

**Northwestern Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 21, 2023 – 10:00 AM
Meeting Log in Below**

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

- **COC Planning**
 - **HMIS Reporting**
 - **Annual Point in Time Count-Updates**
 - **Watauga Housing Council**

- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**

- **COVID Relief State and Federal Grant Updates**
- **Special NOFO Rural Homelessness Awards**
 - **ESG-CV: Update on area projects**
 - **Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program, Rapid Rehousing and CE/Outreach/Supportive Services**

- **Other Business**

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - **NWCoC – Virtual Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 10am**

Below are the meeting link /call in information for next Tuesday's meeting.

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**Northwest Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00am
Via Phone Conference**

- **Attendees:**

Tina Krause: Executive Director/CoC Lead, Hospitality House of Northwest NC
Ethan Flynn: Director of Grant Funding, Hospitality House of Northwest NC
Sonya Hamby: Lead Service Coordinator and NC HMIS LSA, Hospitality House
Christiana Glenn Tugman: Compliance and Planning Specialist, Hospitality House
Marnie Slawson: Homelessness Prevention and RRH Coordinator, Hospitality House
Graham Doege-Osler: RRH Coordinator, Hospitality House
Kennedy Freeman: Data Specialist, Hospitality House
Kim Cashatt: Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Northwest Regional Housing Authority
Lori Watts: Housing Specialist – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), VAYA Health LME/MCO
Joel Rice: Community Housing Specialist, VAYA Health
Jerry Shore: Executive Director, OASIS, Inc.
Sara Crouch: Director of Community Programs, OASIS, Inc.
Kat Danielik: RRH Coordinator, OASIS, Inc.
Kecia Robinson: Salisbury VAMC
Mattie Lucas: Executive Director, Quiet Givers
Phillip Barrier: Avery County; County Manager

- **Welcome and Agency Updates**

- **Graham Doege-Osler:** RRH Coordinator for Hospitality House. A unit passed inspection just this morning for RRH household. Last week, the RRH program took 8 referrals from CE and those clients are now enrolled.- 8 new RRH clients enrolled. Will work with these households on housing search. Increasing RRH enrollment due to additional funds from ESG-CV re-allocation. New ESG Annual funds began January 1, 2023.
- **Kim Cashatt:** The Northwest Regional Housing Authority (NWRHA) is still closed to the public/drop-in but is scheduling appointments from 8:30 to 3:00pm. The public housing conversion for NWRHA's 48 units in Cove Creek is about 80% complete and 48 is Iso near completion with 25 units. All public housing in the NWRHA portfolio is being converted to Section 8. NWRHA is looking at development in Newland for workforce housing but did not get LITCH for that project. Partnering with OASIS to do 8 unit (6 1 bedroom and 2- 2 bedroom) in Avery for victims of domestic violence. NWRHA needs qualified allocation to get support in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties for development. NWRHA currently has 2,195 total vouchers and 2016 are active. We are looking at adding 27 tenant protection vouchers. Still no word from HUD on the Stability Vouchers request from October 20, 2022. NWRHA is still able to assist with lease in place for eligible households.
- **Lori Watts:** Housing Specialist – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for VAYA Health. Joel Rice, the new Community Housing Specialist for VAYA Health is here today. Joel is filling Lori's previous role in this position with VAYA. Joel comes from out of the Northwest area but has been involved for many years in housing in the Northeast area of Raleigh. Lots of changes in roles and responsibilities at VAYA but hopefully Lori can maintain attendance at the Northwest meetings. The one-time assistance program with VAYA is for contracted providers

to refer members/recipients for help initially getting into housing and provides a maximum of \$500 to a household for either rent deposits, 1st month's rent, and/or utility deposits but not for past due rent, ongoing rent, or past due utilities. Referrals must come from community providers (Daymark, Mountain Health Solutions, Infinite Beginnings, Stepping Stone, Easter Seals, etc.). Information needed about Housing Support One-Time Assistance Program should be directed to HousingSupport@vayahealth.com or Joel Rice at Joel.Rice@vayahealth.com. For more information or also at Lori.Watts@vayahealth.com

