

**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 NWAH **February 16, 2021 at 10am**
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll),
Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**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 computer stations/lpads 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 Wintergeen 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 NWHHA **March 16, 2021 at 10am**
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll),
Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
PSH & CoC Programs Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 10am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Tina Krause: Executive Director; Hospitality House of Northwest NC
Shane Johnson: Grants Director, 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
Michelle Grit: Executive Director, OASIS, Inc.
Jennifer Herman: Programs Director, OASIS, Inc.
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager; OASIS, Inc.
David Barr: Residential Supervisor, Easter Seals

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

Graham Doege-Osler: The RRH program has recently housed two participants. Working with Project Lazarus out of Wilkes who has been locating housing for their clients and making referrals for RRH. The RRH is going into Wilkes County today to conduct intakes/VI-SPDAT. Currently working with a new LL that is amenable to working with RRH participants and has offered a unit for August. Looking for referrals and affordable housing units or interested landlords- please contact Graham. Will continue to place households as quickly as possible while the funding is available.

Lori Watts: Project Lazarus is one of the providers who is referring participants to VAYA for the one-time assistance housing program. The program allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utilities. Access to the program must be through a provider referral. Wilkes residents need to be connected to housing assistance programs in the CoC as it appears there are more qualifying units in Wilkes. VAYA has spent about 75% of available housing assistance funds for this FY but not sure if will have funds through end of fiscal year, June 30, 2020. VAYA anticipates further funding next FY for this program. VAYA staff were recently informed they may move back to more office time once NC's Emergency order is lifted as well as when Vaya's Operations Level decreases possibly by summer.

Michelle Grit: OASIS is currently in the process of hiring to fill the new ESG funded positions. The Emergency Shelter currently has some space available. There is one opening at PSH. High Country United Way has given grant for housing assistance for Avery County. High Country Health has also granted funds for dental, health needs for Avery and Watauga residents. Marnie Slawson from Hospitality House presented at OASIS on the Prevention and Diversion Program and how she can work with DV clients.

Jennifer Herman: Have some questions about Direct/Indirect Costs guidance recently released by HUD. Would like to set up a time to go over the guidance and to talk to the ESG office about the ESG-2 overhead costs. Some questions concerning these costs, period of eligibility, etc. remain unanswered for all sub-recipients.

Marnie Slawson: The Prevention and Diversion Program has received four new referrals from Project Lazarus this month. Two households have successfully exited the program. Receiving calls for assistance from other areas but primarily Wilkes. Anticipate an increase in applications

for prevention assistance now that the CDC Moratorium is set to end April 1, 2021. Available to answer questions on eligibility or provide information on the program.

Kim Cashatt: No change in hours for NWRHA at this time. Offices remain closed to the public, but staff are working remotely and honoring appointments. NWRHA set a preference for voucher assistance for households that can 'rent in place'. Currently, the voucher inventory is high so there are many vouchers available. The 'rent in place' preference will help current lease holders maintain housing that may have not normally considered a voucher. Here to help if needed- call for any additional information or to make a referral.

David Barr- Easter Seals has 2 units available in Wilkes, 2 in Ashe (possibly a 3rd coming soon), and 1 in Caldwell (Lenoir). Apartments at the Boone and Morganton location are full. Carl has one unit coming available possibly in the summer at the group home. They have some referrals but are having some delays from ARC of NC with fixing some items in apartments. ACTT is no longer able to provide services for participants in these units - must transition off ACTT to be placed in Easter Seals units.

Tina Krause: Hospitality House has one efficiency unit available for Wintergreen PSH- currently going through the by-name list for appropriate placement. All staff at Hospitality House should be vaccinated for COVID-19 by tomorrow. Residents and unsheltered starting receiving vaccines last week at a vaccine clinic hosted by HH. Approximately 70 doses of the Johnson-Johnson vaccine were administered. Some persons received the vaccine that were not residents but were otherwise eligible due to age/critical health issues. Some persons refused the vaccine so continued outreach and support is necessary to ensure vaccine delivery continues to this population, especially the unsheltered. Will continue to do outreach with unsheltered- hygiene, PPE, or anything else to make contact and keep people safe.

Hospitality House currently has three open positions- A full time Finance Director was just posted, looking for a quick turnaround for hire- questions, please contact Tina. The position requires an accounting degree. Executive Assistant- 30-hour position, and one for a PT therapist to help Jenna Crawley that is CDBG funded. Therapists will be stationed at Den Mac building to do telehealth and some in person visits.

Matt Lucas: Quiet Givers has received some additional funds for housing assistance. The cap is \$500 for the Home for the Holidays program for emergency rent payments. Submit referral directly to Quiet Givers.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- Please share information about vaccine sites across the region as you receive information- people are struggling to know what/when for vaccine clinics. The NW CoC listserv could provide quick information to help people know where/when to get vaccinated across the region.
- CoC 2021 NOFA project renewal: Registration for 2021 NOFA is now complete- Jennifer, Shane, Lori all met and confirmed information for registration for the Northwest CoC. In early April, we will need to confirm information and review the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). HUD has stated that the NOFA should keep approximately the same schedule as 2019 (late June-early July for release). VAYA recently received notice from its HUD field officer about 2020 renewal grants coming. The NW CoC has not yet been contacted by their HUD field officer about renewals for 2020.
- PIT/HIC: Lori and Shane will meet at the end of this month to start compiling and putting information into HDX. HUD has not set deadline for submission for the PIT/HIC, but it is normally submitted by end of April/first of May. Lori met with Jennifer/Jordan from OASIS to get DV shelter info for PIT/HIC for regional DV count.
- HMIS reporting: System Performance Measures (SPM), CAPER and LSA- finished and submitted by Shane but have not received final approval from HUD for SPM or LSA. CAPER was completed by the state and submitted in SAGE Recent information on LSA data being

absorbed into Stella P for reporting and graphing capabilities. In NC- SPM allowed a second submission due to software issue with vendor. For NW- re-ran and no changes were necessary.

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

- The NC HMIS Governance Committee has established a Data Workgroup to work on establishing data request policy and procedures, a Data Use Agreement, and scoring tool for NC HMIS combined data requests. Each of the documents will be ready to present at the April GC meeting for CoC consideration. The Data Request protocol will help streamline the process and expedite requests for de-identified aggregate data reports. The group is also working on implementation of the NC HMIS data linkage project over the next 18 months.
- The GC is looking at hiring a consultant to help the GC form a strategic plan for the implementation. The first meeting is this Thursday. There was a surplus in the NC HMIS budget because COVID limited travel/staff gap, etc. for this FY. Any ideas from the NW CoC on areas that should be considered are welcome. Tina Krause put forth the idea of an annual report for the implementation as a whole and then for individual CoCs. MCAH prepares this type of report for Michigan. Essentially, a glimpse of the NW CoC data and a full picture for the implementation and potentially the state. Please give us suggestions for things to consider.

- **Other Business:**

- Reminder to share COVID-19 vaccine clinic sites with agencies across the region. The NW CoC can send out information provided by agencies to the CoC list-serve.
- ESG-CV (Round 1 and 2): Agencies that were awarded funding have not received the amended contract for Round 2 but ESG-CV funded projects are moving forward. Some information on the status of the amendments is coming out of the ESG office in the weekly updates- please make sure you read them for important information.
- Jennifer Herman would like to schedule some time with Hospitality House administrative staff to get guidance from the ESG office on eligible costs under ESG-CV 2 and 1. Questions to resolve are the period of use for the funds, overhead expenditures, etc. Some previous emails with the ESG office can be shared in advance that have provided some guidance.
- Marnie and Christiana worked with the ESG office to expand the eligibility of 'at risk' of homelessness under 1c for current lease holders. Eligibility is now 21 days before the 'right to occupy' terminates- not at actual eviction. This gives the program the ability to 'cure' a deficiency contained in the notice from the Landlord before an action in summary ejection is filed and will provide additional time to work with clients whose housing is at risk.
- Outreach update: Logan is continuing to work with the unsheltered population across the region. Have intake process to get initial information quickly then continue follow-ups. If you are aware of any unsheltered persons, contact Logan directly. There will be a dedicated phone line set up for the Street Outreach program later this week at the Den Mac building.
- The Emergency Shelter at Hospitality House is at capacity, but bed turnover is occurring as persons are moving out of ES into housing. The Housing Authority is working to renew any expired vouchers for residents after the 90 days lapse since housing is hard to locate. This has helped people find housing and move from the shelter.
- Michelle Grit and Tina Krause will meet with DANA this Friday to work to bring the DV agency into the NWCoC and provide support. OASIS will support DANA expansion for Wilkes and Alleghany and form a partnership to close the gap in emergency shelter that resulted when the Wilkes shelter closed. Have talked to DANA Executive Director about expansion and coordination in area. DANA has two staff in Wilkes and 5 in Alleghany. Have 13 beds in Alleghany shelter but the Wilkes shelter will remain closed at this time.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC at NWAHA April 20, 2021 at 9:30 am [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) [+1 828-552-4129](#) United States, Asheville (Toll), Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 9:30am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Tina Krause: Executive Director; Hospitality House of Northwest NC
Shane Johnson: Grants Director, 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
Michelle Grit: Executive Director, OASIS, Inc.
Jennifer Herman: Programs Director, OASIS, Inc.
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager; OASIS, Inc.
Gillian Hampton: NC DHHS, Targeted Housing Stabilization Coordinator
Corry Dauderman: Mayland Community Service Center

● **Welcome & Agency Updates**

Michelle Grit: OASIS has now hired two people to do the ESG-CV funded outreach positions (Liz Hemby and Callie Koeval). The OASIS Emergency Shelter currently has some space available for those fleeing domestic violence. There is one opening at the OASIS PSH. High Country United Way has given grant for housing assistance for Avery County. High Country Health has also granted funds for dental/health needs for Avery and Watauga residents.

