

**Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**12.14.23**

**Attending:** Chair Bernita Sims, Liana Adrong, Venus Allen, Liz Alverson, Shana Ayscue, Jeremy Benton, Sophie Bernard, Debora Braden, Valaria Brown, Latoya Bullock, Sherea Burnett, Tom Campbell, Kate Calannio, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Edith Clifford, Caitlin Cosner, Lisa Cowan-Dudley, Jasmine Crosby, Bennita Curtain, Meredith Daye, Cassie Dean, Tameria Fewell, Shonta Fleming, Frankie Ford, Whitney Fox, Genesis Gardner, Lori Gerlach, Crystal Gorham, Annette Harris, Debra Harris-Richerdson, Shadonna Headen, Kelly Hedgecock, Becky Hunt, Kenyatta Jennings-Richardson, Charolette Leach, Lisa Lee, Jessica Littleton, Heather Magill, Janet McAuley Blue, Brooks Ann McKinney, Traci McLemore, Michelle McNair, Chewan Moore, Cheri Neal, Renee Norris, Daniel Ochu, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Angela Parker, Drennan Paylor, Andrew Prochet, Quiotti Ratliff, Shanna Reece, Kristina Singleton, Ciara Smith, Erin Stratford-Owens, Mark Sumerford, April Thompson, Beth Waters

Also Attending:

Jessica Camire, Wilton Donnell (Recorder), Arria Moore, Charlesy Nance, Maya Saxena, Laura Zbehlik

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:32am by Chair Bernita Sims with a welcome and greeting. Space was given to guests on the call: Valaria Brown, of Partners Ending Homelessness and Frankie Ford of the Greensboro Housing Authority introduced themselves.

**II. Review and Approve Minutes – Chair Bernita Sims**

**A. Review Minutes of Meeting of 11.09.23**

**B. 2024 Meeting Dates (via Zoom until further notice)**

**Jan 11; Feb 8; Mar 14; Apr 11; May 9; Jun 13; Jul 11; Aug 8; Sep 12;**

**Oct 10; Nov14; Dec 12**

The minutes from the November 9 meeting were acknowledged as having been sent and received. A motion was made by Tom Campbell to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded and after question and vote, the motion passed without objection.

**III. Action Items**

- A. New Members - Chair Beth Waters** **Grow and Elevate**
- B. Membership Committee Processes/Recruitment**
- C. PIT Count Methodology – Cheri Neal/Laura Zbehlik**

[2024 Guilford CoC PIT Methodologymain.pdf](#)

The proposed Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) Methodology was stated to provide a better roadmap to move forward. It would provide for more detailed, and clear reporting to help address specific Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) questions. There have been 65 training sessions that have taken place, with the last being December 6 and 12; there is 1 more being scheduled for those that had missed prior trainings per commitment and one for elected officials. There is a need for more Team Leads for the PIT Count. Currently there are 30-40 volunteers between the two days (January 24-25, 2024) and 17 Team Leads. There are 12 volunteers to help with donations and 15 to help with home base operations. The desire is to get at least 3 more leads. There was a stated need to work with agencies who are in the Housing Management Information System (HMIS) and provide shelter for the unhoused to help collect Housing Inventory Count (HIC) numbers. Also, it was noted that a youth PIT Count would be taking place in January. A motion was made by Tom Campbell to approve the PIT Count Methodology as submitted. The motion was seconded.

**Special Presentations**

**1. Veterans Spotlight - Bruce McKenna – Kernersville VA**

Bruce McKenna has been assigned to do street outreach for veterans through the Kernersville Veterans Affairs location. He spoke of the facility and touched on outreach efforts for local veterans. Bruce has met with the Interactive Resource Center (IRC), Weaver House, and tried to meet with those in Center City Park. Call Bruce, which the preferred method of contact, at (980) 401-2174 with referrals; emails can be submitted but they would need to be encrypted.

