

**Northwestern Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday January 19, 2021 – 10:00 AM
Meeting Log in Below**

- **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID Response Vaccinations**

- **COC Planning**
 - HUD NOFA Renewal Update
 - 2021 PIT Count – Updates, Additional Areas, Reporting Back
 - HMIS Reporting- LSA

- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**

- **COVID Relief State and Federal Grant Updates**
 - ESG-CRF: Summary from grant recipient
 - ESG-CV Round 1: Summary of funded projects
 - ESG-CV Round 2 RFA: Project Submissions, Regional Application
 - Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program and CE/Outreach/Supportive Services
 - ESG and Rapid Re-Rehousing 2021

- **Other Business**

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - NWCOC – NWA February 16, 2020 at 10am

Meeting info for next Tuesday's meeting is the following:

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll)

Conference ID: 585 407 593#

[Local numbers](#) | [Reset PIN](#) | [Learn more about Teams](#) | [Meeting options](#)

**Northwest Continuum of Care
ESG and RRH Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 10am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Tina Krause: Executive Director; Hospitality House of Northwest NC

Shane Johnson: Director of Grant Funding, Hospitality House

Graham Doege-Osler: RRH Coordinator, Hospitality House

Christiana Glenn Tugman: Compliance and Planning Specialist; Hospitality House

Marnie Slawson: Prevention and Diversion Coordinator, Hospitality House

Lori Watts: Housing Specialist; VAYA Health

Kim Cashatt: Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator; Northwestern Regional Housing Authority

Jennifer Herman: Program Director; OASIS, Inc.

Jordan Edmisten: Housing and Shelter Manager; OASIS, Inc.

- **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID Response Vaccinations**

Jennifer Herman: OASIS spent down the award from Treasury funds by the December 30, 2020 deadline and then were informed of the extension. Renovations are complete, however, as with many agencies, extension notice before the deadline for obligating funds would have been helpful. OASIS is expanding hotline for Spanish speakers to include Alleghany and Wilkes. Have entered into partnership with High Country Community Health for mental/primary health care for the uninsured- a grant application is in process. The OASIS shelter is currently at capacity. Have hotel vouchers that can be used to accommodate.

Jordan Edmisten: Jordan Kestler has been hired as the new Shelter Manager. Jordan Edmisten will continue to serve as the Housing Manager. Ms. Kestler will also attend the CoC meetings. Reach out if anything is needed for housing needs related to Domestic Violence to: Jedminsten@oasisinc.org also at housing@oasisinc.org

Lori Watts: VAYA has housing support/one time assistance funds available to help with utility/rent assistance. Most of the current referrals for assistance are coming from Wilkes. The program allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utilities. Access the program through provider referral. The re-opening of the VAYA offices will not start until at least later in the year.

Kim Cashatt: NRHA is still offering vouchers. The NRHA offices are still not open to public due to COVID-19 but are scheduling appointments. Here to help if needed- call for additional information.

Marnie Slawson: The Hospitality House Prevention and Diversion Program has seen recent increase in calls for rent/utility assistance. The CDC eviction moratorium is set to expire on January 31, 2021. There may be an extension. Still providing case management for two households in program- there is one in queue for assistance. Going well but expect increase in calls, especially if moratorium expires. Will keep the CoC up to date with any additional information that affects eligibility for the program.

Graham Doege-Osler- There are two households in the Hospitality House Rapid-Rehousing program that are going on voucher assistance on February 1. Now that both ESG-annual

and ESG-CV can be used, the RRH program will start placing other clients around mid-February.

