



Guilford County Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

Minutes

05.09.24

Attendance: Chair Bernita Sims, Cyonna Alexander, Venus Allen, Liz Alverson, Brent Archie, Laura Baker, Sophie Bernard, Janet Blue, Brad Bowers, Jamie Brown, Valaria Brown, Sherea Burnett, Kate Calannio, Tom Campbell, Edith Clifford, Melissa Coley, MaKayla Cooke, Jasmine Crosby, Patrick Davis, Dr. LaKisha Ellison, Tamera Fewell, F Ford, Whitney Fox, Catrice Frost, Genesis Gardner, Sarah Glover, Crystal Gorham, Annette Harris, Deb Harris-Richardson, Teresa Hinkle, Councilman Hugh Holston, Becky Hunt, Kenyatta Jennings-Richardson, Stefanie Ledwell, Jeanelle Lindsay, Brooks Ann McKinney, Michelle McNair, Nghieng Nay, Cheri Neal, Dr. Pamela Palmer, Drennan Paylor, Danielle Poole, Andrew Prochet, Quiotti Ratliff, Sarah Roethlinger, Ryan Ross, Sheletha Ross, LaToyha Sapp, Megan Scales, Kristina Singleton, Ciara Smith, Erin Stratford-Owens, Mark Sumerford, Dorian Sylvester, April Thompson, Erin Williams, Taylor Williams, Leroy Wilson

Also Attending:

Collaborative Applicant: Wilton Donnell (Recorder), Maria Lyons-Legrande, Jessica Polzin; CSH: Charlesy Nance, Maya Saxena

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)

Chair Sims officially opened the meeting at 9:30am. A welcome and greetings were extended, as well as an opportunity for 1st-time participants to identify themselves. No one came forth. An additional ask was made after the Youth Focus presentation.

II. Review and Approve Minutes – Chair Bernita Sims

A. Review Minutes of Meeting of 03.14.24

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

Jun 13; Jul 11; Aug 8; Sep 12; Oct 10; Nov14; Dec 12

The minutes from the March 14 CoC Membership meeting were acknowledged as having been sent and received. An ask was made if there were any corrections needed; none were expressed. Tom Campbell made a motion to accept the March 14 minutes as written. The motion was seconded; after question and voice vote, the motion to approve the minutes passed without objection.

III. Action Items

A. New Members (Membership Committee Chair Beth Waters)

1. Catered Love, Inc.

2. Entrepreneurs for Christ

3. Truly making a Difference, Inc.

4. Triad Adult & Pediatric Medicine

5. Michele Garr (Individual)

Membership Chair Waters was not in attendance; Cheri Neal, on behalf of the Collaborative Applicant (C/A) recommended these 5 agencies shown for membership to the CoC. As a recommendation from committee, no second was needed. After question and voice vote, the motion to approve the shown agencies into CoC membership passed without opposition.

B. New Committee Members – Coordinated Entry Committee

1. Seth Horton (VA)

With Committee Chair Baker not available at the moment, Sherea Burnett presented Seth Logan for membership to the Coordinated Entry Committee on behalf of the Coordinated Entry Committee. After question and voice vote, the motion to approve Seth Logan to membership to the Coordinated Entry Committee passed without objection.

C. New Committee Members - Systems Performance and Evaluation Committee (SPEC)

1. Kelly Hedgecock

2. Liz Alverson

From the SPEC came the recommendation of Kelly Hedgecock and Liz Alverson for membership to SPEC. After question and voice vote, the motion to approve Kelly Hedgecock and Liz Alverson to positions on SPEC passed without objection.

- D. Governance Charter Changes – (see p. 8) (Chair Erin Stratford-Owens)**
Chair Stratford-Owens presented the recommended changes to the Governance Charter. There was discussion on pending reviews of the governance charter and changes to come. The ask was made by Chair Sims for all attendees to review the charter. A motion for approval of the recommended changes (shown on p.4) arose from the Governance Committee. After question and voice vote, the motion was approved without objection.