## **2. CHS Update – Charlesy Nance/Maya Saxena**

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) attended the Homelessness Task Force meeting and engaged attendees and provided an overview. They provided an organized summary of the pain points that have been provided, as well as identified gaps and barriers. CSH asked attendees how would they see success in 2-3 years. They planned to attend the Homelessness Task Force meeting that was scheduled for December 11. They plan to attend the January meeting and address the pain points and other areas of interest. CSH is currently involved in an environmental scan. CSH is looking to bring on 2 fulltime people with lived experience to assist in the initiative.

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

### **A. HUD NOFO**

Everyone approved for funding should have received their contract.

### **B. State Emergency Solutions Grant**

The State ESG funds are out; one agency declined the funds that they received. The Systems and Performance Evaluation Committee (SPEC) will need to meet and provide recommendations. The state has approved \$215,000. There were discussions about the funding and its purpose(s).

## **V. Municipal Partners and Housing Authorities**

### **A. Greensboro Housing Authority - Crystal Gorham**

The Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) provided wrap-around services. GHA helped move in 2 families. Out of 40 Emergency Housing vouchers allocated, all have been used. There were 38 vouchers through Sheltering the Homeless with 6 families searching for housing; with the Housing Opportunity program, there are 34 vouchers and 4 families are searching for housing,

### **B. High Point Housing Authority**

No Report

### **C. City of Greensboro -Liz Alverson**

Greensboro is hosting a Homeless Persons' Memorial walk on December 21. The city is committing \$100,000 for hotel stays. For the Doorway Project, send referrals to Liz Alverson. There was some discussion on the funding that WRLP received and leveraging. Discussion also took place on advocacy.

### **D. City of High Point -Michelle McNair**

#### **1. Shelters Discussion**

High Point city officials are trying to identify funds for hotel assistance. The Winter Shelter program is operating at full force. A Memorial Dinner for the Homeless is scheduled for December 19; a proclamation is to be read on December 18.

### **E. Open Door Ministries (Day Center) – Michelle McNair**

Nothing has changed; the question is location.

**F. Guilford County**

**1. UNCG CHCS Eviction Mediation Program (Data) – Renee Norris**

The clinic saw 66 new clients, 10 of whom were homeless. Some of the clients were families living in cars. Some of the clients had Section 8 vouchers. A Landlord Outreach Specialist is working with the process. There were 29 eviction diversions, 11 mediations, and 26 housing navigations. The university takes a holiday break between 12/22/23 and 1/2/24. The courts will not be hearing cases the week of 12/18; the courts reopen 12/28 and cases will be heard January 2-4. There were discussions about the processes. Chewan Moore of the Womens' Resource Center (WRC) indicated that they host workshops on landlord/tenant law. They are not routine but WRC will provide notification through [infoCoC@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:infoCoC@guilfordcountync.gov) when they occur.

**2. Legal Aid of NC – Janet Blue**

Legal Aid is willing to go out and provide workshops. There is an increasing number of walk-ins. Greensboro operations are 9am and 2pm on Tuesdays and 2pm on Wednesdays. It was estimated that service is provided for about 66% of clients who have court that day. An example was provided of a case. The Help Line phone number (866) 219-5262 was provided but it was acknowledged that it may be difficult to get through.

**3. Guilford County Animal Services (Lisa Lee/Jorge Ortega)**

No Report

**VI. Collaborative Applicant – Cheri Neal**

**A. HUD Technical Assistance**

No Report

**1. Strategic Plan (current plan extended until March 2024)**

Follow-up should be forthcoming

**2. Coordinated Entry TA**

After a misunderstanding, the HUD Coordinated Entry TA help is back. One meeting has taken place and weekly meetings will occur.

**B. Infectious Disease Homeless Response Taskforce**

No Report

**C. Upcoming Meetings/Events –**

**1. Homeless Persons' Memorial Day – Cheri Neal/Jessica Camire**

[National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Flyer 2023final.jpg](#)

Discussion took place about the Homeless Persons' Memorial events. Any names should be submitted via email to [infoCoC@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:infoCoC@guilfordcountync.gov) by Friday.