Jorden Edmisten: Housing Manager at OASIS- please contact for any housing questions/referrals for those persons fleeing domestic violence.

Jennifer Herman: Program Coordinator at OASIS would like to remind everyone that OASIS provides a Spanish language interpreter line (24/7) that can be utilized by providers. Spanish Crisis Line: (828) 504-0800.

Lori Watts: VAYA Health serves 27 counties in WNC and is the LME/MCO for this region. VAYA offers one-time housing assistance program that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance. Funding for this program is available until June 30, 2021 or until the fund is depleted. To date, VAYA has spent approximately 88% of funding for this fiscal year. Providers must make the referral directly for the program. VAYA anticipates further funding next FY to operate the one-time assistance program. VAYA staff were recently informed they may move back to more office time once NC's Emergency order is fully lifted- possibly by late summer.

Kim Cashatt: Northwest Regional Housing Authority (NWRHA), Housing Sufficiency Coordinator. NWRHA offers Section 8 vouchers and some home ownership counseling. NWRHA is a certified HUD housing counselor and offers some support for low income households in foreclosure. NWRHA facilitates a housing coalition meeting for Avery/Ashe/Mitchell counties and encourage interested persons/agency representatives to join meeting. There is no change in hours for NWRHA business offices at this time. Offices remain closed to the public, but staff are working remotely and honoring appointments. Contact Kim Cashatt for information on NWRHA programs or for information on how to attend the housing coalition meeting.

Gillian Hampton: NC DHHS Targeted Housing Stabilization program assists qualifying households where the head of household has a disabling condition. Have questions concerning new Housing Coordination office listed in the proposed NC budget. Received email on the proposal

which listed personnel and the HMIS implementation involvement/licenses. The proposed budget has not passed but information on the new Housing Coordination office is circulating in several areas across the state.

Marnie Slawson: The Prevention and Diversion Program at Hospitality House is working with participants in several counties across the CoC. The CDC Moratorium has been extended until June 30, 2021 which has created issues for some participants to qualify for Prevention assistance until then. The Prevention project can serve other households who meet the 'at risk definition' or those tenants whose LL will not renew the lease at the end of the lease term. Have several households currently enrolled and working with others on eligibility/assessments. Available to answer questions or provide information on the Homelessness Prevention/Diversion program.

Graham Doege-Osler: The extension of the CDC Moratorium is making it difficult to find housing and several units that were supposed to turn over tenants this month did not because of the extension. Working with Project Lazarus out of Wilkes who has been locating housing for their clients/making referrals for RRH assessments. Currently working with a new LL that is amenable to working with RRH participants and has offered a unit for August. Looking for referrals and affordable housing units or interested landlords- please contact Graham.

Tina Krause: Hospitality House is seeing an increase in people from outside the region seeking shelter- 3/5 people per night. Official Winter Shelter will only be in operation until April 30, 2021 then the facility will move to overflow shelter after WS closes. For the PSH programs, Hospitality House has one unit open in Wilkes at Scattered Site and one at Wintergreen (efficiency unit). Please refer those individuals/households that need assessment to Harley for that program if not on the By-Name List. Have availability in TS/PH-RRH program for those that have that need immediate placement in TS for safety or RRH housing placement assistance. COVID response- approximately 60% of the population at the emergency shelter have been vaccinated and most of the PSH program participants. Hospitality House has no plans to change COVID protocol because of variants. Watauga has reported some COVID cases in those that have been vaccinated but have not confirmed whether it is one of the variants.

Corry Dauberman: Mayland Community Service Center is new to the Continuum of Care meeting. They have created their organizational documents and have a meeting with AMY foundation later today for possible funding. Corry would love to collaborate with area providers/the CoC to get more services in Mitchell county area. The Spruce Pine Motel, which Corry is managing, is currently housing many who are at risk of homelessness. The organization is currently looking for space- potentially for shelter/administration to house the organization. There are some properties in review but it is still uncertain about where that will go. Have many partners and looking to expand stakeholders/funding to expand program and services for this part of the region.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- CoC 2021 NOFA project renewal: Registration for 2021 NOFA is now complete-have not seen any additional information by HUD or the GIW review for this year. HUD has stated that the NOFA should keep approximately the same schedule as 2019 (late June-early July for release). HUD stated that the 2020 renewal grants are coming directly from the field office. The NW CoC has not yet been contacted by their HUD field officer about renewals for 2020.
- PIT/HIC: HUD has opened HDX for PIT/HIC reporting. Small extension for this year's submission due to issues with HDX and the unsheltered count for 2021. PIT/HIC submission is now due May 14, 2021. There is an open office hour webinar on PIT/HIC this afternoon.
- Graham: The CDC Moratorium is creating issues in housing turnover- have 3 households RRH were getting ready to place in units but now those current residents are not moving out

so RRH placements are at a standstill until other units can be located. Have some LL recruitment going on to try and help increase housing stock.

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

- The NC HMIS Governance Committee (GC) met last Monday. The NC 516 HMIS bill will be decreasing this calendar year due to some funding from ESG that went to some costs incurred by the NC HMIS implementation. The additional funding decreased the monthly license/fee costs for NC 516 and any of the other CoCs who opted in for this additional funding.
- The GC is meeting later this month to make recommendations for initiatives to spend down excess funds in the 20221 budget. Costs were down from the projected budget due to travel restrictions from COVID and an open position left unfilled for several months. Decisions will be announced at the next NC 516 meeting.
- The GC Data Workgroup, now an official subcommittee, is working on a data request policy and procedures, a Data Use Agreement, and scoring tool for NC HMIS to use for combined data requests. Each of the final draft documents will be ready to present at the May GC meeting for CoC consideration. The Data Request protocol will help streamline data requests to the implementation for robust data studies and expedite requests for de-identified aggregate data reports received by NC HMIS. The group is also working on implementation of the NC HMIS data linkage project over the next 18 months.

- **Other Business:**

- High Country Health is offering free retinal screenings this Friday (4.16.2021). Call High Country Health to make appointment.
- The NC 516 Lead will be sending out a desk monitoring checklist next week. Any questions on the applicability of the CoC or ESG waivers, please contact Christiana. HUD is presenting on Friday during the HUD Open Office Hours on upcoming monitoring for this year. Will incorporate any relevant information presented into the checklist for agencies to use.
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month- OASIS has some information/merchandise to distribute to raise awareness. Boone Shine active bystander training starts tonight and is COVID safe. “Take Back the Night” is also occurring on ASU campus.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC at **NWHA May 18, 2021 at 9:30 am** [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) [+1 828-552-4129](#) United States, Asheville (Toll), Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 10:00am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Tina Krause: Executive Director; Hospitality House of Northwest NC
Shane Johnson: Grants Director, 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
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager; OASIS, Inc.
Jessica Rice: Veteran's Services Coordinator; ABCCM
Gillian Hampton: Targeted Housing Stabilization Coordinator; NC DHHS
David Barr: Housing Manager; Easter Seals
Holly Robinson: Watauga Center Director; Daymark Recovery
Mathew Lucas: Executive Director; Quiet Givers
Kecia Robinson: Coordinated Entry Specialist; VAMC Salisbury

• **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Kecia Robinson: The Salisbury VAMC is working on opening access more which was restricted due to COVID-19. The VAMC has HUD VASH and SSVF for qualifying Veteran's if the household is willing to relocate to the area surrounding the VAMC. Salisbury also offers Transitional housing for Veterans. Continuing to offer vaccines. Cover, Ashe Alleghany and Wilkes. For more information or a referral, contact Kecia Robinson - Salisbury VA Medical Center 704-267-7828 or kecia.robinson@va.gov

Mathew Lucas: Quiet Givers has deplete their COVID funds. There is still some funding available in the Home for the Holidays program for rental/utility assistance. There has been an increase in requests for assistance to locate affordable housing- some households have vouchers but cannot locate housing. Quiet Givers does not have the resources to do housing search/navigation.