Special Presentations

1. CSH Update – Maya Saxena

[CSH Guilford County CoC Updates - May 2024.pdf](#)

The attached presentation was covered for those in attendance. There is an intentional effort to include those with lived experience in each sector. The plan is to have 2 individuals with lived experience to work long-term (2+ years) and be paid. The resource map is interactive, and after 2 years, will be passed on to the county or other entity.

2. Youth Focus – Sarah Roethlinger

[About Youth Focus 5.9.24 CoC Meeting.pdf](#)

The attached presentation was covered for those in attendance. Outcomes are expected to be better if the processes are followed. Rapid-rehousing leases can go into a young person's name. All programs are supported by grants. There were 185 youth (54% female) served. Any agency can become a safe place site, simply reach out to Sarah Roethlinger.

IV.. HMIS Lead – PEH (Sherea Burnett)

[2024.04 - Guilford County CoC HMIS Lead_CE Lead Report \(April 2024 Data\).pdf](#)

The attached presentation was used to highlight the Housing Management Information Systems (HMIS) report from Partners Ending Homelessness (PEH).

A. HMIS Annual Evaluation Status Update

B. Monthly HMIS Data Report

Changes are taking place in agencies where more people are being exited out of Programs. The numbers reported in gender are fluctuating; there are now more females and an increasing number of children. The Point-in-Time (PIT) count and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) reports, due May 10, are being finalized. The accuracy/completion rate is 80.2%.

C. HMIS Committee Report – Laura Baker (No Update)

V. Coordinated Entry Lead – PEH (Sherea Burnett)

[2024.04 - Guilford County CoC HMIS Lead CE Lead Report \(April 2024 Data\).pdf](#)

The attached presentation was used for reporting for the Coordinated Entry efforts from PEH.

A. CE Annual Evaluation Status Update

The Coordinated Entry Committee is facilitating the annual evaluation.

B. Monthly CE Data Report

There are parallel systems with Family Services of the Piedmont (FSP) and Veterans Services. FSP accepts clients outside of Guilford County. The veterans' numbers are staying consistent and 11 veterans were housed. There are right at 500 names on the By-Name list. There is a rise in those in the 30-40 year-old age bracket. The Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance (VI-SPDAT) training may take place in July or August, but with NBOFO and ESG cycles approaching, that is under review. Due to staffing challenges, access points may be reduced.

C. Updates – Access Points

D. Coordinated Entry Committee Report – Laura Baker

VI. CoC Funding and Resource Development – Cheri Neal

A. HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

There has been no date received yet for the NOFO process but preparations are underway. Expectations are for the release in the summer.

B. State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

A meeting took place with the state ESG office. The tentative release is around June 11. Multiple trainings have taken place. The monitoring process has begun and there is a new monitoring tool involved. With contracts from HUD, funds have not yet been loaded into LOCCS. HUD has asked agencies to monitor their emails. HUD is now not waiting a month but only 7 days for agreements to be signed.

VII. Municipal Partners and Housing Authorities

A. Greensboro Housing Authority (Crystal Gorham)

There are 38 units occupied within the Emergency Housing Vouchers program. With the Shelter Plus program, 34 units have been occupied. With the Housing Opportunities program, there were 34 units occupied and 3 were picked up.

B. High Point Housing Authority

No Report

C. City of Greensboro (Liz Alverson)

[Guilford CoC Committee Report.LA.5-2024CityofGso.pdf](#)

Due to program changes, reports are due by July 15; expenses should be submitted by early June. For the FY24-25 Request for Proposal (RFP), HUD allocations were slightly increased by \$3,000 for ESG funding.

D. City of High Point (Michelle McNair/Nena Wilson)

1. Shelters Discussion

Megan Scales presented the report for the City of High Point. Reassessments are being made in light of reductions. The 1st Wednesdays are for meetings with shelter providers. West End Ministries is expanding their operating hours.

E. Open Door Ministries (Day Center) – Ryan Ross

Work is still being done with the city and county for a Day Center location. A potential site is being considered. The location (county-owned property) will become public if it is amenable.