- **Jerry Shore:** Executive Director, OASIS, Inc. The Avery County unit is finally filled with a household. Working on project for dedicated DV beds with NWRHA in Newland. Excited about opportunity to bring units on-line.
 - **Kat Danielik:** RRH Coordinator, OASIS. The RRH project has two clients housed at this time- one possible opening in RRH but need to reach out to client again for contact. If cannot locate the household, will open up for CE referral and schedule meeting.
 - **Mattie Lucas:** Executive Director, Quiet Givers. Currently have some funding for deposit assistance at Quiet Givers and are well funded for heating assistance. The heating assistance is in high demand this time of year as other sources often depleted. Welcome back Mattie Lucas.
 - **Marnie Slawson:** Homelessness Prevention and RRH Coordinator for Hospitality House. Are taking referrals for Prevention. The ESG-CV program is low on funding but have some funds available. Program assists those at risk or at imminent risk of homelessness. Currently working with new households in RRH. The ESG-CV funded Prevention program is low in funding, with just a few months left, but can take one additional client at this time. Contact Marnie Slawson for assistance at: marnie@hosphouse.org
 - **Kecia Robinson-** Salisbury VAMC has transitional housing and assistance for Veterans. Contact Kecia Robinson for assistance at Kecia.Robinson@va.gov
 - **Tina Krause:** Hospitality House (HH) Emergency Shelter and the Night-by-Night program is operating at full capacity. Taking some in NBN based on severe weather protocol. Seeing higher number of families right now seeking shelter- 2 new this week and three on the waitlist. Have some options for opening a few spots in scattered site- one in Wilkes, one in Watauga. Have COVID in the facility this month. Hospitality House and High Country Community Health hosted a vaccine clinic at the main facility and had a really good turnout for the event. The Wilkes Housing and Outreach Center is open part-time and HH is getting staff down there twice a week and will progress to 4 days a week. The Wilkes Center is near the hospital in Wilkes and convenient to other providers/transit. Opioid settlement application went in last week to fund staff for the Wilkes Center. The HH board voted to open a small center in in Avery similar to the Wilkes office and have started the process of looking at possible sites.
 - **Phillip Barrier:** Avery County is looking at the current state of affordable housing in the county. There is a desperate and growing need with many residents living in poverty. Disappointed that NWRHA didn't get approved for LITCH for the old Lowes development. WAMY may have office space available to rent for an Avery Outreach Center.
- **CoC Planning:**
 - **NC 516 HMIS:** Sonya Hamby, Local System Administrator (LSA) for HMIS. A draft of the System Performance Measure's for NC 516 was submitted last week. Limited error's as most have been addressed. The Planning Grant Annual Performance report for NC 516 is due by end of the month. The Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) was submitted in January.

- **2023 Northwest PIT/HIC-** The annual Point in Time and Housing Inventory Count (PIT/HIC) was conducted January 25, 2023 for the Northwest CoC. There are a few forms outstanding across the region. Hospitality House works with area partners to collect all the PIT/HIC data, OASIS collects the DV agency data, and area schools contribute to the PIT/HIC. The PIT surveys collect demographic information and the HIC collects bed/unit inventory and utilization rates. The PIT and HIC is usually submitted by the end of April in HDX to HUD.
- **Watauga Housing Council:** The Watauga Housing Council is still circulating a community outreach survey. After it closes, the Council may work with student group to analyze data. The Council issued the survey and received 90 responses so far on whether to incorporate as a charitable organization. The Outreach subcommittee intends to have another outreach event in April. The Watauga Housing Council will not be providing direct services but is doing community work. Watauga Housing Council and the committees meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:30. There are three committees: Fiscal, Housing Solutions, and Community Outreach that all flowed from the Watauga Housing Forums. For more information on upcoming events or on how to participate in a workgroup: Wataugahousingforum.org
- **NC HMIS Update:** NC HMIS multi-jurisdictional implementation is a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) cost-share and governance implantation of eight Continuum's of Care in NC. The NC HMIS Governance Committee membership is selected from each CoC in the implementation. The GC representatives for Northwest are Tina Krause, Ethan Flynn, and Christiana Glenn Tugman. Sonya Hamby, is the Local System Administrator (LSA). HMIS use is a requirement of organizations receiving HUD dedicated funding for homeless housing, shelter and service programs. NC HMIS was notified it received the award from NCDHHS ESG Office for \$210,000. NC 516 Wellsky costs and the data warehousing costs were requested in the application. Wellsky costs for each CoC will be covered for 2023. NC 505 gave notice to leave the implementation by June 30, 2023. The additional grant funding will help defray costs for the remaining CoCs in the implementation.
- **CoC NOFO Special Award:** Hospitality House was awarded a grant under the Special NOFO for its PSH project of \$446,625. Only two CoCs in the state (BoS NC 503 and NC 516) received an award but HUD stated in the press release that more awards may be coming soon.
- **ESG-CV Update:** OASIS Emergency Shelter is currently full and is using motels as overflow. Both OASIS and HH received additional funding under ESG-CV but that funding ends in September 2023. HH is out of Street Outreach funding but received some private dollars to keep this program operational. HH currently uses ESG-CV funding for RRH and ES. Wilkes Opioid funding may cover Outreach work if awarded and is Street Outreach is an eligible activity.
- **Other Business:**
 - HUD has offered technical assistance for NC HMIS to do a strategic plan. Northwest has compiled a list of stakeholders to meet with the TA as a focus group and sent the names to the TA. The meeting may be in the first week of March possibly. Thank you to people who agreed to be in the focus group.
 - 2023 Bringing it Home conference is scheduled for the first week of May. NCCEH has asked NWRHA to be on panel at the conference on PHA collaboration. The deadline to respond is this Friday as to whether we would like to be on the panel. Virtual conference this year.
 - Phillip Barrier: Dogwood funded an in depth housing study for Avery County. Hope to have released in the next 30 days.
 - NC 516 Registration for the 2023 CoC NOFO is complete.
 - The Northwest CoC March meeting needed to be moved to Wednesday, March 22, 2023.
- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **March 22, 2023 at 10:00 am**

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