



Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

Minutes

02.08.24

Attending: Chair Bernita Sims, Venus Allen, Liz Alverson, Sophie Bernard, Debora Braden, Jamie Brown, Valaria Brown, Sherea Burnett, Corinth Camp, Tom Campbell, Alexis Clemonts, Tyra Clymer, MaKayla Cooke, Jasmine Crosby, Patrick Davis, Cassie Dean, Tiffany Dumas, Tameria Fewell, Whitney Fox, Catrice Frost, Genesis Gardner, Sarah Glover, **Crystal Gorham**, George Hall, Annette Harris, Deb Harris-Richardson, Kelly Hedgecock, Satonya Hill-Stewart, Albert Hodges, Councilman Hugh Holston, Becky Hunt, Barbra Jackowski, Kenyatta Jennings-Richardson, Cpt. Rachel Juren, Charolette Leach, Stefanie Ledwell, Jessica Littleton, Dana MacDaughtry, Jane McDaniel, Brooks Ann McKinney, Michelle McNair, Marcus Mebane, Justine Moton, Dewey Mullis, Cheri Neal, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Andrew Prochet, Shanna Reece, Sarah Roethlinger, Shaletha Ross, Ciara Smith, Kentia Smith, Erin Stratford-Owens, Mark Sumerford, Dorian Sylvester, Dr. Michelle Vance, Erin Williams, Taylor Williams, Leroy Wilson

Also Attending:

Jessica Camire, Wilton Donnell (Recorder), Arria Moore, Laura Zbehlik

This was the regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Guilford County Continuum of Care (CoC). The meeting was a virtual event, held via the Zoom platform. The meeting officially started at 9:35am after a delay per issues with the meeting link.

I. Welcome and Introduction - Chair Bernita Sims

(Acknowledgement of any guests)

A welcome and greetings were extended by Chair Sims. A invitation was provided to allow first-time participants to introduce themselves. The following introduced themselves: Jamie Brown (Exodus Fellowship Church); Patrick Davis (The Hero Center – High Point); Cpt. Rachel Juren (High Point Police Department); Sarah Glover (United Way-Greensboro; attending in place of Traci McLemore); Hugh Holston (Councilman/Greensboro Housing Coalition); George Hall (Sage Plant/BiHome, on place of Alex Dummit); Satonya Hill-Stewart (Guilford County Jail Diversion, on behalf of Dr. Lakeshia Ellison); and Stefanie Ledwell (UNC-G Center for Housing and Community Studies – in absence of Renee Norris)

II. Review and Approve Minutes – Chair Bernita Sims

A. Review Minutes of Meeting of 01.11.24

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

**Mar 14; Apr 11; May 9; Jun 13; Jul 11; Aug 8; Sep 12;
Oct 10; Nov14; Dec 12**

The minutes from the January 11 meeting were acknowledged as sent and read. Corinth Camp stated that her name was missing from those in attendance. Wilton Donnell indicated that the correction will be made. Tom Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted correction to be made. The motion was seconded. The motion, after question and vote, was approved without objection.

Space was given for Albert Hodges to speak to supporting the work of the Interactive Resource Center (IRC) amid their current situation, and included an ask of the CoC for public support of the IRC. He read a proclamation that he had created expressing support for the IRC. Discussion followed with acknowledging there would probably be some edits to come. A motion was made by Albert Hodges for the CoC to adopt the resolution (proclamation). The motion was seconded, and after question and vote, the motion was approved without objection.

[IRC resolution COOriginal.docx](#)

III. Action Items

A. New Members - Membership Chair Beth Waters

Membership Chair Beth Waters presented the following agencies for CoC membership on behalf of the Membership Committee: Y Me Young Minds Elevated; The Heroes Center; A Chance for Change Outreach Organization. Chair Waters made a motion for acceptance of these agencies to CoC membership. The motion was seconded, and after question, and vote via verbal vote, the motion was approved without objection. It was noted by Cheri Neal of the Collaborative Applicant that New Members Orientation would take place February 23. Moving forward, these meetings would take place the 4th Friday of each month.