F. Guilford County

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

Stefanie Ledwell presented the report for the UNCG program. There were 73 clients engaged. There were 35 eviction mediation cases; 24 Housing Navigations. Of that, 54 were from Greensboro, 3 from High Point, and 12 with no city information. Of those engaged, 81% were females. There were 9 disabled, 10 were homeless, and 4 were unsheltered. The April numbers were slightly lower than March due to a switch in the court system to eCourts. Chair Sims asked for a graph/chart of activity/trends.

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

Janet Blue reported for Legal Aid of NC. There were 432 people served through the clinic. In the 1st quarter, there were 669 clients for the Teen Project. There were 97 clients served by Legal Aid, 43 of those new clients. Evictions may be down in the next few months due to the changes to eCourt. Work is being done on changes to data in the system.

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

No Report

4. Additional Updates (see p.5,6)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/domestic-violence-in-the-workplace-what-leaders-and-employers-need-to-know-registration-878136649357>

outreach@nlihc.org (see p.7-9)

VIII. Collaborative Applicant – Cheri Neal

A. HUD Technical Assistance

1. Coordinated Entry TA

Work is continuing with Cloudburst for Coordinated Entry. Fortis Consulting is still being engaged with overall technical issues. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) training takes place today at 11:30am.

B. PIT Count Data

HMIS is working on the PIT (and HIC) data.

IX. Stronger Together Task Force – Dr. Pamela Palmer

A. Gather in Guilford Review (April 11; 8:30am-1pm)

Planning anticipated 100 participants; 72 actually attended. Thanks were expressed for all those who joined in the planning and execution of the event.

B. Inter-Local Committee (May 17; 10:30am-12pm)

C. Guilford County Homelessness Task Force

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

The Strategic Plan work was recognized as an important piece of the Gather in Guilford event. A meeting for review is being scheduled for May 22 at 8am. The information is to be shared in the June Board/Executive meeting, and then at the June membership meeting.

Chair Sims spoke on the CoC Board/Executive Committee was presented with information on the CoC Lead and an update/build out with written standards and governance. There was an ask for assistance with the scope of work in moving toward a more comprehensive and streamlined operation. There are discussions taking place.

Kristina Singleton spoke on behalf of the Interactive Resource Center (IRC) having families to come to the shelter. There are no changes; the IRC does not serve families. The IRC served families through the now-dormant Safe Parking program. There were further discussions around the IRC and students in the Guilford County School (GCS) system and resource challenges. The GCS system must spend the allocated American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds by December 2024, at which point organization emergency housing funding ceases. The summer will be spent looking for sponsorships and donation sources.

X. CoC Committee Reports

A. Membership Committee – Beth Waters (see item III-A)

B. Nominating Committee – Erin Stratford-Owens (see item III-B&C)

C. Governance Committee – Chair Bernita Sims (see item III-D)

D. Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Pamela Palmer (see item IX-D)

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

F. Systems Performance and Evaluation Committee – Renee Norris (see III-C)

G. Appeals Committee – As Needed

H. Youth Committee – Sarah Roethlinger

I. Housing Resource Committee – Laura Baker (No Report)

J. Executive Committee – Chair Bernita Sims (Meeting 5/6/24)

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

A. Membership Portal (Jessica)

<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 – Gather in Guilford Review (April 11)

C. Governance Charter Language (see attached) & Eligible/Immediate Board Spots

XIII. Adjourn

Recommended CoC Governance Charter Changes

April 2024

The Governance Committee recommends adding two more board spots that may be used for an additional Lived Experience spot, and a second Housing Authority spot.

Current Gov Charter language:

Page 6:

"Guilford CoC Board shall consist of no fewer than thirteen (13) and no more than **twenty-five (25)** voting members."

Revised language:

"Guilford CoC Board shall consist of no fewer than thirteen (13) and no more than **twenty-seven (27)** voting members."

The Governance Committee recommends the language below to be changed to include the immediate past chair on the executive committee no matter their term limit.