**2. PIT Count Planning Meetings**

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

**A. HMIS Annual Evaluation Status Update**

The annual evaluation is being facilitated by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee. The quarterly HMIS meetings for the HMIS Data Committee should resume in 2024. Requests to join the HMIS Committee should be directed to Chair Beth Waters. There was some discussion on contact information and response times. Valaria Brown was recognized as the new HMIS Team Lead.

**B. Monthly HMIS Data Report**

There was no report due to the issues caused by the standards update. This is expected to be resolved by December 28. HMIS training is set for February 6. The LSA Interim Benchmark has been submitted.

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

**A. CE Annual Evaluation Status Update**

The annual evaluation is being facilitated by the Coordinated Entry (C/E) Committee.

**B. Monthly CE Data Report**

There was no report due to the issues from the standards update. Once this has been fixed, the numbers can be retrieved retroactively. SPDAT training will be held January 30 at 2pm. The following numbers were highlighted: October 19 – 52 vets on the by-name list; 133 on the Permanent Supportive Housing Waitlist; 221 on the Rapid Rehousing Waitlist.

**C. Updates – Access Points**

There are currently 8 access points featuring 7 agencies. Advance times have been set and include assessment determinations. Spacing should accommodate 2/3 people. The Coordinated Access Workgroup (By-Name List meetings) meeting schedule is in the CoC Newsletter. By-name list packets updates should be sent to: [byname@partnersendinghomelessness.org](mailto:byname@partnersendinghomelessness.org). The new Coordinated Entry Assessor is Rashaad Nelson for Greensboro; a person is to be hired for High Point. There was discussion of PEH office hours and Coordinated Entry Committee meetings. Mention was made that Will Bohaboy was no longer Chair of the C/E Committee. Brooks Ann McKinney offered to help coordinate a C/E Committee meeting in conjunction with Partners Ending Homelessness (PEH).

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

**A. Homeless Shelters Meeting – TBD**

No Report

**B. CoC Press Conference**

Work is underway in planning a Spring convening. The date suggested was April 11 during place of the Membership meeting. It was suggested to extend the meeting time to 9am-1pm. More details are to come. It is to be an in-person event. There was no objection so it was confirmed.

- C. **Inter-Local Committee**
- D. **Guilford County Homelessness Task Force**

**X. CoC Committee Reports**

**A. Membership Committee – Beth Waters**

From item III-A, Grow and Elevate was presented for membership to the CoC by Chair Beth Waters. The motion to accept Grow and Elevate was made through the Membership Committee and was seconded. After question and vote, the motion passed without objection. There was discussion on work done for the membership processes and planning. A request was made for any volunteers to help. Michelle McNair and LaToya Bullock offered to help.

**B. Nominating Committee – Erin Stratford Owens**

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

Work is underway to come up with dates to meet

**G. Appeals Committee – As Needed**

No Report

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

No Report

**I. Housing Resource Committee – Laura Baker**

No Report

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

No Report

**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>

**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 (Feb/early Spring)**

Commissioner Kay Cashion expressed her thanks to CoC agencies for the work that is being done.

**XIII. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sherea Burnett. The motion was seconded. After question and vote, the motion passed without objection. The meeting adjourned at 11:43am.

# NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

We invite you to join the Guilford County Continuum of Care in remembering our neighbors and friends whose lives were lost while experiencing homelessness in 2022 and 2023.

**All are welcome.**

## High Point

Memorial Service (Indoors)

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
108 West Farriss Avenue

## Greensboro

Memorial Walk (Outdoors)

**Thursday, December 21, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

Meet at Greensboro City Hall  
300 West Washington Street

If you would like to honor a friend or loved one who has passed away while experiencing homelessness, please contact [infoCoC@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:infoCoC@guilfordcountync.gov) by Friday, December 15th.



SCAN to learn more about the Guilford County Continuum of Care.