B. Nominations – Nominations Chair Erin Stratford-Owens

1. DEI Chair - Dr. Michelle Vance

No action was taken on this position. There was discussion on Dr. Vance Co-Chairing this position with Adriana Adams. Action would take place at the Board level.

2. Board Position (DEI/Lived Experience)– Dr. Michelle Vance

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Chair Erin Stratford-Owens made a motion to recommend Dr. Michelle Vance to become a member of the CoC Board, fulfilling the Mental Health Agency position. It was noted that Dr. Vance has also been approved by the CoC Board/Executive Committee. The motion was seconded, and after question and verbal vote, the motion was approved without objection. Dr. Vance spoke for a few minutes.

3. Coordinated Entry Chair

No action taken.

IV. CoC Funding and Resource Development – Cheri Neal

A. HUD NOFO

There is hope that a debriefing will take place next month. An award of \$2.7MM (out of a possible \$3.1MM) has been awarded to the CoC, an increase for the 2nd year. Thanks were expressed to the Collaborative Applicant (C/A) team for the work done.

B. State Emergency Solutions Grant

All recipients of funding should have received, and should be executing, their contracts. Mandatory training and updates, per HUD, should be forthcoming. Attendees were notified to be watchful for HUD funding news via the CoC Newsletter. Guilford County has opened Community Based Organizations (CBOs) funding and applications are due by March 1. Another listening session is forthcoming.

V. Municipal Partners and Housing Authorities

A. Greensboro Housing Authority (Crystal Gorham)

There have been 39 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) distributed, and the number will not get any higher, only 40 were allocated. One family passed but per HUD, vouchers cannot be reissued. For Sheltering the Homeless vouchers, 38 have been leased up and 6 are on the street; for Housing Opportunities Vouchers, 34 have been leased up, and 4 are on the street. Currently, GED classes are being offered, and men's Peer to Peer groups have been meeting. There is some eligibility for more EHV's but none have been granted at this time.

B. High Point Housing Authority

No Report

C. City of Greensboro (Liz Alverson)

The upcoming FY24-25 Homeless Prevention Request for Proposals (RFPs) are to be issued in the coming months. More information is to come, which will include a more formal presentation to the CoC. Agencies should complete the survey from the Central Carolina Health Network. It was stated that, contractually, shelters that receive funding from the city have to be inspected. The inspection documents must be submitted or payments will be withheld. The Greensboro City Council has approved \$1.5MM to the Servant Center to aid in transitional housing/respice beds, which will enable more beds to come online. The Holden Heights property is being purchased, which will provide for 22 medical respice beds. This initiative is expected to begin operations in early 2025.

[CoCMembReptForm.LizUpdate.020524.pdf](#)

D. City of High Point (Michelle McNair)

The CDBG application process has begun; applications are due February 15 by 4pm. A search is still underway for a new location for the Day Center.

1. Shelters Discussion

No report/discussion

E. Open Door Ministries (Day Center) –

Andrew Prochet indicated that there was no report other than the Day Center reference in item V-D(b)

F. Guilford County

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

In January, there were 89 reported new client contacts, 10 of whom indicated that they were homeless. Of that count, 74% were female. A list of area affordable housing options is being maintained.

2. Legal Aid of NC – (Janet/Destiney/Charlisa)

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

There was reference to an email that was to be distributed to the Board earlier today and request was made for 100% response by noon.

VI. Collaborative Applicant – Cheri Neal

A. HUD Technical Assistance

No discussion

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

Emphasis was made that the Strategic Plan needs to be updated and efforts need to move forward. Dr. Palmer noted that a process is underway to secure a consultant to facilitate the process. Work is being done with a consultant to analyze where the CoC is now as compared to the past. The cost of completing a new Strategic Plan was estimated to cost approximately \$3,500. An ask was made for funding assistance to help in completing the new plan. Work on updating the plan is expected to be a component of the April gathering (The Gather in Guilford) event.

