernita Sims**

The work of this committee is reflected in the agenda for this meeting

**XI. Membership Announcements (please see calendar on CoC website)**

A. Membership Portal

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

B Housing Summit

[Save the Date! GHC 2023 Housing Summit.pdf](#)

There was mention of the upcoming World Homeless and Hunger Day that occurs the week of November 13.

C. World Homelessness Day (10/13/23)

[World Homelessness Day Flyer 10.13.23.png](#)

**XII. 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)

C. Homeless Services Workforce Survey

**XIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was called to adjourn at 11:08am.



GUILFORD COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Working to End Homelessness in Guilford County

PLEASE JOIN US IN WEARING  
ORANGE TO RECOGNIZE

# World Homelessness Day

EDUCATION | REFLECTION | ACTION

OCTOBER 13, 2023  
1-2 PM

VIRTUAL EVENT FEATURING  
TRIVIA, REFLECTION  
ACTIVITIES & MORE

PLEASE EMAIL [LZBEHLIK@GUILFORDCOUNTYNC.GOV](mailto:LZBEHLIK@GUILFORDCOUNTYNC.GOV)  
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