

**Northwestern Continuum of Care
CoC Steering Committee Meeting
February 18th, 2025 – 10:00 AM
Meeting Log in Below**

- **Welcome & Agency Updates, Winter Weather and Hurricane Response**
- **COC Planning**
 - **HMIS Reporting**
 - **Annual PIT/HIC Bed Count**
 - **HUD Related Topics**
 - **Watauga Housing Council Update**
- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**
 - **State and Federal Grant Updates**
 - **ESG RUSH Disaster RFA**
 - **ESG Annual**
- **Other Business**
- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - **NWCoC – Virtual Tuesday March 18, 2025 at 10am.** Below is the meeting link /call in information for Tuesday's meeting.

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Northwest Continuum of Care (NC 516)
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 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
Ethan Flynn: Director of Grant Funding, Hospitality House
Kennedy Freeman: Leadership Coordinator, Hospitality House
Graham Doege-Osler: Rapid ReHousing and WeCan Coordinator, Hospitality House
Sean Morris: Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach Coordinator, Hospitality House
William Holley: Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach Coordinator, Hospitality House
Christiana Glenn Tugman: Compliance and Planning Specialist, Hospitality House
Tom Reuteler: Disaster [Recovery Housing Navigator, Hospitality House](#)
Lori Watts: Housing Specialist – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Vaya Health LME/MCO
Rachelle Ellis: Housing Specialist, Vaya Health LME/MCO
Luke Fowler: Chief Operating Officer, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority
Kim Cashatt: Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority
Jeanie Futrelle: Executive Director, OASIS, Inc.
Rubi Estrada: Community Systems Manager, OASIS, Inc.
Fran Harvey: SSVF Case Manager/Veteran Outreach, Veteran Services of the Carolinas at ABCCM
Regina Brown: McKinney-Vento Social Worker, Wilkes County Schools
Seth Horton: Coordinated Entry Specialist, Salisbury Veteran Administration Medical Center
Howard Anderson: Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Outreach - Asheville VA Medical Center

- **Welcome and Agency Updates**

Kim Cashatt: Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority (NRHA) reports that the

- **Kim Cashatt:** Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority (NRHA) reports that the Lease in Place is assigning vouchers and moving quicker than mainstream vouchers due to lack of available units. HCV was discussed at the last CE meeting and several were pushed out in the last CE meeting. NRHA would like to use the BNL to get more vouchers out in the community.
- **Luke Fowler:** Chief Operating Officer at NRHA is following CDBG-DR award to NC and would like to work with CoC providers to access this fund for housing. NRHA has a grant writer and they can utilize. Contact Luke Fowler if interested in pursuing this opportunity.
- **Graham Doege-Osler:** RRH Coordinator for Hospitality House reported that RRH has housed one household this past week but are struggling to find housing for other participants. WeCan is getting overwhelmed with requests for crisis services/support especially for heating costs. There is firewood in abundance for heat but most may be too green to burn this year. HH has wood available from Hunger and Health it can distribute. Ashe households are reaching out for firewood. WeCan is being contacted by households that need assistance with heaters, hot water heaters, and propane tanks/oil tanks to replace heating sources damaged in flood. Will refer to WAMY when appropriate for assistance. Contact graham@hosphouse.org for information on RRH or the Wilkes Center.
- **Sean Morris:** Operating Prevention/Diversion as part of Street Outreach and reaching out to all the counties in the CoC. SO is assisting with housing location/navigation for unsheltered population.
- **Rachelle Ellis:** Housing Specialist, Vaya Health, reminds CoC 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 or Rachelle Ellis at 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.

- **Rubi Estrada:** OASIS is receiving calls for emergency shelter but is currently at capacity. OASIS is using hotels in the area to provide shelter but have limited funding for this assistance. Working with HH on getting people into other shelter, especially households from Avery. Preparing for the PIT count, Casey is working on outreach to other DV shelters, working on the survey training with providers. Casey Maslow is the new Housing Manager and can be reached at: cmaslow@oasisinc.org
- **Tom Reuteler:** Disaster Recovery Housing Navigator at Hospitality House reports assistance for persons displaced from Helene and can help but struggling to find housing units for households. Contact Tom at tom@hosphouse.org for more information on this program.
- **Regina Brown:** Wilkes County Schools are currently assisting several households to locate housing that have vouchers. Have a household with 5 children and cannot locate appropriate housing for this household due to size of household and limited housing inventory. Also working with the Wilkes Center to find housing in Wilkes area for these families.
- **Howard Anderson:** Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Outreach, Asheville VA Medical Center (serving Yancey, Ashe, Avery, Watauga or Mitchell in the Northwest CoC) reports that the Veteran's Restoration Quarters (VRQ) in Asheville which has the transitional housing (SITH) program and PSH units was flooded in Helene, had significant damage, and cannot take anyone right now. Can assist Veteran households with SSVF and the Transitional Program for women and children at Restoration Village. The VRQ may not be fully operational until October 2025. Please refer any Veterans seeking homeless assistance in the Asheville catchment area or those that have issues related to Helene. 828-708-9603 or Howard.Anderson@va.gov Veterans can call our homeless walk-in clinic at 828-298-7911 ext. 11198
- **Seth Horton:** Coordinated Entry Specialist, Salisbury Veteran Administration Medical Center Reports that the Salisbury VAMC covers Ashe, Alleghany, and Wilkes for the VAMC in the Northwest CoC. The VAMC will assist Veterans impacted by Hurricane Helene and those experiencing homelessness and the VA has services/transitional housing in Forsyth and Guilford for this catchment area. Doing contract housing in the service areas outside of this CoC and surrounding counties as well. Please provide contact information for homeless Veterans from Northwest CoC for assistance needed if from those service areas. Email at: seth.horton@va.gov
- **Tina Krause:** Executive Director at Hospitality House (HH) and CoC Lead reports that Hospitality House is representing the CoC in several state and federal meetings related to disaster response and recovery. Most conversations are focused on long term recovery plans. Attended a meeting with county officials of the Long Term Recovery Group (LTGR). Tom Reuteler and Tina will be on the housing subcommittee for the LTRG. Information regarding TSA has been fragmented but seems to be consistent now. Have supplemental heaters available for small homes (800-1000 sq. ft.) at the Den mac office. HH is currently working on repairs that occurred from Hurricane Helene in two affected units leased for PSH clients. Another two units in Wilkes are also having some ground water issues and had to move to hotels temporarily. Encourage people to reach out to Wilkes Housing Center if someone needs transportation off the mountain to shelter resources. Limited funding for

