

**Northwestern Continuum of Care
NC-516 Meeting
May 20th, 2025 – 10:00 AM
Meeting Log in Below**

- **Welcome & Agency Updates**
- **COC Planning**
- **HMIS 101 and Agency Admin Training, Greensboro May 20th and 21st**
- **Annual PIT/HIC Bed Count Update**
- **HUD (FY) 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition Debrief webinar, May 21st, 2:30pm**
- **Watauga Housing Council Update**
- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**
- **HUD Updates**
- **FY 2024-25 Contracts**
- **New Business- State Updates**
- **ESG RUSH 2 Application due date June 3, 2025 5pm submitted to Smartsheet**
- **Bringing it Home Conference Highlights**
- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - **NWCoC – Virtual Tuesday June 17th, 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, April 15, 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

Sonya Hamby: NC HMIS Local System Administrator, Hospitality House

Graham Doege-Osler: Rapid ReHousing and WeCan Coordinator, Hospitality House

Kailan Thomas: Rapid ReHousing and WeCan Specialist, Hospitality House

Christiana Glenn Tugman: Compliance and Planning Specialist, Hospitality House

Tom Reuteler: Disaster Recovery Housing Navigator, Hospitality House

Sean Morris: Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach Coordinator, Hospitality House

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

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

Kim Cashatt: Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority

Kellie Reed Ashcraft: Executive Director, Watauga Housing Council

Jeanie Futrelle: Executive Director, OASIS, Inc.

Rubi Estrada: Community Systems Manager, OASIS, Inc.

Emily Fortunato: Shelter Manager, OASIS, Inc.

Casey Maslow: RRH Manager, OASIS, Inc.

Chariden Lewis: TCL Program Manager for Veterans Services of the Carolinas at ABCCM

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

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

Seth Horton: Coordinated Entry Specialist, Salisbury Veteran Administration Medical Center

- **Welcome and Agency Updates**

- **Graham Doege-Osler:** RRH Coordinator for Hospitality House reported that two households have been housed this month- one in Alleghany and one in Watauga. Introducing Kailan Thomas for RUSH funds (RRH-ESG) and assistance with WeCan. Kailan can be reached at: kailan@hosphouse.org. The RRH team will work with Tom on disaster recovery housing who is always looking for affordable housing in the area. The RRH program has the ability to do lease in place to get Housing Choice Voucher assistance. The RRH Program will take a few more households at the next CE meeting, but it remains difficult to find housing for other participants continuing housing search. Contact graham@hosphouse.org for information on RRH or the Wilkes Center.
- **Chariden Lewis:** ABCCM will be hiring a new person to cover Wilkes and Region 2 of BoS. Working to re-open the VRQ on a limited basis in Asheville. Veterans needing transitional housing through the VAMC's Grant and Per Diem (GPD) may contact ABCCM for information.
- **Kim Cashatt:** Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority (NRHA) reports no updates. Reminds area providers that NRHA has mainstream vouchers available, including non-elderly disabled, 18-61 years- non-waitlist submission for homeless qualifying population. There are approximately 64 vouchers available. The Lease in Place is assigning vouchers and moving quicker than mainstream vouchers due difficulty in finding new units. HCV was discussed at the last CE meeting and several vouchers were pushed out in the last CE meeting. NRHA would like to use the BNL to get more vouchers out in the community.
- **Lori Watts:** PSH 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.
- **Sean Morris and William Holley:** Operating Prevention/Diversion as part of Street Outreach and reaching out to all the counties in the Northwest CoC including far west of region. Street Outreach is assisting with housing location/navigation 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@hospouse.org

- **Brooke Whitman:** Have added adult CBT group and a new BHUC is open in Salisbury. Have added adolescent counseling group as well. Will send out list of current groups to CoC. The Daymark walk-in clinic is available at all locations. Operating hours are M-F 8:00am-2pm.
- **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 and will assist Veterans impacted by Hurricane Helene and those experiencing homelessness. Have VASH in counties outside the Northwest CoC available. 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. Contact Seth at 980-401-2998 or email at: seth.horton@va.gov
- **Rubi Estrada:** OASIS is hiring shelter staff. Also working on turning a PSH unit and will present at opening next CE.
- **Jeanie Futrelle:** Executive Director at OASIS reports currently working on securing architectural bids for Avery Shelter. Have re-released RFP for bids. Difficult to secure architect and contractors due to disaster damage demand. Shelter capacity always changing. Watching the state and federal policies that may affect OASIS and non-profits delivery of services. Spending money and closing grants for this operating year but have not heard from CPD field Office on FY2024 grants.
- **Tina Krause:** Executive Director at Hospitality House (HH) and CoC Lead reports that Hospitality House will be hiring a Family Services Coordinator the first of May. Send email to Tina if no one interested. In June and July, due to staff turnover of graduates, will hire a new Shelter Associate and PSH Coordinator. Positions will be full time and posted at Elk River Recruiters and on social media sites of Hospitality House. Working on disaster recovery placement- some situations are temporary (camping trailers, e.g.) for trailer hook-ups. Many apartments are still under repair so it is difficult to find housing as Helene has affected existing units limiting supply further. Tom Reutler, Disaster Recovery Housing Navigator is working with multiple landlords to find both PH and temporary housing. Some units are not being repaired properly and will not pass inspection standards. Trying to house persons quickly to create movement for system. Some new units have been secured to assist households impacted by Hurricane Helene. Tom Reutler, , can provide assistance for hurricane displaced persons, can case conference complicated cases with referring agency, and secure funding for deposits to quickly house, even outside the

Northwest CoC area. HH is representing the CoC in several state and federal meetings related to disaster response and recovery. Contact Tom at (828) 434-0287 or email at: tom@hospouse.org for more information on this program.

