

**Northwestern Continuum of Care  
CoC Steering Committee Meeting  
April 15th, 2025 – 10:00 AM  
Meeting Log in Below**

- **Welcome & Agency Updates**
- **COC Planning**
- **HMIS Reporting- SPM Data Submission Completed**
- **Annual PIT/HIC Bed Count Update**
- **Watauga Housing Council Update**
- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**
- **HUD Updates**
- **FY 2024 Contracts**
- **New Business- State Updates**
- **Bringing it Home Conference**
- **HB 437**
- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
  - **NWCoC – Virtual Tuesday May 20th, 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)**  
**Policy and System Performance Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 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  
**Sonya Hamby:** NC HMIS Local System Administrator, Hospitality House  
**Kennedy Freeman:** Leadership Coordinator, Hospitality House  
**Graham Doege-Osler:** Rapid ReHousing and WeCan Coordinator, 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  
**Rachelle Ellis:** Housing Specialist, 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.  
**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  
**Regina Brown:** McKinney-Vento Social Worker, Wilkes County Schools  
**Seth Horton:** Coordinated Entry Specialist, Salisbury Veteran Administration Medical Center

- **Welcome and Agency Updates**

- **Chariden Lewis:** ABCCM is 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.
- **Graham Doege-Osler:** RRH Coordinator for Hospitality House reported that one person has been housed and one person has been placed with family this month. Always looking for affordable housing in the area and have the ability to do lease in place to get 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@hospouse.org](mailto:graham@hospouse.org) for information on RRH or the Wilkes Center.
- **Kim Cashatt:** Family Services Coordinator, Northwestern Regional Housing Authority (NRHA) reports that NRHA has mainstream vouchers available- non-elderly, 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.
- **Jeanie Futrelle:** Executive Director at OASIS reports that staff and participants have largely been affected by illness in the past few weeks. Working to contain spread. The area has the ability to conduct sexual assault forensic exams and new detection equipment is available. OASIS is in its

second year of grant funding to assist with forensic exams and the new technology can bring better evidence collection into trials to assist LEOs. OASIS Emergency Shelter is at near capacity- one opening but may be moving family in today. Currently have some households in temporary placement at hotels. OASIS has been able to maintain hotel stays but running out of funding for this type of assistance. Shelter capacity changes frequently. No updates to provide on the Avery shelter.

- **Emily Fortunato:** The Joint TH/PH-RRH (combined Component) has housed a program participant in the RRH component this month that was in the TH component and has successfully transitioned to RRH placement. Encouraging people to get on waitlist for HCV if not on the waitlist already to secure long term assistance.
- **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](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.
- **Sean Morris:** Operating Prevention/Diversion as part of Street Outreach and reaching out to all the counties in the Northwest CoC. 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@hosphouse.org](mailto:sean@hosphouse.org)
- **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](mailto:seth.horton@va.gov)
- **Brooke Whitman:** Reminder the Daymark walk-in clinic is available at all locations. Operating hours are M-F 8:00am-2pm.
- **Tina Krause:** Executive Director at Hospitality House (HH) and CoC Lead reports that Hospitality House shelter is at capacity. Trying to house persons quickly to create movement for system. Some new units have been secured to assist households impacted by Hurricane Helene. [Tom Reuteler, Disaster Recovery Housing Navigator at Hospitality House, can provide assistance for hurricane displaced persons, can case conference complicated cases with referring agency, and secure funding for deposits for example 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. Most conversations are focused on long term recovery plans. Tom Reuteler and Tina will be on the housing subcommittee for the Long Term Recovery Group (LTGR). [Difficult to find housing units for households due to a loss of housing units from the disaster. Can provide security and first month's rent or more support if needed. Contact Tom at \(828\) 434-0287 or email at: tom@hosphouse.org](#) for more information on this program.

- **CoC Planning**

- **HMIS Reporting:** The System Performance Measures (SPM) draft report was submitted yesterday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, to HDX 2 with no errors. Sonya Hamby, Local HMIS System Administrator is going to go back and do a deeper dive into the data for each program to ensure outcomes have been accounted for like increases in cash/non-cash income. The SPM report is normally due in February but was opened Friday for draft upload/submission and will be due April 11, 2025.
- **2025 PIT/HIC Update:** The PIT/HIC was conducted in the Northwest CoC on January 29, 2025. Volunteers across the CoC collected PIT surveys. Due date unless otherwise changed is normally late April for submission. No date has been announced. The HIC was sent out for verification of beds to be included in the count ahead of the PIT. The PIT surveys are in the de-duplication process.
- **Watauga Housing: The Watauga Housing Council is moving to** quarterly meetings beginning the first of May, 2025. 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:** 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 6 months of Northwest's Wellsky costs. The state data warehouse workgroup completed an RFP with HUD TA, ICF that should go out next month for a NC state Data Warehouse. Northwest is already a part of a data warehouse with NC HMIS and Green River.
- **RUSH RFA:** Hospitality House received award notice and contract for RUSH for \$150,000. RRH targeted in application. The RUSH RFP Notice was received by current sub-recipients only on Tuesday afternoon, February 11, 2025. A webinar was held 2/13, an LOI was due 2/14 and the application was due February 19th. Nearly 3 million was initially awarded to the state in October of 2024 and which was allocated to NCORR. To date, no RUSH funding was spent by NCORR, who took the initial award that was then rescinded by leadership which addressed some of the concerns raised by several CoCs. A second allocation/RFP was received for 1.9 million to NC, far below the Governors ask of 10 million. Lack of spending of current allocation of RUSH funding attributed to the reduction in funding. Now that funds are distributed to other providers, other area providers may be able to apply for second allocation of funding.
- **ESG Annual:** Contracts are executed. Hospitality House requested and received RRH and HMIS funding. Submitted first requisition.
- **HUD Update:** The CoC NOFO award notice was announced Friday, January 17, 2025 for the last annual CoC competition and some agreements started going out but were rescinded later that week. The award notice has since been removed from the HUD website. Copy of the initial agreements was secured and there is new language in the agreements. Some changes noted were anticipated (no DEI, no "gender ideology", e.g.), others are clearly new administration agenda statements as stated prohibitions on activities never allowed by 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 a single sentence states HUD will no longer enforce Housing First requirements on Grantees. Approved changes to the NC 516 Written Standards have been incorporated but the release is now delayed as some language (Equal Access, e.g.) will have to be modified as cited rule will not be in force soon but intent to remain inclusive and fidelity to Housing First can remain for the Northwest CoC. Access to eLOCCS was blocked temporarily nationwide in January but the system is back up for

now. Agencies should stay current with draws while the system is open for reimbursement. Websites and basic posted materials/manuals are no longer available on HUD's website. NC HMIS and MCAH established a folder on a drive to hold manuals, policies, notices to help keep people informed and retain valuable CoC information. CPD Office Diane Dillahunt sent a form to be completed weekly for updates on HUD disaster spending and other funding spent by Hospitality House. The form will need to have RUSH added this week but HH will continue to make only limited/non-specific information available about private donations.

- **Other Business:**

- No other business.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **April 15, 2025, at 10:00 am**  
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