Jorden Edmisten: The OASIS Emergency Shelter (ES) is currently full but OASIS is using ESG-CV for short term hotel stays for people seeking ES. OASIS ESG-CV can provide up to a 30 day hotel stay in Watauga, Avery, Alleghany, and Wilkes for people fleeing intimate partner violence or sex trafficking. OASIS can potentially provide a longer stay in one of our satellite units in Watauga or Avery and are working on getting more satellite units, but right now that is a limited resource. OASIS is concentrating on outreach to hoteliers to secure additional rooms. There will be a PSH unit coming up in June, but the Transitional Housing Project is at capacity. For other program information, contact ESG Outreach Advocate: Liz Hemby (she/hers) lhemby@oasisinc.org or ESG Outreach Coordinator: Callie Koeval (she/hers) ckoeval@oasisinc.org

Kim Cashatt: NWRHA has notified HUD of their acceptance of 44 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) which will be available July 1, 2021. NWRHA will coordinate EHV with the Northwest CoC. Currently, the administrative offices are seeing clients by apt. 8:30-3 daily. Offices remain closed to the public, but staff are working remotely and honoring all appointments. Contact Kim Cashatt for information on NWRHA programs or for information on how to attend the housing coalition meeting.

Graham Doege-Osler: The RRH program is actively seeking available units. Working on securing two 2bd./bath in Wilkesboro and trying to work with LL to resolve barriers. LL states that tenant must have SSI/SSDI or three months of pay stubs which is becoming standard request for many units.

Working on LL recruitment of Albert Brown Enterprises for potential unit inventory. The extension of the CDC Moratorium is making it difficult to find housing and several units that were supposed to turn over tenants did not because of the extension. Working with Project Lazarus out of Wilkes who has been locating housing for their clients/making referrals for RRH assessments. If aware of affordable housing units or interested landlords- please contact Graham.

Lori Watts: VAYA Health serves 27 counties in WNC and is the LME/MCO for this region. VAYA offers one-time housing assistance program that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance. Funding for this program is winding down (maybe 10 more requests) and is available until June 30, 2021 or until the fund is depleted. Revising many plans at VAYA which may change how assistance is provided next FY. To date, VAYA has spent approximately 88% of funding for this fiscal year. Providers must make the referral directly for the program. VAYA anticipates further funding next FY to operate the one-time assistance program.

Marnie Slawson: The Homelessness Prevention and Diversion program is still doing intakes for those at risk of homelessness. Households must not be protected by moratorium to qualify. Looking for housing for a few families who must vacate current housing. The HOPE program is supposed to reopen this week which is a resource for rental assistance that can assist those that are covered by the moratorium that owe arrears. The CDC Moratorium has been extended until June 30, 2021 which has created issues for some participants to qualify for Prevention assistance until then. The Prevention project can serve other households who meet the 'at risk definition' or those tenants whose LL will not renew the lease at the end of the lease term. Have several households currently enrolled and working with others on eligibility/assessments. Available to answer questions or provide information on the Homelessness Prevention/Diversion program.

David Barr: Ashe currently has three openings and Easter Seals has hired a new manager- Bobby Joe George. There are three openings in Wilkesboro and there are some applicants but waiting for some supporting documentation before placement. Lenior has one opening, and Boone is full. Referrals must have Medicaid and/or have income within limits. Group Home may have one opening. Call Carl if need more information. Bobette George, Residential Site Manager-CAC Of Ashe Co./Burkett Apts. In West Jefferson, NC 28694. Ph: 336-219-0038 Cell# 828-406-6852. Email: bobette.george@eastersealsucp.com

Holy Robinson: Daymark Recovery has openings in the supportive employment program (education/employment assistance/support). Daymark also has enlisted staff from the Peer Support program for housing search/navigation.

Gillian Hampton: COVID restrictions lifting has led to LL's doing inspections of units and some clients are having difficulty meeting standards. There is still have no further information about changes to NC DHHS discussed at last month's meeting. The NC DHHS Targeted Housing Stabilization program can assist qualifying households where the head of household has a disabling condition with housing support. Contact Gillian for more information.

Jessica Rice: ABCCM for Veteran Services will join the NC 516 meetings. ABCCM can provide supportive services and housing options for qualifying Veteran's in NC 516. Laurie and Joey are assigned to assist in this area. Please contact Jessica Rice 855-962-8387 vsc@abccm.org for more information.

Tina Krause: Executive Director/CoC Lead. Hospitality House has closed Winter Shelter operations for the season and moving some people to ES overflow on a night by night basis. Have some Combined Component/TS-RRH openings, agencies may contact Sonya Hamby for more information. For PSH, (Scattered Site, Rock Haven, Hard to Serve and Wintergreen), there is one opening at HH PSH and another unit at Wintergreen. CE staff are reviewing BNL for placement.

The Hospitality House COVID protocol was engaged Thursday as the first positive case in house was detected. The Health Dept. is doing full rapid testing on site, other positives were detected. HH has converted the family wing to isolation/quarantine but 15 will be the max for quarantining. There is a volunteer physician coming on site. All staff are vaccinated. Testing unsheltered people who access services at HH but restricting interior access. Have placed one family in a hotel with small children.

Approximately 60% of the population at the emergency shelter have been vaccinated and most of the PSH program participants. Hospitality House has no plans to change COVID protocol because of variants. Watauga has reported some COVID cases in those that have been vaccinated but have not confirmed whether it is one of the variant strains. There is still vaccine hesitancy in some of the population. Outreach staff are working with those persons to provide information and resources to assist with questions they may have.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- The NW CoC has not yet been contacted by their HUD field officer about renewals for 2020. VAYA received their CoC renewal contracts last week. The local office has also now opened up APR's to review status all at once rather than one at a time as was practice in all previous years.
- CoC 2021 NOFA: Registration/Review for 2021 NOFA is complete but no additional information by HUD on the 2021 competition or the GIW review for this year has been released. HUD has stated that the NOFA should keep approximately the same schedule as 2019 (late June-early July).
- PIT/HIC: NC 516 has successfully submitted the PIT/HIC on time though an extension was available for this year's submission until May 18, 2021 due to issues with HDX on the due date. Factors that affected the NW count included; the CDC moratorium, weather on night of PIT/HIC, and a decrease in agencies participating due to COVID. The overall numbers dropped this year because COVID affected bed utilization due to social distancing requirements, especially in TS/ES. Northwest anticipates many questions from HUD TA about our submission- methodology notes are solid but Northwest anticipates review/questions.
- NC 516 reporting for Wintergreen is not due as a result of the grant's 90 day extension. The Rock Haven APR is due in July 2021. The NC 516 System Performance and LSA have all been submitted.

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

- Annual process of renewing contracts with MCAH for NC HMIS is almost finalized. NC HMIS Finance Committee will have final budget meeting this week, the Governance Committee will vote, then will get contract/scope of work with MCAH completed and draft contracts sent out. Northwest may need to send it out for review and vote for approval before end of contract year.
- The NC HMIS Governance Committee (GC) met last Monday. The NC 516 HMIS bill will be decreasing this calendar year due to some funding from ESG that went to some costs incurred by the NC HMIS implementation. The additional funding decreased the monthly license/fee costs for NC 516 and any of the other CoCs who opted in for this additional funding.
- NC HMIS Governance Committee is conducting an annual review for the NC HMIS Project Manager. The GC has this responsibility even though the Project Manager is employed by the United Way.

ESG-CV Update

- OASIS and Hospitality House have hired Outreach staff with ESG-CV funds.
- ESG-CV RRH eligibility waiver published in April allows persons who were recently literally homeless, housed, and then provided short term financial assistance that is exhausted, can now be eligible for RRH. For example, a prior participant in SSVF who maximized the term, may be eligible to enroll in RRH without exiting housing.

- **Other Business:**

The ESG Office sent out a survey on CoC engagement with PHAs on the new Emergency Housing Vouchers available. Responses are requested by tomorrow at noon. Questions:

- Have you been in contact with the PHA?
- Are they going to accept the vouchers they have been offered?
- Will there be a priority for who gets the vouchers? Will those on the waiting list be contacted directly, and do they have to go back through the CE process to specifically apply for these vouchers?

A draft of responses will be sent out for review/comment and feedback prior to being submitted to the ESG Office.