this transportation resource is available. Currently operating emergency overflow shelter off and on and offering safety plans to shelter persons in extreme weather.

- **Todd Carter-** Yancey and Mitchell counties still struggling with the effects of Helene and some areas in Yancey still do not have power.

- **CoC Planning**

- **HMIS Reporting:** The Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) was submitted on January 7, 2025 into HDX2. For the upcoming Housing Inventory Count (HIC), there are some pages that are in HMIS that will need to be verified or deleted.
- **2025 PIT/HIC Planning:** The PIT/HIC will be conducted in the Northwest CoC on January 29, 2025. Rural areas of Yancey, Mitchell and Alleghany will be engaged in advance of the count. The Point in Time (PIT) is snapshot of homelessness conducted for both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness annually across the country. The PIT survey for 2025 was sent out to providers. Please note the question about displacement for households from Hurricane Helene. Persons in hotels displaced from the Hurricane should be documented for the PIT based on whether as they have no home to return to or are waiting for repairs. Agency paying for the hotel needs to be noted as persons paying for their own hotel room are not counted in PIT as they are not defined as literally homeless. A notice was sent out to agencies to get full Housing Inventory (unit/bed) that is also part of the submission for PIT. The HIC was sent out for verification of beds to be included in the count. The PIT surveys can be conducted for 7 days after the 29th but persons must be asked where people slept on the evening of January 29th. A more comprehensive list of crisis assistance/drop in sites has been created to get more agencies identified, contact information confirmed, and ensure count is comprehensive. Street Outreach team will support the 2025 PIT planning and PIT count and HH has expanded the SO Team to work directly to expand PIT unsheltered coverage in the more rural areas of the CoC to get better unsheltered data. Primary point of contact will be established. There will be a PIT meeting link sent out for those that want to participate at 3:00 tomorrow. Discussion on the TSA hotel program and those being told to leave hotels. Persons who were homeless prior to the hurricane are ineligible for continued TSA, those whose home inspection is completed and can return to their home, and those that FEMA has had no contact with since filing initial application/or withdrew application for assistance. The TSA hotel program will now run to Memorial Day, 2025 for FEMA eligible households. For the Northwest CoC, only 7 households were listed on the FEMA list as homeless prior to Helene- not all counties of the CoC have hotel stayers. Deadline to apply is also extended to February 6, 2025. Best way to apply is in-person at one of the outreach centers. Direct Temporary Housing Assistance is provided where there is a lack of available housing resources due to Tropical Storm Helene. This assistance is offered as an interim solution to survivors' permanent housing needs, and is provided in three forms: Direct Lease, Multifamily Lease and Repair (MLR) and Transportable Temporary Housing Units (TTHUs). Displacement Assistance is money that can be used to stay in a hotel, stay with family and friends or for other options while you look for temporary housing. It is a one-time payment.
- **CoC Registration and 2025 CoC grants:** The HUD Office Hours was held Thursday, January 16, 2025 and the CoC registration process for 2025 was announced. Collaborative Applicants must only complete the FY 2025 Registration Process for the following circumstances: Collaborative Applicant of an existing CoC, not currently designated as a UFA, that wishes to apply for UFA designation during the FY 2025 Funding Year; Collaborative Applicant of a new CoC that has not registered for the CoC Program competition in prior years and will apply for the FY 2025 Funding Opportunity if new FY 2025 funding becomes available; and Collaborative Applicant of a CoC that merged with, or split from, an existing CoC after the FY 2024 Registration Competition. CoCs will be notified when Registration is open in [e-snaps](#) via HUD listserv message. Northwest will not need to register.

- **The Watauga Housing Council:** Kellie Reed-Ashcraft could not attend today. The Watauga Housing Council is now meeting monthly rather than quarterly. High Country Housing and FEMA representatives attended the last meeting. A local LTRG group has been formed and Executive Officers have been elected.
- **NC HMIS Governance Committee Update:** NC HMIS submitted an ESG application to the state for 2025 funding. The state data warehouse workgroup completed an RFP with HUD TA that should go out in February for a NC state Data Warehouse. Northwest is already a part of a data warehouse with NC HMIS and Green River.
- **CoC FY2024 Awards:** The CoC NOFO award notice was announced Friday, January 17, 2025 for the last annual CoC competition. There were increases for each of those grants that were renewed due to COLA and FMR increases. Tier 2 for the Northwest CoC was cut. Hospitality House lost funding for the DDV/SSA TH-PH-RRH project but retained just over \$9000 in Tier 1. No bonus funding was received. The CoC debriefing will shed some light on the Northwest application's need for improvement.
- **Other Business:**
 - No other business.
- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **February 18, 2025, at 10:00 am**
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