Current Gov Charter language:

Page 18:

"Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Chair-Elect, Secretary, **eligible past chair**, Executive Director (or representative) of Collaborative Applicant, Coordinated Entry Committee Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, System Performance and Evaluation Committee Chair and a maximum of five at-large Directors selected by the Board Chair."

Revised language:

"Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Chair-Elect, Secretary, **immediate past chair**, Executive Director (or representative) of Collaborative Applicant, Coordinated Entry Committee Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, System Performance and Evaluation Committee Chair and a maximum of five at-large Directors selected by the Board Chair."

The Guilford County Family Justice Center invites you to an engaging conversation and dynamic learning opportunity about domestic violence and the workplace. *Survivors from the FJC's VOICES Committee will share personal experiences and highlight ways to improve workplace policies and procedures to enhance safety and create a more supportive work environment.*

Check out the flyer below for details and to register. Please share widely!

We hope you are able to join us!

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/domestic-violence-in-the-workplace-what-leaders-and-employers-need-to-know-registration-878136649357>



LIVE SESSION

Domestic Violence In the Workplace:

*What Leaders & Employers
Need to Know*

Creating a family-friendly, safe, and thriving workplace includes supporting employees impacted by domestic violence and abuse. This training will provide an overview of domestic violence and its impact on the employee and employer.

Survivors from the Guilford County Family Justice Center will share personal experiences and highlight ways to improve workplace policies and procedures to enhance safety and create a more supportive work environment. Resources about the FJC and workplace domestic violence will also be shared.

REGISTRATION:



Questions? Contact Jessica Nickerson
336-641-7233
www.guilfordcountync.gov

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
8:30-10:00 am
Registration fee: \$20
Location:
**Guilford County
Family Justice Center**

GUILFORD COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
201 S. GREENE ST.
Greensboro, NC 27401

Take Action! Comment Today on HUD's Proposed Rule, "Reducing Barriers to HUD- Assisted Housing"



NLIHC urges advocates to [comment](#) in support of HUD's recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ([NPRM](#)), "Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing."

The proposed rule would make important changes to HUD's existing screening regulations for applicants with conviction histories or a history of involvement with the criminal-legal system. The proposed changes would reduce unnecessary barriers to HUD-assisted housing that too often prevent people impacted by the criminal-legal system from accessing housing.

The deadline for advocates to submit comments is June 10.

[Submit a Comment](#)

Take Action!

Advocates, especially those with lived experience, are encouraged to [submit a public comment](#) to help HUD shape the final guidance and support needed

updates. Comments are due by June 10.

Advocates can weigh in with HUD by:

- *Submitting a comment.* Participating in the public comment period is a great way to influence federal policymaking. After the public comment period ends, HUD must review and take into consideration all comments before publishing a final rule. Your comment can be long or short, written formally or informally, based on research or your own experiences and the experiences of people you know. Consider answering questions like:
 - What are some of the biggest challenges you have faced trying to find housing?
 - How many apartments did you apply for before finding your current housing?
 - Have you been able to find stable housing, and what has the impact been?
 - How have these barriers impacted you and your community?
- *Using the comment portal from the Vera Institute for Justice (Vera).* Vera created a [comment portal](#) where advocates can submit comments in support of the proposed rule. The portal includes a template with a pre-written message that advocates can submit as-is or update with their own content. While all positive messages help, comments must be at least 30% original content to be fully considered by HUD.

NLIHC will also be circulating a comment for sign-on, open to all state, local, national, and tribal partners. We will continue to update our [website](#) with additional resources and information.

Background

HUD released on April 10 a [proposal to update existing screening regulations](#) for applicants to HUD-assisted housing with conviction histories or a history of involvement with the criminal-legal system.

Under current policy, public housing authorities (PHAs) and landlords of HUD-assisted housing have broad discretion in evaluating current and prospective tenants. As a result, some PHAs and landlords have created additional barriers for

people with conviction and arrest records in need of stable housing. These barriers can make it exceedingly difficult – and, for some with conviction histories, impossible – to obtain housing.

Learn more about the proposed changes [here](#).

Thank you for your advocacy!

The National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated to achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice.