- The NC 516 Lead sent out a desk monitoring checklist/case management review tools for CoC funded agencies. Please return by June 30. Please contact Christiana with any questions on the desk review tools or if there are any questions on the applicability of the CoC or ESG waivers for grantees/sub-recipients, please contact Christiana.
- The Bringing It HOME Conference is scheduled for June 8 and 9, 2021. This year it is 2 half days, virtual, and is free. Hospitality House will be featured in the Spend/Spend/Spend webinar on creative spending and has submitted a video for the webinar.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC at **NWHA June 15, 2021 at 10:00 am** [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) [+1 828-552-4129](tel:+18285524129) United States, Asheville (Toll), Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwestern Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday June 15, 2021 10:00 AM
Meeting Log in Below**

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

- **COC Planning**
 - **HUD NOFA Update**

- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS updates**
- **2021-22 MCAH Contract**
 - Projected Annual NC 516 Costs \$7410.30

- **COVID Relief State and Federal Grant Updates**
 - **Bring it Home Conference – Recap**
 - **Rapid Re-Rehousing Prevention and Outreach Updates**

- **Other Business**

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - **NWCoC – July 20 at 10am**

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

Reminder the meeting starts at 10 am this Tuesday

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

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

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Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 10:00am
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
Logan Shaut: Street Outreach and Engagement Coordinator; Hospitality House
Lori Watts: Housing Specialist; VAYA Health
Kim Cashatt: Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator; Northwestern Regional Housing Authority
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager; OASIS, Inc.
Callie Koeval: Outreach Coordinator; OASIS, Inc.
Liz Hemby: Outreach Coordinator; OASIS, Inc.
Gillian Hampton: Targeted Housing Stabilization Coordinator; NC DHHS
David Barr: Housing Manager; Easter Seals
Mathew Lucas: Executive Director; Quiet Givers
Kecia Robinson: Coordinated Entry Specialist; VAMC Salisbury

● **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Graham Doege Ogler: Identified organization called "Sister Helping Sister" on Facebook who recently worked with a household in WeCan to identify housing unit. RRH placed 2 households this month. There were two openings at Finnley Apartments and was able to place a household there. Continuing to look for available units.

Callie Koeval: ESG-CV Outreach Coordinator. OASIS has two new positions to support outreach to victims of DV and human trafficking-Outreach and engagement and Emergency Shelter it has been implementing for past few months. OASIS has referral process to ensure smooth transition between the two activities and will share information with CoC. OASIS will outreach to those that may not otherwise seek help in the area. Currently working to secure more hotels rooms. The length of stay in ES is determined by client needs, when appropriate hotel placements are being utilized as a bridge to PH. Contact Callie at ckoeval@oasisinc.org

Liz Hemby: OASIS ESG-CV Outreach Coordinator is extending services to clients who are difficult to reach/ reluctant to seek help that must be actively fleeing DV or human trafficking. OASIS can provide temporary stay at non-congregate shelter/case management, basic needs, then transition to housing placement. Working with DANA in Wilkes and Alleghany to provide ES/hotel stays but DANA is providing the case management for those clients. OASIS outreach can provide transportation assistance, MH services, and coordination of care. Contact Liz at lhemby@oasisinc.org

Michelle Grit: OASIS has some openings in Emergency Shelter. Continuing to expnd services and shelter options. OASIS just hired a children's coordinator in June and has three bi-lingual staff on board to assist LEP Spanish speaking clients. Can work with partnering agencies to provide interpreter services if needed. On July 9 and 10th, Faith Action I.D. Drive is being held. The Outreach Coordinator/ESG Coordinator will be there for the event.

Logan Shaut: Street Outreach and Engagement Coordinator works with literally homeless unsheltered individuals and families and those in the in Night by Night shelter. Working with LEO's to identify campsites and individuals who are unsheltered to outreach those that are least likely to seek services. Can offer transportation to MH/Primary Health and connection to mainstream resources. Expanding

how street outreach can engage in other counties across region. Contact Logan for referrals:
loganshaut@hosphouse.org

Kim Cashatt: NWRHA has notified HUD of their acceptance of 44 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) for homeless/at risk of homelessness households that were made available by the American Rescue plan. NWRHA will coordinate the EHV program with the Northwest CoC and is required to enter into a MOU with the Northwest CoC to coordinate new EHV program. Will finalize MOU with CoC by July 1, 2021, then enter into agreement with Hospitality House to provide housing search/navigation and case management for EHV participants. The CoC must maintain a separate by-name list for EHV and participants will go through CE. Currently, the administrative offices are seeing clients by apt. 8:30-3 daily. Offices remain closed to the public, but staff are working remotely and honoring all appointments. Contact Kim Cashatt for information on NWRHA programs.

Matt Lucas: Quiet Givers just received a \$30,000 grant for COVID relief and will provide funding for utilities, rent, basic needs, etc. Area agencies can become referring partner by submitting needs request through online portal. Quiet Givers can fill most requests within 24 hours. Up to \$500 per household, anything in excess of \$500 requires board approval. Contact/online portal available at QuietGivers.org

Marnie Slawson: The Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Program is working with several households eligible for assistance. Currently looking for housing for a family of 3, another household moved into a unit this month, and another should move in to a unit in the next few weeks. These households were not covered by the CDC moratorium. On Friday, the NC Executive Order which included an eviction moratorium, was extended one more month. The CDC order has not been extended as of today. Still taking referrals for those not covered by moratorium or those 'at risk' of homelessness under the HUD definition.

Lori Watts: The VAYA one-time housing assistance program that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance may have used all the funding for this FY. Expectation is VAYA will receive funding in July for the program. However, Medicaid transformation may affect how this project is run. Attended a presentation on Medicaid transformation hosted by Pisgah Legal Services that was very informative and will share PowerPoint with the CoC members. Will mention that Medicaid direct moving to tailored plans next year for those with severe SU/MH, /IDD or recent hospitalizations in past 18 months (particularly for MH), or two or more visits to ED or involuntarily committed. If people are enrolled in standard plan that need Medicaid Direct, they can request change. Enrollment finishing up and will go live July 1, 2021. Will keep sharing information regarding this significant change that affects many clients served by the Northwest CoC.

David Barr: The Easter Seals Boone location is full, but may have an opening soon. Ashe currently has three openings, moving one in this month and we have two bedroom apartments available at that location. Wilkes, Henrietta we are moving one household in, another from VAYA we are just starting- may move one from there to W. Jefferson location if appropriate. The Lenior location has one opening- and Morganton is currently full. The group home in W. Jefferson has one opening and requires the placement be a Medicaid recipient.

Gillian Hampton: We have an all staff meeting tomorrow with Division of Aging/Adult Services. Have seen increase in notice to vacate- have to weed through that. Property managers are getting clever at working around the moratorium. Looking for ways to incentivize accepting Section 8 vouchers and need ways to better inform clients about the benefits of transition from state program to federal program. It is difficult to get clients to fill out the necessary paperwork as they are afraid to start process. Looking for any models/guidance on appropriate language to help people understand benefit. The NC DHHS Targeted Housing Stabilization program can assist qualifying households where the head of household has a disabling condition with housing support. Contact Gillian for more information.

Kecia Robinson: The Salisbury VAMC is working on opening building access more which was restricted due to COVID-19. The Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes area of NC 516 is in the catchment for services for Salisbury VA. Eligible Veterans from Charlotte can port to Statesville. Not all Vets are

eligible for HUD VASH however due to discharge or other factors, but there is going to be expanded eligibility soon and we will watch for guidance. Looking forward to seeing more activity than we have in the past year. The VAMC currently has HUD VASH and SSVF for qualifying Veteran's if the household is willing to relocate to the area surrounding the VAMC. For more information or a referral, contact Kecia Robinson - Salisbury VA Medical Center 704-267-7828 or kecia.robinson@va.gov. For more information or a referral, contact Kecia Robinson - Salisbury VA Medical Center 704-267-7828 or kecia.robinson@va.gov

Tina Krause: Executive Director/CoC Lead: Hospitality House has been working daily with the Watauga Health Department on an active COVID cluster at the main facility. HH has had 21 people over past few weeks in quarantine. Testing every Tuesday on site. If there are no new positives this week, may be cleared to fully open by next week. Hotels rooms could not be secured, so we quarantined at HH and had volunteer medical come on site to assist. Some staff learned basic medical care as well which was helpful, and only one of the people was actually hospitalized. Most of those that tested positive had received the vaccine which reduced risk/complications of virus. There was either a breakthrough or a variant but that has not been determined. The vaccine reduced symptoms, regardless. We are excepting people in the night-by night shelter but they must get tested prior to admission. If a quarantine room is available, we have them placed there until negative test comes back. We currently have 8 children that have entered with their families in recent weeks which is unusual for this time of year. Have a PT therapist position open at Hospitality House and that position will be located at the Den Mac building. We also have an executive assistant position open as well. Looking for a solid candidate for that position. There are no PSH openings at this time. One PSH placement only has to complete paperwork and then will move into a unit in the Hard to Serve Project.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- CoC 2021 NOFA: Registration/Review for 2021 NOFA was complete and the GIW review and change form for Wintergreen was submitted by the deadline. There is no additional information from HUD on the 2021 competition but HUD has stated that the NOFA should keep approximately the same schedule as 2019 (late June-early July) and indicated on Friday's call the NOFA should be released in a few weeks. Esnaps will open shortly thereafter. If the release occurs by the end of July, the Consolidated Application should be due by end of September.
- CoC Contract Renewals FY2020. Hospitality House some renewals notices this week and is gathering paperwork for match and the Environmental Review requirements to submit. Wintergreen still not on GIW for 2021 but submitted change form again to CPD.

