

**Northwestern Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 16, 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, Reporting Back**
 - **HMIS Reporting SPM, CAPER & LSA**

- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**

- **COVID Relief State and Federal Grant Updates**
 - **ESG-CRF: ESG Extension Offers to Grantees**
 - **ESG-CV Round 1: Summary of funded projects**
 - **ESG-CV Round 2 RFA: Awaiting Award Announcement on 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 – NWAHA March 16, 2020 at 10am**

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

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**Northwest Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Tina Krause: Executive Director; Hospitality House of Northwest NC

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

Michelle Grit: Executive Director, OASIS, Inc.

Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager; OASIS, Inc.

Gillian Hampton: NC DHHS, Targeted Housing Stabilization Coordinator

Holly Robinson: Daymark Recovery Services; Watauga Center Director

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

Kim Cashatt: NWRHA is moving forward on the small home cluster developments in Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties. Looking for appropriate property. Dogwood Health Trust is funding pre-development with the potential for additional funding to support the development. The NWRHA offices are still not open to public due to COVID-19 but are scheduling appointments. Here to help if needed- call for additional information.

Holly Robinson: Daymark Recovery Services was recently awarded block grant funding from Watauga County. To support the program, Daymark is interviewing for a new children's therapist this week. Daymark is doing a lot of work using Telehealth. Currently, Daymark has seven computers stations/Ipads to provide this service but need more to meet the demand.

Lori Watts: VAYA has still not determined when offices will re-open to the public. VAYA has funding for housing support/one time assistance available to help with utility/rent assistance until the end of this fiscal year (6/30/21). Most of the current referrals for housing assistance are coming from Wilkes. The program allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utilities. Access the program through a provider referral.

Jordan Edmisten: OASIS has some shelter space available to serve DV. OASIS Permanent Supportive Housing program however is full. Reach out directly if anything is needed for housing/shelter related to Domestic Violence to: Jedminsten@oasisinc.org also at housing@oasisinc.org

Marnie Slawson: The Hospitality House Prevention and Diversion program is continuing to work under the CDC moratorium. Doubled up, living in hotels/motels/ leases that will not be renewed or persons exiting institutions are also eligible under the 'at risk' of homelessness category. Currently, three households are eligible for financial assistance and other households are receiving case management/diversion services. Available to answer questions on eligibility or provide information on the program.

Graham Doege-Osler: Currently working with two households who need to re-house from Project Lazarus. Looking for referrals and affordable housing units- please contact Graham

for either. Now that both ESG-annual and ESG-CV funding can be used, will ramp up the RRH program. Contact Graham via email or cell if needed.

Gillian Hampton: Trying to stay current/educated on latest guidance concerning Fair Housing, the Eviction moratorium, and all available funding across the state for this crisis. Gillian covers 40 counties in NC and is trying to be a resource for all providers. The CDC Eviction Moratorium is a benefit for many but it has created challenges and is more complex than it appears for providers to navigate.

Michelle Grit: OASIS has hired a new shelter manager. Awaiting award letter from ESG office from the ESG-CV 2 RFA to expand services into Wilkes. Have talked to DANA Executive Director about expansion and coordination in advance of award. Wants to set up meeting to get full picture on new program/expansion with OASIS and Hospitality House. DANA has two staff in Wilkes and 5 in Alleghany. Have 13 beds in Alleghany shelter but the Wilkes shelter will remain closed.

Tina Krause: Hospitality House (HH) Winter Shelter/severe weather protocol is in full swing. Have remained at capacity with increase of bad weather. Have seen an increase in persons who identify as first time homeless requesting assistance/shelter that is higher than ever before. Had CE call last week so the empty Rock Haven unit will be filled by end of week. Currently, the Combined Component/TH- PH-RRH program has a few openings. Please check with Sonya for referral to the Transitional component which has spaces for all regardless of gender identity. HH received contract from Watauga County for CDBG funds for a part-time therapist. Jenna Crawley is fully booked so additional staff will help here. For MH/health care, participants receive assistance through telehealth but it is not appropriate option for some and for medical care, difficult for providers. HH has dedicated space at the Den Mac building to see people, primarily for health care on a limited basis. Will fully open when vaccines provide more coverage. Logan Shaut is working with many first time/unsheltered people connecting them to community/resources and MH/health services. All HH programs are operational- food pantry/meals/prevention/diversion/RRH and working on marketing to expand information to all 7 counties. Marnie Slawson is available to speak to groups about the Prevention/Diversion program and has prepared an info sheet describing program she can send out via email. HH can also provide an information flyer for CoC RRH programs. Of note, recently there has been several referrals for housing/shelter coming from the Asheville area directly from institutional discharges. The persons are not able to access other local resources due to SA even though low-barrier shelters/hotel rooms are available in Asheville area. Northwest cannot handle additional persons when community resources are already at capacity. Will continue to monitor and speak with CoC contacts in Asheville area about concern. HUD released new vaccine literature/ESG-CV eligible costs two weeks ago. Will send out to group after call. It addresses prioritizing vaccines for congregate shelter residents, volunteers, and staff.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- Tina Krause: In planning stage to coordinate vaccine administration for program residents 65 or older. Working closely with Health Department and transportation will be provided by HH to get residents to sites for vaccine.
- CoC FY 2020 renewal is out- waiting for next step for these. A list of all eligible grantees/project renewals was included in the notice.
- The CoC Program Registration for 2021 is now open. The Northwest 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. HH is waiting for clarification from HUD on the Wintergreen project before submitting registration for the competition but will complete before the March deadline.