- **CoC Planning**

- **HMIS Reporting:** The System Performance Measures (SPM) report for NC 516 was submitted before the deadline of April 11, 2025. Sonya Hamby, Local HMIS System Administrator for NC 516 will provide a full report to the CoC in May meeting and will be going to go back and to do a deeper analysis into the data outcomes for each program. The SPM report is normally due in February but was delayed by HUD.
- **2025 PIT/HIC Update:** HUD has not announced the due date for PIT/HIC. The PIT/HIC was conducted in the Northwest CoC on January 29, 2025. Volunteers across the CoC collected PIT surveys. HH is working with a Master level student group from Appalachian to compile data and de-duplicate. PIT surveys are entered into spreadsheet with all survey responses and broken out by county. Group will also put together info graphics. At this time, higher numbers reported in far western counties impacted by hurricane. HH targeted outreach in those areas which allowed for collection of better data. Outreach team will have office hours established for that area moving forward. Attended Multi-disciplinary meetings with DHHS and resource fairs in Yancey and Mitchell County.
- **Watauga Housing Council:** Kellie Reed-Ashcraft, Executive Director, reports that there is a communications position posted for the Watauga Housing Council and at this time have received 4 applications for the position. Continuing to compile resources list for the area for households seeking assistance. Moving forward on securing manufactured dealers license as well and will then form advisory group and begin talking to HH and Habitat for Humanity. The dealer's license will enable to Watauga Housing Council to get significant discount on these homes keeping them affordable.
- **NC HMIS Governance Committee Update:** The Governance Committee (GC) met Monday, April 14, 2025. The GC Executive Committee has a detailed presentation available to CoCs that reflects current costs, system pros and cons and considerations for each CoC to discuss before moving forward on potential RFP for new software. The state data warehouse workgroup completed an RFP with HUD TA, ICF that should go out this month for a NC state Data Warehouse. Northwest is already a part of a data warehouse with NC HMIS and Green River. NC HMIS submitted an HMIS application to the state ESG Office for 2025 funding and received \$169,285 for calendar year 2025. This ESG award is

reallocated funds from the ESG Office and will support work across the 7 CoCs of NC HMIS and pay for the data warehouse, administrative support, and up to 6 months of Northwest's Wellsky costs.

- **HUD NOFO contract update:** some contracts in NC have been sent to other CoCs but NW has not received any at this time. Wintergreen grant agreement expired 3/31/2025. Still have some issues getting into eLOCCS but have been able to draw down on some awards. Copy of the initial agreements sent to some CoCs in March was secured and there is new language noted but anticipated (no DEI, no "gender ideology", e.g.). Stated prohibitions on activities never allowed by HUD funding at any time. One clause lists new SAVE data base requirements for all recipients that directly conflicts with the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act requirements and exemptions to basic service needs. Also, noted HUD will no longer enforce Housing First requirements on Grantees. CoCs must make own determination for enforcement. NC HMIS and MCAH have established a folder on a shared drive to hold manuals, policies, HUD notices to help keep people informed and retain valuable CoC information.

New Business

- **Bringing it Home Annual Conference:** Registration is open until May 2, 2025. The conference is May 15-16th in Raleigh. Providers are encourage to attend. Virtual and in-person is option for the conference.
- **State of NC Update:** House Bill 437 and two other bills affecting homeless service providers and households seeking services are being tracked. HB 437 (Drug Free Homeless Service Zones) will go to vote at House today and last Tuesday, Judiciary II passed. HB 437 criminalizes owners/operator and staff for 'intentionally' allowing a person to engage in sale of drugs within 100ft of a defined zone. Penalty is enhanced for even small possession amounts to Class E Felony and owner/operators may be subject to prosecution and charged with a Class H felony. Signage must be posted and providers have duty for monitoring property within 100ft of Drug Free Service Zone- even if someone else's property. Budd and Green, questioned purpose of law during Judiciary II meeting. Sponsors pushed back and changed misdemeanor offense in the initial bill for to felony for owners/providers in second draft. HB 781 criminalizes camping in public spaces and stakeholders will continue to track this bill. There is no senate companion bill for HB 437. Bill information linked below.

<https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/nc/2025-2026/bills/NCB00013695/>

<https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/nc/2025-2026/bills/NCB00014005/>

<https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/nc/2025-2026/bills/NCB00013227/>

- **NC 516 Annual CoC Monitoring:** Annual monitoring will begin after first week of May. The Housing First Assessment will be combined with the annual CoC

monitoring for Northwest. Watch for materials to be emailed to CoC funded agencies. For more information or technical assistance, contact:
christiana@hospouse.org

- **Other Business:**

- No other business.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **May 20, 2025, at 10:00 am**

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