**Northwestern CoC NC-516 Meeting Agenda**

**September 16, 2025 – 10:00 AM**

**Meeting Log**[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGIwNzkxYmEtODM5Zi00OWZmLThjOTQtNGJhNzI4OTE5NmI0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22af91c0b1-bbdf-4e06-bc33-418e26947432%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222dc6ac62-891d-462b-941f-efed184c6e5d%22%7d) [+1 828-552-4129](tel:+1%20828-552-4129,,585407593)   United States, Asheville (Toll)

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* **Welcome & Agency Updates**
* **COC Planning**
  + **COC Represented at Medical Collaborative Meeting - Update**
* **Watauga Housing Council Update**
* **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**
* **HUD Updates**
  + **NOFO Builds issued by HUD**
* **State Updates**
  + **ESG Regional Application Submitted**
  + **State ESG issues RUSH2 (reallocation) RFA**
    - **Deadline to submit: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM via Smartsheet**
* **New Business -**
* **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:** **NWCoC** – **Virtual Tuesday October 21st, 2025 at 10am**.

**Northwest Continuum of Care (NC 516)**

**CoC Programs Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 10:00am**

**Via Web Conference**

* **Attendees:**

**Tina B. Krause:** Executive Director/CoC Lead, Hospitality House of Northwest, NC

**Todd Carter:** Chief Development Director, Hospitality House

**Christiana Glenn Tugman:** Compliance and Planning Specialist, Hospitality House

**William Holley:** Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach Coordinator, Hospitality House

**Sean Morris:** Street Outreach Coordinator, Hospitality House

**Lori Watts:** Housing Specialist – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Vaya Health LME/MCO

**Rachelle Ellis:** Housing Specialist, Vaya Health LME/MCO

**Kim Cashatt:** Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority

**Rubi Estrada:** Community Systems Manager, OASIS, Inc.

**Emily Fortunato:** Emergency Shelter Manager, OASIS, Inc.

**Kellie Reed-Ashcraft:** Executive Director, Watauga Housing Council

**Sofia Da Camera:** MSW intern, Watauga Housing Council

**Brooke Whitman:** Center Director, Daymark Recovery Services, Watauga County

**Fran Harvey:** SSVF Case Manager/Veteran Outreach, Veteran Services of the Carolinas at ABCCM

**Chariden Lewis:** Director of Housing, Veterans Services of the Carolinas at ABCCM

**Brayden Konen:** Veterans Services of the Carolinas, Network Relations Coordinator

* **Welcome and Agency Updates** 
  + **Cheridan Lewis:** Veteran’s Services of the Carolinas (VSC) reports that ABCCM has re-opened the Veterans’ Restoration Quarters (VRQ) in Asheville which provides PSH and GPD Transitional Housing for Veterans. The VRQ required significant repairs after Hurricane Helene. The VRQ is now taking referrals. If agencies or individuals know of any Veteran needing assistance, please reach out to get direct assistance from VSC where the Veteran is located.
  + **Rachelle Ellis:** Housing Specialist, Vaya Health LME/MCO reminds the NWCoC members that the One-Time Assistance program is for contracted providers to refer members/recipients for help to initially obtain housing. The program provides a maximum of $500 per household for either rent deposit, 1st month's rent, and/or utility deposits in VAYA’s 32 service counties. The program cannot pay for past due rent (arrears), ongoing rent, or past due utilities. Referrals must come from community providers (Daymark Recovery, RHA, Mountain Health Solutions, Infinite Beginnings, Stepping Stone, Easter Seals, etc.) that are contract providers with VAYA. The phone lines provide opportunity to have issues staffed to provide better assistance. Information about the One-Time Assistance Program should be directed to: [HousingSupport@vayahealth.com](mailto:HousingSupport@vayahealth.com) or Rachelle Ellis at [Rachelle.Ellis@vayahealth.com](mailto:Rachelle.Ellis@vayahealth.com) or 828-225-2785 ext. 1262. The VAYA Housing Line- call for resources and to staff for housing needs at 828-225-2785 ext. 4560. Persons needing assistance to secure housing can call the line for help.
* **Kim Cashatt:** Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority (NRHA) remind providers that NRHA has mainstream vouchers available, including non-elderly disabled, 18-61 years- non-waitlist submission for homeless qualifying population. There are approximately 59 vouchers available. NRHA can do rent reasonableness comparison for housing assistance programs so please utilize this resource that the NRHA provides. The Lease in Place is assigning vouchers and moving quicker than mainstream vouchers due to difficulty in finding new units. NRHA would like to use the BNL to get more vouchers out in the community. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with CoC Grantees and NWRHA to work toward this goal. The OASIS housing project in Newland broke ground and will be open in spring of 2026. Sawmill in Yancy breaks ground next month.
* **Sean Morris:** Street Outreach Coordinator reports that the SO program is reaching out to all the counties in the Northwest CoC including the far west of region with housing location/navigation assistance for the unsheltered population. Using Opioid settlement grant to assist and have placed many households in housing, particularly in Wilkes. For those needing assistance that have an opioid disorder, contact Sean at [sean@hosphouse.org](file:///C:\Users\User\Downloads\sean@hosphouse.org) or William at william@hosphouse.org
  + **Rubi Estrada:** OASIS received architectural bids for the shelter in Avery and the plans have been approved to move forward with the Avery County OASIS emergency shelter. Funds need to spent by June of 2026. The current shelter location remains at capacity. For the OASIS RRH program, currently working on locating units. Casey Maslow is on vacation but intends to bring forward an opening for the OASIS PSH program at the next CE meeting.