- Point in Time/Housing Inventory 2021- Logan, Shane, Lori and Tina have good reporting back so far for the 2021 PIT/HIC. Have received approximately 50 completed surveys from Wilkes which does not include DV. Logan is reaching back out to the school systems. Lia homeless liaisons. Lori will be working with OASIS over the next week to compile victim service data. Mitchell County schools sent a Google document that Lori cannot open- HH uses Google Suites so will forward. Kim Cashatt has reached back out to interagency group on the PIT/HIC.
- Shane Johnson (report submitted): System Performance Measures for NC 516 is due on March 1, 2021. The NC 516 Longitudinal System Analysis was accepted by HUD. The CAPER is almost ready for submission- only showing a few errors. The Length of Time Homeless report for the SPM is showing errors that we are trying to resolve working with MCAH staff.
- New data specialist at Hospitality House, Kennedy Freeman, will attend next month's CoC meeting. Kennedy worked as a shelter associate position at HH previously and moved back to Boone from Chapel Hill to take the data specialist position.

- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS Updates:**

- The NC HMIS Governance Committee has met several times since last month. The NC HMIS Bylaws were amended and passed. The revision was necessary to address NCCEH leaving the implementation and provide for NC HMIS supervision over the Project Manager position. NC HMIS did not opt to apply for ESG-CV 2. Have funding from ESG-CV 1 to carry out sufficient projects and help cover all costs for the Project Manager. Tina is advocating for a county by county report/combined report for those with several counties in within a CoC to have from the special projects budget. Still reviewing the VA HOMES quarterly reporting request. There are fees associated with this report including an upfront costs and an annual fee. NC 516 would be in a position to receive reports from three different VA's, one of those is not included in the catchment (Johnston City). The CSV file would take time to go through and may/may not render much data since historically, the homeless veteran numbers are low for this area. Alternatively, it may show many Veterans that are undercounted in the region. The additional cost for the reports would come from the NC HMIS budget- not directly from NC 516. The VA is not granting funding for this or absorbing the cost. HH is adding hours to the data specialist position to help keep up with demands since the LSA is a part-time position. SA's are getting training on data entry/quality as well.

- **CRF: Summary from grant recipient:**

Treasury/CRF funds have been extended until December 30, 2021. Waiting for response from the ESG office on how to proceed. Hospitality House spent down nearly 1 million dollars in 7 weeks except \$568.20 in financial assistance under Prevention. The new building was primary expense and a new HVAC system for the main building. HH will now roll to ESG-CV 1 funds for all funded activities and wait for guidance on the CRF balance.

- **ESG-CV Round 1:**

All ESG-CV 1 funded activities are operational. Reimbursement has been slower than expected from the ESG office. This has been a problem in the past but the issue seems to be with the Comptroller Office, not the ESG office who submits approved requisitions

quickly. There is a statutory time limit of 30 calendar days to reimburse subrecipients per HUD, not 30 business days which is often stated. An AAQ was submitted on this a few years ago by HH and we can share HUD's response with subrecipients. Please monitor times/dates of submission of requisitions, approvals, and receipt of funds.

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

Waiting for award notice from ESG office for the NC 516 Regional/Project applications for ESG-CV 2. Anticipate getting award notices by the end of the week. Both OASIS and Hospitality House submitted requests for additional funding. No other applications were received for the 1.4 million available to Northwest. Spending deadlines have been extended for subrecipients to June 30, 2022 for Emergency Shelter activities.

- **Other Business:**

- Lori shared the Prevention & Diversion and Rapid Rehousing information with Vaya's Complex Care Managers in NC 516's 7 Northwestern Counties for any members they are working with who may need that type of assistance. Also sharing information with other agency providers in the region as well.
- Marnie Slawson will send out an informational flyer for people to post on the Prevention/Diversion program.
- Make referrals for RRH directly to Graham by email or cell. The number of calls for heating assistance for the WeCAN program are creating a backlog of messages.
- Christiana- The Northwest CoC homepage is fully updated with agendas and minutes from the previous 6 years. The CoC current meeting agenda will be posted as well. Thanks to Todd Carter for spending hours re-organizing and uploading the documents.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC at **NWHA March 16, 2021 at 10am**
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