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

- Governance Committee (GC) met and approved contract/MOU and Scope of Work. Now up to individual CoC's to approve. No major changes in cost share for the Northwest CoC. Some adjustments to cost share did reduce costs to Northwest for 2021-22. State ESG office award offsets cost for licenses/data management.
- Annual process of renewing contracts with MCAH for NC HMIS is almost finalized. NC HMIS Finance Committee will have final budget meeting this week, the Governance Committee will vote, then will get contract/scope of work with MCAH completed and the draft contracts will be sent out. Northwest may need to send it out for review and vote for approval before end of this contract year.
- Data Committee released draft Data Use agreement for approval/comment to GC. The Data use Agreement will help define the scope and nature of use for data for the full implementation.

ESG Update

- o Bringing It Home Conference- The Bringing It Home Conference was held on June 8 and 9, 2021. This year, the conference was held virtually over two half days and was free. Hospitality House (HH) was featured in the Spend/Spend/Spend webinar on creative spending and submitted a video for the webinar. A fair number of HH staff and OASIS staff attended so there was a strong showing from Northwest. Links will be available soon on the website for those sessions people could not attend. Staff from HH attended the Landlord recruitment, Housing First, Diversion/Street Outreach and Policy Update as well as Spend/Spend/Spend, which featured Hospitality House as well as the Wake CoC. OASIS had all ESG staff and Supervisors attend the conference and dispersed staff to cover every session. Lori Watts also attended Racial Equity and the Policy Update. During Policy Update, Christiana asked about Housing Committee proposal in the Governor's budget and got insight on the proposal- not likely to be approved by General Assembly, especially with issues surrounding the HOPE program.
 - o The Northwest CoC needs a Housing Search and Housing Navigator for area. The new EHV vouchers require housing search assistance. There are some LL incentives available in ESG and because of Medicaid expansion, other incentives/funds may be available. Housing Search is a requirement of the EHV, so one option may be for any units that cannot pass HQS inspection without significant work but may still pass ESG minimum habitability, could be passed down to RRH/Prevention or conversely, if units are above rent reasonable but below 120% FMR, RRH/Prevention could refer the units up to EHV. This type of collaboration/information sharing may help generate unit list and reduce redundancy in the housing search process for all programs.
 - o OASIS has questions regarding ESG-CV eligible costs and how to spend down the funding. HH and OASIS staff are currently attending an ESG Technical Assistance call held on Tuesday afternoons but would like to brainstorm with other recipients on questions/concerns. The ESG requisition forms are confusing and difficult to navigate but the ESG office has made some changes recently to forms.
- **Other Business:**
 - o American Rescue Plan Funding- Avery will receive approximately 3 million, Watauga 10 million. Local recovery funds availability and list of acceptable activities should be posted on county websites. The Northwest CoC should get together and discuss opportunities, collaborate with one another, and pass on information.
 - o The NC 516 Lead sent out desk monitoring checklist/case management review tools for CoC funded agencies. Please return by June 30. Please contact Christiana with any questions on the desk review tools or if there are any questions on the applicability of the CoC or ESG waivers for grantees/sub-recipients.
 - **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC at **NWHA , July 20, 2021 at 10:00 am**
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll),
 Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
RRH Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 10:00am
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
Logan Shaut: Street Outreach and Engagement Coordinator; Hospitality House
Lori Watts: Housing Specialist; VAYA Health
Kim Cashatt: Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator; Northwestern Regional Housing Authority
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager; OASIS, Inc.
Gillian Hampton: Targeted Housing Stabilization Coordinator; NC DHHS
Jessica Rice: Veteran Services of the Carolinas, ABCCM
Jesse Boeckermann: Western Region Director; Catholic Charities of WNC

● **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Jordan Edmisten: OASIS emergency shelter is at capacity. OASIS has one opening in PSH and is taking referrals through the parallel CE system. Continuing to do outreach and engagement. Working to support DANA in Wilkes and Alleghany counties.

Lori Watts: Housing Specialist with VAYA. The VAYA one-time housing support assistance program that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance received funding for the 2021-22 FY. Providers may contact Lori Watts for guidance on submitting the referral forms. Current Providers who can refer for assistance in NWCoC area are RHA, Daymark, Project Lazarus, and Infinite Beginnings, Pinnacle Therapeutic. The move to Medicaid Standard plans changes access to 1-time assistance funding. Those who are state funded for services or considered Medicaid Direct can still have their providers refer for assistance. Those who have moved to Medicaid Standard plans can no longer receive assistance. VAYA officially re-opened offices after the July 4, 2021 holiday. Approximately 80% of the VAYA workforce have elected to work from home and not return to the regular office, though some staff in offices and permanently home-based can now travel into the field to meet with members and community stakeholders. VAYA is hosting a Provider/Learning Summit 7/20-7/21/21 with the plenary session was held this morning. Topics for the Provider Summit include State of Vaya, Medicaid Transformation with DHHS Deputy Secretary Dave Richard, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Trends, Care Management Agency and Advanced Medical Home, Provider Interface Changes, Integrating Care, Provider Prospective. Topics for the Learning Summit include Whole Health for Whole Populations: Clinical, Community and Public Health Partnerships, Enhancing Member Experience in Managed Care, Behavioral Health in Pandemic Recovery, and Trauma-Informed Language in the Workplace. An announcement from the state on which LME/MCO's have been awarded Tailored Plan Waivers has not yet occurred. Announcement from DHHS is expected next week. Tailored Plans will go into effect 7/1/2022, a year after the Standard Plans went into effect 7/1/2021. VAYA Health and Cardinal Innovations are working on a consolidation agreement that will bring these LME/MCOs together by Spring of 2022. Attended a presentation on Medicaid transformation hosted by Pisgah Legal Services' Medicaid Ombudsman that was very informative and will share PowerPoint with the CoC members. Medicaid direct is moving to tailored plans next year for those with severe SU/MH, IDD or recent hospitalizations in past 18 months (particularly for MH), or two or more visits to ED or for those involuntarily committed. If people are enrolled in a standard plan that need Medicaid Direct, they can request a change through 9/30/21. As information on these changes roll out, will keep sharing information regarding Medicaid transformation that affects many served by the Northwest CoC.

Kim Cashatt: NWRHA has notified HUD of their acceptance of 44 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) for homeless/at risk of homelessness/DV/SSA and the recently homeless households that were made available by the American Rescue Plan. NWRHA will coordinate the EHV program with the Northwest CoC and Hospitality House and is required to enter into a MOU with the Northwest CoC for the new EHV program. NWRHA is currently reviewing the HCV wait list, then will refer those that initially appear to meet eligibility criteria to CE, CE staff will determine eligibility and prioritization, and then work with HH to get EHV from NWRHA and conduct housing search and provide voluntary case management. EHV's offer more opportunities for housing assistance for those that face barriers than the regular HCV but there is still limited housing in the area available. The NWCoC will maintain a separate by-name list for EHV and all participants will go through CE. Currently, the NWRHA administrative offices are seeing clients by appointment 8:30-3 daily. Offices remain closed to the public, but staff are working remotely and honoring all appointments. Contact Kim Cashatt for information on NWRHA programs.

Gillian Hampton: Division of Aging and Adult Services with DHHS-Transition to Community Living. The NC DHHS Targeted Housing Stabilization program can assist qualifying households where the head of household has a disabling condition with housing support. Contact Gillian Hampton for more information.

Marnie Slawson: The Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Program is preparing for the eviction moratorium to end. Taking referrals now. Two households were placed in permanent housing. One client worked with LL to remain in current housing and are working with several households eligible for assistance. Currently looking for housing for a family of 3, another household moved into a unit this month, and another should move in to a unit in the next few weeks. These households were not covered by the CDC moratorium. On Friday, the NC Executive Order which included an eviction moratorium, ended. The CDC moratorium will expire July 31, 2021 and will not be extended again.

Graham Doege-Ogler: Currently working with literally homeless households enrolled in RRH. Have one lease signing tomorrow and was contacted by a landlord about possible efficiency unit for the program, a 2 bedroom unit, and possibly a third unit. Cutting back on LL incentives for lease-up as it is not sustainable and will only offer as last resort. Many landlords are familiar with Section 8/HCV and may be interested in the EHV program.

Jesse Boeckermann: Western Region Director of Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte serving the western region of NC. Previous work in the Continuum of Care in Charlottesville, Virginia in homeless services. Mr. Boeckermann is responsible for 12 counties that include portions of northwest NC 516. NC 516 spans 3 different coverage areas (Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and the Western Region based in Asheville) of the diocese. Catholic Charities offers food pantries, a MH/bi-lingual counselor on sliding scale that is available via Telehealth, immigration services, refugee resettlement assistance/case management (Russian and Spanish speaking case managers), a financial assistance program for burial/cremation, grief counseling, and other emergency assistance. Catholic Charities is a secular organization and all services/assistance are offered without regard to religious choice. Please contact me with questions at: jdboeckermann@charlottediocese.org and 828-820-5153.