Tina Krause: Winter Shelter operating but limited capacity due to COVID. We have increased winter shelter capacity to 25 this month after completing some renovations. Have extreme weather protocol in place (below 32 or precipitation) to accommodate more unsheltered persons if needed in the building. Will take as many as can safely fit with COVID protocols. Approaching time when weather will remain below freezing every night in the region. Will continue to place people in RRH to turn over space. Hospitality House spent all the money out in Treasury for all activities except Prevention. With the acquisition of the new building, we were able to convert conference room women's shelter space and the old playroom for families. This week, we will finish converting the computer lab to another bedroom with bunk beds. Afterward, will move into renovation of old offices and move remaining shelter/CoC program staff to other offices Seeing the largest uptick in need for assistance coming from Wilkes, including families. Hoping to use the isolation rooms as transition rooms for COVID- but families continue to come in and occupy. The new building provides safe meeting space and service access. Hoping to fully move up additional staff once heating unit fixed and permits secured to make a wall adjustment for security. Please come by and see the new space next to Hatchett Coffee- large enough for safety from COVID.

The contract for Wintergreen finally came through. HUD will transfer the grant to HH before February 1, 2021. Staff have been providing services since April 1, 2020. A long process for this but once executed- will fill the vacant unit. At this time, all other PSH units are full or about to be occupied. Looking for additional units for scattered site. All programs serve all gender identities, including CC. Need additional units in this area to continue expanding. CC transitional has a few openings as persons are being housed. CC eligible residents do not have to stay at HH- can go straight to RRH if unit located.

Both Michelle and Tina have lobbied hard to get vaccines for congregate facilities- Have moved up to phase 1 and the Health Department is working with the two agencies directly. Estimated need for vaccines are for 47 persons and anticipate next week HHS will start delivering to staff, interns, and a few constant volunteers. Jennifer Herman stated that the HUD letter strengthened argument with Health Department. Please contact Jennifer/Tina/Jordan in interim if COVID related issue needs to be communicated to the Health Department.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- Christiana Glenn Tugman: HUD has provided some additional information concerning the annual NOFA for Continuum of Care funding. Recent legislation authorized HUD to renew existing grants without a competition. HUD will publish a notice listing all CoC grantees that are eligible for renewal. Funding level will be the same (plus or minus change for FMR). The renewal will include Planning Grants awarded at the CoC Pro Rata Share. For this award round, there will be no new money available, but during the course of 2021, other opportunities for new funding will occur- most likely for youth and DV projects. Grant consolidations will not be allowed during this process and no re-allocation for this renewal process. CoCs do not have to do anything before the notice- there will be a window after the notice is published to make corrections.
- The CoC Program Registration for 2021 is now open. The CoC must register for the upcoming summer competition before the March deadline. The GIW review will follow. The registration opening is statutorily defined and was not changed with recent legislation