2. Coordinated Entry TA

Work is continuing with Cloudburst and HUD

B. Infectious Disease Homeless Response Taskforce

A meeting was held earlier this month. Shelter agencies, as well as other agencies that provide shelter for the unhoused were urged to join in the meetings.

C. PIT Count Review (Laura Zbehlik)

[Point-In-Time Thank you!.pdf](#)

Laura Zbehlik spoke on the follow-up associated with the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. Thanks were expressed for the efforts of all who participated; there were 9 teams with over 70 volunteers. The final count is unofficial at this point; the final numbers will be forthcoming, but the unofficial count was 204 individuals as compared to 34 from last year. Additional unofficial homeless data, gathered from the Family Services of the Piedmont hotline, showed 9 callers the night of January 24, 8 of whom were fleeing from domestic violence situations. For the youth PIT count outreach efforts, there were 23 responses, of which 5 (between the ages of 18-24) were determined to be unsheltered. From the Guilford County Schools, 7 students were documented as being unsheltered. There were 3 new questions on the survey around: pets, immigrant/refugee, and country of origin. There are 67 respondents that asked for follow-up that is to be addressed. Feedback on the automation of the process was positive overall but there was an awareness of some issues. A planning debrief is scheduled for next week. There was some additional conversation around the dashboard and some processes that were a part of the event.

** Lost contact per Guilford County internet outage for a period**

D. CoC Membership Orientation

Audience: Current and new CoC members (Not a requirement for membership, but it's highly recommended that all members attend, especially new members.)

Frequency: Every-other-month starting in February 2024 (May transition to quarterly in the future, depending on attendance and demand.)

Days: 4th Friday from 11AM-12PM

Format: Virtual (Microsoft Teams – Recurring link has been created.)

VII. HMIS Lead – PEH (Sherea Burnett)

[Guilford County CoC HMIS Lead Report \(October 2023 - January 2024 Data\).pdf](#)

- A. HMIS Annual Evaluation Status Update**
- B. Monthly HMIS Data Report**
- C. HMIS Committee Report – Beth Waters**

VIII. Coordinated Entry Lead – PEH (Sherea Burnett)

- A. CE Annual Evaluation Status Update**
- B. Monthly CE Data Report**
- C. Updates – Access Points**
- D. Coordinated Entry Committee Report**

IX. Stronger Together Task Force – Dr. Pamela Palmer

- A. Gather in Guilford CoC Membership Meeting - April 11; 9a -1pm (Members Only)**

There was mention of seeking a no-cost location for the event and upcoming meetings.

- B. Inter-Local Committee**

Continuing to meet on a monthly basis.

- C. Guilford County Homelessness Task Force (March 6; 4p-6p)**

There was some discussion about the Emergency Hotel Assistance program. There were 87 individuals and families housed. Phone calls are still being received and referrals are being made. There will be further discussion around prevention and diversion

X. CoC Committee Reports

A. Membership Committee – Beth Waters

Already reported out (see item III-A)

B. Nominating Committee – Erin Stratford-Owens

Already reported out (see item III-B)

C. Governance Committee – Chair Bernita Sims

There are glaring discrepancies that need to be addressed. An ask was made for volunteers to serve on the committee. There was an acknowledgement that changes have been made but more are needed based on where the CoC is now. The hope is to start the review process on March 1

D. Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer

Already reported out (see item VI-A)

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

F. Systems Performance and Evaluation Committee – Renee Norris

The committee is getting geared up for discussion and upcoming information

G. Appeals Committee – As Needed

H. Youth Committee – Sarah Roethlinger

Flyers with QR codes were successfully distributed. There were 23 responses and hope is that the initiative will grow

I. Housing Resource Committee – Laura Baker

No Report

J. Executive Committee – Chair Bernita Sims

The meeting was held on Monday (with the inclusion of the CoC Board). An email should be coming out today for the Board along with a request for 100% participation. All responses should go to infoCoC@guilfordcountync.gov.

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

The CSH consulting group is being scheduled to do a listening session next month. Logistics and location for the session are being worked out.

XIII. Adjourn

Albert Hodges made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The meeting officially adjourned at 11:19am.