Jessica Rice: Veterans Services of the Carolinas. Referrals 855-962-8387 vsc@abccm.org. Veteran Services offers housing assistance, case management, employment assistance. Currently have additional funding for SSVF for housing support. The VA will have some additional guidance on July 30 concerning assistance for those impacted by the end of the eviction moratorium.

Tina Krause: Executive Director/CoC Lead, Hospitality House of Northwest NC. Hospitality House (HH) is offering night by night shelter in overflow but the emergency shelter program is full. This afternoon, HH is hosting a community wide vaccination clinic starting today at 4:00 at the main facility. There will be food (Taco Tuesday), ice cream donated by Killian's, and HHS is offering a \$25 gift card if you get vaccinated today at the clinic. If you provide transportation today to the vaccination clinic, you may also receive a gift card for \$25. There has been Spanish/English advertising for this event to reach the broader community. HH has one opening at Wintergreen- PSH, two openings in PSH Scattered Site, and one unit in the Hard to Serve PSH program located at the HH main facility will soon be occupied. In the Combined Component program serving DV/SSA and

human trafficking victims, HH is continuing to work with OASIS/DANA and place households in that program once they are stable/safe to move out of emergency shelter. DANA- ES is currently closed that serves Alleghany and Wilkes, so OASIS is offering assistance until they re-open.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- Tina Krause has been asked by Joe Breen of the state ESG office, to be on a focus group for NC DHHS to develop a strategic plan for affordable housing in the state. They are looking for a few people with lived experience to answer questions about barriers/access issues to housing. The questions take approximately 1.5 hours. Tina Krause will represent for the Northwest CoC. The exact time for the meeting on Monday, July 26th, has not been set. It would be beneficial to have a victim service provider attend or NWRHA, to provide other perspectives. If you are interested on being on the call, send an email or answer in the chat box and Tina will submit email to the ESG office to extend an invitation.
- NOFA update: weekly HUD Office Hours calls have been switched to bi-weekly. The final GIW (Grant Inventory Worksheet) still has not been released. There is no additional information from HUD on the 2021 competition but if the release of the NOFA occurs by the end of July, the Consolidated Application should be due by end of September 2021.
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): The Annual ESG Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released. NC 516 has posted/circulated a request for Letters of Intent (LOI) and additional information regarding the RFP. Emails were sent to the Northwest list serve requesting the LOI and included dates for upcoming ESG webinars on the RFP. The first webinar is tomorrow. The LOI is due to Lori Watts by July 23, 2021. The RFP and other information will be posted on the Northwest webpage following closure of the LOI. NC 516 has approximately \$123,000 which is a small decrease from the normal Fair Share but the decrease was for all CoC's across the state. Project Applications are due September 15, 2021, and the Regional application is due October 1, 2021.

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

- The HMIS Governance Committee (GC) met and approved the implementation's budget, the MCAH contract/MOU, and the Scope of Work. There is a small increase in fees for Northwest but this was because of additional licenses that were purchased. Some adjustments to the cost share did reduce overall HMIS costs for Northwest for 2021-22 and ESG award for HMIS activities offsets cost for licenses/data management.
- MCAH HMIS Summit- starts on July 27th and ends on the 29th and is free. There are many great trainings to participate in on Coordinated Entry, data management, data warehousing, and advocacy all taught by staff from MCAH. HH send out email with the information to the full CoC for registration and course selections.
- The ESG-CV funding update: OASIS and HH are moving forward on different projects but both now have in place outreach coordinators. Currently looking at office space in Wilkes for access point expansion with OASIS and other providers for the new resource center so multiple agencies could have meeting place for services/client meetings. The space is in the west area of Wilkesboro, very accessible, and near the free dental clinic/greenway and Daymark Recovery.
- RRH-Prevention have already given updates but the Outreach worker is building his program participant's list and will be working tonight at the vaccination clinic.
- OASIS outreach workers have been having some issues conducting targeted outreach to domestic violence victims because of the very nature of DV. OASIS is working on providing housing information which often leads to further discussion with persons who may need help.
- The HUD Data standards for 2022 have been published. MCAH is organizing a training to review, especially on gender identity/orientation processes in data collection. HH is working with TA (technical assistance) on fixing some of the issues with the SSVF program in HMIS which affects many agencies across the state.

- o The NC DV Coalition is asking for an MOU from OASIS for the EHV program participation. The Northwest CoC MOU with NWRHA includes victim service providers because NC 516 offers the parallel CE system which is not common across the state. Will share the MOU with OASIS to send to the Coalition.

- **Other Business:**

- o Watch for the ESG webinar announcement.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC at NWAHA , **August 17, 2021 at 10:00 am**
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll),
Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 10:00am
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
Logan Shaut: Street Outreach and Engagement Coordinator; Hospitality House
Lori Watts: Housing Specialist; VAYA Health
Callie Koeval: Outreach Advocate, OASIS, Inc.
Liz Hemby: Outreach Advocate, OASIS, Inc.
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager, OASIS, Inc.
Gillian Hampton: Targeted Housing Stabilization Coordinator, NC DHHS
Kecia Robinson: Coordinated Entry Specialist, Salisbury VAMC

● **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Jordan Edmisten: OASIS emergency shelter is at capacity. All permanent supportive housing units are full and ESG Outreach is reaching capacity. OASIS can deliver information/materials on programs and education on DV to anyone that requests it.

Callie Koeval- Outreach can take a few more clients. Everything is going well.

Gillian Hampton: Division of Aging and Adult Services with DHHS-Transition to Community Living. Still waiting for the NC budget to pass which may provide information on any re-organization of DHHS (policy unit, homelessness unit) and some changes directed toward TCLI project. The NC DHHS Targeted Housing Stabilization program can assist qualifying households where the head of household has a disabling condition with housing support. Contact Gillian Hampton for more information.

Lori Watts: Housing Specialist with VAYA. New fiscal year began July 1, 2021. The VAYA one-time housing support assistance program received funding that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance received funding for the 2021-22 FY. Providers may contact Lori Watts for guidance on submitting the referral forms. Current Providers who can refer for assistance in NWCOC area are RHA, Daymark, Project Lazarus, and Infinite Beginnings, Pinnacle Therapeutic. VAYA was awarded one of the tailored plan contracts that will take effect July 2022. Will provide more information when available. Proceeding with consolidation plans with Cardinal but it may be by spring of next year before complete. The merger may add additional counties east of existing VAYA coverage area. The move to Medicaid Standard plans changes access to 1-time assistance funding. Those who are state funded for services or considered Medicaid Direct can still have their providers refer for assistance. Those who have moved to Medicaid Standard plans can no longer receive assistance. As information on these changes roll out, will keep sharing information regarding Medicaid transformation that affects many served by the Northwest CoC.

Keisha Robinson- Transitional and Permanent housing available through the Salisbury VAMC. Statesville may be the closest service area and the VA can relocate veterans close to the area.

Tina Krause: Executive Director/CoC Lead, Hospitality House of Northwest NC. Hospitality House (HH) is offering COVID tests in the main facility due to recent outbreaks of Delta variant/COVID-19 in the area. Currently have isolation rooms. Due to cluster outbreaks, HH is implementing additional precautions to avoid any spread in the facility. Now have backlog of clients as congregate shelter is full. Ethan Flynn and Logan Shaut are managing the waitlist. Protocol for direct admission to CC but there is more space/unit availability in that program for initial isolation. In PSH, HH moved in an

individual to PSH Hard to Serve from Street Outreach. Have another additional unit 1 bedroom unit coming soon. There is an opening at Wintergreen which is a community living setting located in Wilkes. Currently HH is offering night by night shelter in overflow but the emergency shelter program is full. This afternoon, HH is hosting a community wide vaccination clinic starting today at 4:00 at the main facility. There will be food (Taco Tuesday), ice cream donated by Killian's, and DHHS is offering a \$25 gift card if you get vaccinated today at the clinic. If you provide transportation today to the vaccination clinic, you may also receive a gift card for \$25. There has been Spanish/English advertising for this event to reach the broader community.