- Shane Johnson: PIT/HIC 2021 update: Requested waiver from HUD and received notice of acceptance. The unsheltered count is still required in 2021 but demographic data will be reduced. Will start working with new outreach staff to help in PIT data collection. The NW CoC geographic area is over 2,700 square miles which is a large rural area. The waiver only covers unsheltered- sheltered and HIC must still be collected following the normal methodology. Wilkes will most likely be the hardest unsheltered data to collect since those volunteers will not participate because of COVID concerns at the soup kitchen. HH will continue to collect as much information as possible but the service count will mostly take place in the parking lot when food is served. Of course the school systems will also be different. Wilkes schools continue to provide great information- Avery county person from last year is no longer there. McKinney Vento households do not count for the PIT. Intern started yesterday which also may help- can reach out to pantries/soup kitchens to get information. Press release will also be sent out for the PIT/HIC which usually generates interest from community. Lori will work to get information out to Ashe County Homeless Coalition as well as MH/SU/IDD providers in 7 counties (i.e. Daymark, RHA, Infinite Beginnings, Pinnacle Therapeutic, Easter Seals, etc.), and contacts in Avery, Mitchell, & Yancey through email- can contact other counties and work with OASIS for victim service providers.
 - The LSA (Longitudinal System Analysis) has been submitted to HUD through HDX. on January 15, 2021. Waiting for confirmation from HUD on any errors or issues. The LSA replaced the AHAR. The individual program set-up created some errors- these have been resolved. The System Performance Measures for NC 516 will be due in March.
- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS Updates:**
 - The NC HMIS Governance Committee met last week. NC HMIS was awarded funds in ESG-CV 1 for equity training, to support the project manager position, licenses, and the data linkage project. NC HMIS debated whether to submit ESG-2 but opted not to submit. Will be getting two additional licenses with the funding under ESG-1 for NC 516. The licenses will go for new program staff using HMIS.
 - The NC HMIS Data Committee met in January to start on Dennis Culhane recommendations for a data linkage project for the 9 CoCs of NC HMIS. Ultimately, the goal is to have a process for handling third party data requests, compiling data and sharing aggregate data across the implementation or combine data sets with the NCCEH HMIS implementation to publish state-wide data.
 - **CRF: Summary from grant recipient**
 - Treasury/CRF funds. Hospitality House spent down nearly 1 million dollars in 7 weeks but \$568.20 in financial assistance prevention. The new building was primary expense. The CRF extension was passed in late December but the state has issued no guidance on how to proceed for any agencies that have remaining funds. The agency will now roll to ESG-CV 1 funds for those activities and wait for guidance on the prevention balance.
 - **ESG-CV Round 1: Summary of funded projects**
 - All contracts for ESG-CV-1 are executed. There are some reporting difficulties for OASIS because of the comparable database rather than HMIS with ESG-CV. The ESG office is struggling as well but OASIS has opened communication with them. ESG-CV 1 funds enabled Prevention and Outreach programs to be established in NC 516 and provided support for COVID-19 preparedness and prevention. The ESG office is offering webinars- there is one today on Requisition and another next week on the Desk Manual and current

topics. Suggested that ESG subrecipients have a monthly meeting to discuss issues, make program adjustments, and address gaps in services as well as review compliance with regulations. Client files/requisitions get audited frequently by the ESG office. The ESG office will notify sub-recipients of desk monitoring several times a year. Forms change regularly that are posted on website- watch for changes and ensure basic required documents are in client file and PPI redacted prior to submission for audit.

- **ESG-CV Round 2 RFA: Project Submissions, Regional Application**

- The ESG-CV 2 RFA local competition is now closed. Project applications were due January 15, 2021. Both OASIS and Hospitality House submitted requests for additional funding. No other applications were received. Northwest is eligible for over 1.4 million in funding. Notice from the Review Committee will be sent out on funding recommendations to agencies following the Review Committee meeting. The Regional Application is due Friday January 22, 2021 by 5:00pm. The Regional application submission will be available for review by applicants in Google docs. Please view/edit or make comments. Agencies recommended for funding need to work with Shane for Smartsheet upload on Friday. Previous forms from agencies awarded under round 1 do not have to be re-submitted- just the budget sheet and the request for additional funding consistent with Review Committee recommendations. The Smartsheet will only take the budget and renewal/request for additional funding forms.

- **Other Business:**

- Hospitality House has hired Logan Shaut for the CE/Outreach position. Contact if needed for unsheltered outreach and engagement. Logan will be in outer lying counties in particular for this outreach work and work with the LEAD program in Watauga to assist with persons leaving the jail that are homeless. Logan will also will be doing unsheltered/CE intake. Please reach out to him to get assistance with unsheltered persons. Can do full intakes/VI-SPDAT and has experience as a Peer Support Specialist in Chapel Hill. Will also work with LEOs to identify encampments as large encampments have remained even after the weather turned after the summer and fall. Contact Logan at: logan@hosphouse.org.
- RRH will be taking CE referrals for both ESG RRH and CoC - please refer to Sonya for assistance.
- Hospitality House was awarded annual ESG for RRH/ES/HMIS. Started January 1, 2021. Seems like a small amount compared to ESG-CV and CRF funding. Activities funded are Emergency Shelter, Rapid-ReHousing and HMIS.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC at **NWHA February 16, 2021 at 10am**
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) [+1 828-552-4129](tel:+18285524129) United States, Asheville (Toll),
Conference ID: 585 407 593#