* **Emily Fortunato:** Shelter Manager at OASIS has no updates at this time. The shelter remains at capacity.
* **Tina Krause:** Executive Director at Hospitality House (HH) and CoC Lead reports the available units for PSH are being filled by referrals from CE. Several units were vacant and needed repair or next of kin to remove personal items. Seeing increase in number of persons seeking shelter and shelter services as cooler weather sets in the region. Hospitality House hosted the annual Hope Luncheon on August 15, 2025. The guest speaker was Diane Nilan, a nationally known documentary film maker and author of the book called “The Three Melissas”. There is a good series on housing and homelessness on the Charlotte NPR station that had a feature this morning that included Ann Olivia from the NAEH. NC Works received a grant to help support disaster displaced persons return to work- some organizations can also receive grants that are helping persons who lost employment due to Helene. Contact Toni Deil at Faith 360 Network.
* **CoC Planning**
* **NC 516 Written Standards & Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedures:** The NWCoC (NC 516) Written Standards and Coordinated Entry (CE) Policy and Procedures were sent out to the CoC for review and approval. Changes approved in November of 2024 are included in the revision and additional guidance for the Lead Safe Housing Rule reporting procedures for Elevated Blood Lead Levels, inspection standards, VAWA Emergency Transfer Plan data collection/reporting requirements, and BABA**.** The CE Policy and Procedure reflects changes to the CE system (assessment tool, BNL management, etc., made in the CE system in the past FY.Motion to approve the NC 516 Written Standards, VAWA Emergency Transfer Plan, and the Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedure: Kim Cashatt, second, Sean Morris, unanimous vote.
* **Watauga Housing Council (WHC):** Kellie Reed-Ashcraft, Executive Director, reports the WHC is now a licensed dealer for manufactured housing and is working with area partners to secure land to support this work. WHC is in the process of acquiring insurance. The dealer’s license will enable Watauga Housing Council to get significant discount on modular homes keeping them affordable. WHC members are going to Virginia to look at models and have a factory site visit. First effort will be with Ashe County Habitat for Humanity to get contracts developed and then continue to reach out to area NPs and other area Habitat agencies to get more homes built on land already owned. The WHC is putting together a small workgroup to facilitate this effort with area partners. Katie from HH will be forming an advisory committee for WHC to work on partnerships with area providers that have land/interest in developing housing opportunities with the manufactured housing. The WHC has a Quarterly Board meeting on Tuesday, September 2nd from 3:30-5pm at Boone United Methodist Church's Family Life Center & on zoom---all are welcome!  Feel free to email me: [kellie@wataugahousing.org](mailto:kellie@wataugahousing.org) if you are not on our WHC email list, and I will be sending out an invite closer to the date.
* **NC HMIS Governance Committee Update**: NC HMIS received a data request from DHHS and met with DHHS leadership and TAC, HUD assigned TA for DHHS to discuss the data request. The methodology and subpopulation reports requested for the DHHS strategic plan are over-inclusive and not targeted specifically for homeless households but households eligible to receive services from DHHS under the Olmstead agreement for example. DHHS and TAC conceded the request was overly broad and would work with NC HMIS and CoC to refine the request. The state data warehouse workgroup completed a draft RFP with HUD TA, ICF. Once approved, the RFP will be published. Northwest is already a part of a data warehouse with NC HMIS and Green River. The ESG grant for NC HMIS supports work across the 7 CoCs of NC HMIS and this year will pay for the current data warehouse, administrative support, and nearly 5 months of Northwest’s Wellsky costs, including the July bill for annual fees.
* **Federal and HUD Update**: NAEH hosted a webinar on the change in law/Executive Orders and the notice from the HUD Secretary Turner sent out an email on July 3rd, 2025 indicating that there will be a CoC NOFO this year even though Congress approved a two-year NOFO process. The notice indicated new HUD priorities in vague terms: transitional, treatment and working across faith communities. No other information has been provided by HUD. The push to reduce CoC program funding and merge CoC and HOPWA into ESG activities is proposed under the FY2026 federal budget which begins on October 1, 2025. The 2025 Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) was approved by Grantees and submitted without changes to HUD.
* **Health Fair**: High Country Community Health and Hospitality House are hosting a health fair for the community September 4, 2025 at 3:30 at the Brook Hollow facility.
* **NC State ESG** **RFA:** For this year’s ESG RFA, Northwest CoC has $119, 571 total of the NC Fair Share. Recommended projects and the NC 516 Regional Application must be submitted in Smartsheet by August 22 and final submission deadline is August 25, 2025 by 5:00 pm. The CoC Lead is completing the submission attachments for the Regional Application and will submit before the posted deadline.
* **New Business**
* No other business
* **Other Business:**
* No other business.
* **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
* Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **September 16, 2025, at 10:00 am**

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