Graham Doege-Osler: The RRH program has placing 6-8 participants in housing this month. Wilkes seems to have some available housing- RRH is very busy! At this time, the RRH program needs to hold off on new enrollments. Currently working with literally homeless households enrolled in RRH. Have one lease signing tomorrow and was contacted by a landlord about possible efficiency unit for the program, a 2 bedroom unit, and possibly a third unit.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- NOFA update: weekly HUD Office Hours calls have been switched to bi-weekly. The final GIW (Grant Inventory Worksheet) was released and corrections to the NC 516 GIW were finally noted. HUD said on last open office hours they anticipated release in two-three weeks of the NOFA.
- Logan Shaut: Street Outreach and Engagement has noted a lot of new campsites popping up. There was a wave in July that diminished and now again, several sites have returned in August. There are a lot of new persons/unfamiliar faces in the area. The EHV program is having some success in getting vouchers to people that would normally be denied because of their housing barriers. Have over a 100 referrals for the EHV program in just two days. Have initial intake process for eligibility that helped to cull that first wave. An assessment and homeless verification is required and we are working with NWRHA on whether a household should receive an EHV or an HCV to ensure EHV referrals can be utilized for those not eligible for a regular voucher under the homeless preference. Some larger unsheltered families with previous barriers are starting to reach out and are looking for housing.
- OASIS is also working with the EHV program- all referrals have to go through the parallel Coordinated Entry system. Participants with previous barriers that may have been denied HCV may now be eligible for an EHV.
- Marnie Slawson: The Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Program (HPDP). Working under the new CDC moratorium until October 3, 2021. Previous CDC moratorium ended July 31, 2021 but three days later, the White House announced eviction protections for counties across the country that have high incidents of COVID-19. Interactive tool that indicates were high/substantial risk of COVID-19 infections are occurring and which county may be protected under the moratorium which is updated daily based on the CDC. As a result, landlords and tenants are re-grouping and standing by. The HPDP is still taking referrals for those at risk and not protected by the moratorium. HPDP and RRH are now using a duplication of benefits form that both tenants and property managers must sign to avoid either party from receiving duplicative benefits of rental assistance.
- Graham Doege-Osler: Lots of clients going into housing 6-8 this past month. Looking for additional coordinator in to help out. Funding available.
- Hospitality House signed a lease for a new office space for Outreach and Engagement for all programs in Wilkes! The new site will be called the Housing and Outreach Center. The Den Mac will be the Watauga location and the new one is located in Wilkes County. Onsite staff can do assessments for RRH, Prevention, provide information on other assistance and will be open to other agencies to provide access point for meetings/service connection. OASIS is utilizing to meet with clients. Private entrance for safety concerns as well as a main entrance. There is adequate parking and the space is next to the hospital and Daymark Recovery. Very excited about this opportunity funded with ESG-CV grant to expand outreach to NC 516.

- **Governance Committee and NC HMIS Updates:**
 - NC 516 has completed and sent contract back to MCAH for the Northwest HMIS implementation.
 - TABLEAU training is being offered through NC HMIS at no cost to participating agencies/individuals. Please contact Tina Krause as soon as possible if you would like to participate.
 - Annual monitoring is now complete of the HMIS Lead MCAH and Wellsky the software vendor.

- **Other Business:**
 - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): The Annual ESG Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released and is posted on the Northwest CoC webpage. Webinars are all full but the ESG office will post one of the webinar recordings to their main page. The RFP and other information was posted on the Northwest webpage following closure of the request for LOI and sent out to the list serve. NC 516 has approximately \$123,000 which is a small decrease from the normal Fair Share amount but the decrease was for all CoC's across the state. Project Applications are due September 15, 2021, and the Regional application is due October 1, 2021. Contact Lori Watts for more information on the annual ESG RFP.
 - Members asked about how HH was able to secure the Den Mac building and expand shelter space at the main facility. HH acquired Den Mac with assistance from the state ESG office in December of 2020 and used CRF/Treasury funds to purchase the building and renovate old office space at existing facility into shelter units/beds. The acquisition increased capacity by 33 beds. There is a video posted that shows the work. Staff offices moved to Den Mac and the playroom, computer room, staff offices and conference room all became space for emergency shelter and isolation rooms for COVID-19.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **September 21, 2021 at 10:00 am**
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll),
 Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
PSH and CoC Programs Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 10:00am
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

Callie Koeval: Outreach Advocate, OASIS, Inc.

Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager, OASIS, Inc.

David Barr: Housing Manager, Easter Seals

- **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Kim Cashatt: No significant updates. NRHA administrative offices are open 8:30 to 3 pm and taking appointments. Moving forward with placement for HCV and EHV. EHV has backlog of referrals to CE- HH is staff is working through referrals. EHV program has 22 committed vouchers of the 44. Many referrals are eligible for both HCV and EHV (low barrier). Backlog of referrals should be minimized by the end of the week.

Lori Watts: Housing Specialist with VAYA. The VAYA one-time housing support assistance program has funding that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance received for FY2021-22. Particular increase in referrals for assistance is noted from Wilkes from the 22 service counties in VAYA catchment. Providers may contact Lori Watts for guidance on submitting the referral forms for the assistance program. Consolidation with Cardinal is in process. On Friday-staff were notified that VAYA will follow federal guidance on vaccine mandates since organization is larger than 100 employees.

Jordan Edmisten: OASIS Executive Director Michelle Grit is stepping down and leaving the High Country area. She will remain in her position for the next month during the transition. The Board is currently searching for new ED. OASIS/Michelle Grit would like to thank the CoC for working so closely with OASIS over the past few years. The NW CoC would like to acknowledge her service to the community. The OASIS emergency shelter is at capacity. All permanent supportive housing units are also full. The ESG Outreach is operating very well. OASIS can deliver information/materials on programs and education on DV to anyone that requests it. Please contact Jordan for any information.

David Barr: Easter Seals has openings in Jefferson, Wilkesboro and Boone. Easter Seals offers income based units for persons with severe and persistent mental health conditions. Program participants cannot have ACTT services. May have one unit available in West Jefferson. Easter Seals housing has same income limits (based on AMI per county) as HUD. For B3, participants must have Medicaid. David will send out screening form for application. Can request an application/information and email it back to that email or call David Barr directly for information/application assistance. David Barr ESUCP 336-817-6394. housing@eastersealsucp.com

Graham Doege-Osler: Working on landlord recruitment. Have a new LL (Blevins) that is interested in supporting program participants that has many units located in Wilkes. Have already seen one unit which is really nice. The RRH program is has placing 6-8 participants in housing this month. Wilkes seems to have some available housing that is affordable. Currently working with literally homeless households enrolled in RRH but have reached capacity until those households are placed in permanent units. Contact Graham if you are aware of any potential units or have a landlord interested in working with the program.

Marnie Slawson: The Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Program (HPDP) is working under the new CDC moratorium until October 3, 2021. Previous CDC moratorium ended July 31, 2021 but three days later, the White House announced eviction protections for counties across the country that have high incidents of COVID-19. Interactive tool that indicates were high/substantial risk of COVID-19 infections are occurring and which county may be protected under the moratorium which is updated daily based on the CDC site. Have not seen the increase in eviction actions that was expected to follow the July moratorium ending. Working with folks who are otherwise eligible who are at risk/imminent risk of homelessness. Email or have clients call directly for intake/assessment and eligibility questions.

Callie Koeval: The OASIS outreach program is taking referrals. Working on engagement in and around the Wilkes area.

Tina Krause: Executive Director/CoC Lead, Hospitality House of Northwest NC. Hospitality House (HH) is performing COVID tests for staff and residents today. Have quarantine spaces available for those that test positive/are at high risk of COVID. The testing today is being coordinated by High Country Health and DHHS. All programs participants and staff are eligible due to recent outbreaks of Delta variant/COVID-19. Currently are offering isolation rooms. Due to cluster outbreaks, HH is implementing additional precautions to avoid any spread in the facility. Now have backlog of clients waiting for shelter program which is at capacity. Trying to remain flexible. May have a few openings in the next few weeks in PSH programs due to transferring households to larger units. Need documented disability, preference for chronic homelessness. If have referral/need CE intake- notify Harley. Wilkes is full except for one unit at Wintergreen community living. Shared space is living room and kitchen but each unit is equipped with private kitchenette. This is a community living house which has been difficult to fill.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- NOFO update: The NOFO is posted on the NW CoC website. Email notices with competition information and the CoC scorecard went out to the full listserve. HUD has scheduled some NOFO webinars in the coming month. Project applications are due October 15, 2021 to Lori Watts. The NC-516 estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) is: \$340,246. Additional funding for a CoC Bonus Project is \$34,260, DV Bonus is \$102,780. CoC Planning is \$20,556. The final Consolidated Application for Northwest CoC is due no later than November 16, 2021. NW CoC intends to submit early to garner additional points.
- ESG Annual RFP: ESG funded project applications were submitted for funding recommendations by the Review Committee. Hospitality House was the only applicant for annual ESG. Agency was approved for RRH,ES and Operations and HMIS.
- NC HMIS: The Northwest CoC is represented at the NC HMIS Governance Committee by Tina Krause as Lead and Christiana Glenn Tugman as alternate. Tina also serves on the NC HMIS Finance sub-committee and Christiana Glenn Tugman serves on the Data Committee. Equity Training and Tableau training is being offered by NC HMIS. Tableau

- training was open to CoC participants and two HH staff will be sent to that training. Shane Johnson will do Level II training to learn to build graphs and charts for NC 516. Project manager for NC HMIS, Jared Hunter, has asked to attend a NC 516 meeting and was given November and January meeting information. Will keep NC 516 apprised of his attendance.
- o NOFO Update and Planning: Jennifer Herman noticed paragraph in the application instructions and is looking for clarification on the statement from the instructions.

Renewal projects that brought forward data from FY 2019 and have either a Leasing budget, Operating budget or use HUD PAID RENTS (Actual Rents) instead of FMR MAY NOT use the "Submit Without Changes" process and e-snaps will automatically be set to "Make Changes". All Leasing and Operating budgets, along with Rental Assistance budgets that use HUD PAID Rent will need to be updated in the application. Refer to the GIW posted on the HUD Exchange for accurate budget information on leasing and operating budgets and refer to the HUD PAID RENT document sent by your field office from HUD HQ to accurately set your rental assistance budgets that use HUD PAID rents. This will only impact the FY 2021 competition.

Discussion followed. Projects are encouraged to review prior submissions/detailed instructions since it has been two years since last submission.

- o The NC 516 project listing needs to submit a request for a Determination of Consistency to the Department of Commerce to get a Certificate of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan to submit the NW CoC Consolidated Application. There is a new 2991 form for CoCs to submit this year.
- **Other Business:**
 - o Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): The Annual ESG Regional application is due October 1, 2021. NW CoC will submit the Regional Application through the Smartsheet portal.
- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **October 19, 2021 at 10:00 am**
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll),
Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 10:00am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Shane Johnson: Director of Grant Funding; 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
Kim Barnes: Housing Partnership of Ashe County
Jennifer Herman: Housing Coordinator, OASIS, Inc.
Callie Koeval: Outreach Advocate, OASIS, Inc.
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager, OASIS, Inc.
Liz Hemby: Outreach Advocate, OASIS, Inc.
Gillian Hampton: Targeted Housing Stabilization Coordinator, NC DHHS

- **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Kim Cashatt: No significant updates from Northwest Regional Housing Authority. NWRHA is working on the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program with Hospitality House. Thirty-five of the 44 EHV available for Northwest were issued in the time limit to get the bonus administration funds. Still issuing regular HCV and NED vouchers. Having issues finding units across the region. NRHA administrative offices are open 8:30 to 3 pm and taking appointments. Contact Kim Cashatt for more information on NWRHA programs.

Graham Doege-Osler: Marnie Slawson is now working with the RRH program. Have been working on landlord recruitment across the service area. Have a new LL (Blevins) that is interested in supporting program participants that has many units located in Wilkes County. Have already seen one unit which is really nice. Wilkes seems to have some available housing that is affordable. Contact Graham or Marnie Slawson if you are aware of any potential units or have a landlord interested in working with the program.

Marnie Slawson: The Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Program (HPDP) is working to place/assist at risk of homelessness. Have not seen the increase in evictions that were predicted once the moratorium ended. Mostly relocating eligible households where the landlord refuses to renew the lease. Have an increase in assessments as many people are behind on rent but do not have an eviction or previous homeless episodes so referring to HOPE. Email Marnie or have clients call directly for intake/assessment and Prevention eligibility questions.

Jennifer Herman: OASIS is looking for a new Executive Director. Michelle Grit is moving on and re-locating. Thanks to Michelle for her leadership and work in the community. Have hired a new coordinator for Avery. OASIS applied for DV Bonus funds in the CoC competition. RRH is new area for OASIS. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and there are many opportunities for community members to participate in the area.

Jordan Edmisten: The OASIS emergency shelter is at capacity. All permanent supportive housing units are also full. The ESG Outreach is operating very well. OASIS can deliver

information/materials on programs and education on DV to anyone that requests it. Please contact Jordan for any information.

Callie Koeval: The OASIS outreach program is taking referrals. Working on engagement in and around the Wilkes area.

Liz Hemby: Wilkes is going very well. Please contact Liz for any information or a referral.

Gillian Hampton: Division of Aging and Adult Services with DHHS-Transition to Community Living. The NC DHHS Targeted Housing Stabilization program can assist qualifying households where the head of household has a disabling condition with housing support. Currently, households are having issues with landlords concerning alleged lease violations (smoking, housekeeping, e.g.) but not for non-payment. Difficult to navigate through the concerns and mediate between landlord and tenants. Contact Gillian Hampton for more information.

Kim Barnes: Partnership of Ashe County continues to serve clients in shelter. The Partnership is continuing to seek permanent housing for shelter residents. Affordable property in Ashe County is difficult to find.

Lori Watts: Housing Specialist with VAYA. The VAYA one-time housing support assistance program has funding that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance for FY2021-22. Provider referrals only. Particular increase in referrals for assistance is noted from Wilkes from the 22 service counties in VAYA catchment. Providers may contact Lori Watts for guidance on submitting the referral forms for the assistance program. Consolidation with Cardinal is in process for nine counties in that area and VAYA will be taking over tailored plan/Medicaid in July. Persons with SA/MH and need for services can opt for tailored plan. Contact Lori Watts for assistance with the one-time assistance program.

- **Break out Session- Workgroup on FY 2021 CoC Collaborative Applicant**

- The NOFO is posted on the NW CoC website. Email notices with competition information and the CoC scorecard went out to the full listserve. HUD has scheduled some NOFO webinars in the coming month. Project applications are due October 15, 2021 to Lori Watts. The NC-516 estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) is: \$340,246. Additional funding for a CoC Bonus Project is \$34,260, DV Bonus is \$102,780. CoC Planning is \$20,556. The final Consolidated Application for Northwest CoC is due no later than November 16, 2021. NW CoC intends to post early (November 12, 2021) to garner additional points. Best to prepare given there have been issues with *esnaps* this year.
- Discussion on how best to set up the Consolidated Application for full edits rights for planning members in Google/Word. Shane Johnson will have shared document and email account for planning members to access later today.
- Application overview: racial disparity and equity, homelessness participation in governance or community activities, PHA coordination, CE addendums, street outreach, ranking and review committee/objective tools, HMIS section, DV Bonus narratives are expansive. Discussion followed. Projects are encouraged to review prior submissions/detailed instructions since it has been two years since last submission.
- Determination of Consistency to the Department of Commerce was submitted. Have had issues getting timely response and Certificate of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan to submit the NW CoC Consolidated Application. Recommend continuing to contact that office for documented follow-up.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **November 16, 2021 at 10:00 am**
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129 United States, Asheville (Toll),
Conference ID: 585 407 593#

**Northwest Continuum of Care
Data Quality Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 10:00am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Tina Krause: Executive Director; Hospitality House of Northwest NC
Graham Doege-Osler: RRH Coordinator; Hospitality House
Shane Johnson: Director of Grant Funding, Hospitality House
Christiana Glenn Tugman: Compliance and Planning Specialist; Hospitality House
Marnie Slawson: Prevention and Diversion Coordinator; Hospitality House
Logan Shaut: Street Outreach Coordinator; Hospitality House
Lori Watts: Housing Specialist; VAYA Health
Kim Cashatt: Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator; Northwestern Regional Housing Authority
Jennifer Herman: Housing Program Director, OASIS, Inc.
Callie Koeval: Outreach Advocate, OASIS, Inc.
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager, OASIS, Inc.
Jessica Rice: Veteran Services Coordinator, ABCCM
Kecia Robinson: VAMC Salisbury
Nanette Franklin: Safe Harbor High Country

● **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Jennifer Herman: OASIS is currently conducting interviews for an Executive Director and hope to have the position filled by the end of year. OASIS is doing a holiday toy/gift drive as some victims are not comfortable with participation in public settings. OASIS is submitting some grant applications in January. There are significant cuts at the federal level to VOCA that will affect DV agencies across the country. Hopeful that the cuts will be addressed at the federal level and funding restored in 2023. OASIS applied for the full DV Bonus under the HUD NOFO.

Jordan Edmisten: OASIS has some emergency shelter availability but the Permanent Supportive Housing project is full. OASIS does have ESG-CV for hotel vouchers to manage some additional demand for bed space. Have ESG for hotel vouchers for overflow. The ESG Outreach is operating very well. OASIS can deliver information/materials on programs and education on DV to anyone that requests it. Please contact Jordan for any information.

Kecia Robinson: VAMC-Salisbury. The VA has expanded VASH eligibility to OTH (Other than honorable) discharge. Can reach out if you are working with a Veteran that has an OTH or was previously denied because of an OTH and needs a VASH to maintain housing. The VA also offers Transitional Housing in Davie, Greensboro, Charlotte and Winston Salem. A Veteran can get disposable cell phone if enrolled in one of the homeless programs through the VA.

Jessica Rice: ABCCM has additional funding ('shallow subsidy') for up to 24 months of rental assistance for homeless Veterans until September of 2022. ABCCM has secured funding to have on staff attorney to assist Veterans that have legal issues related to housing. Must be enrolled in SSVF to get eviction protection. One year disposable phones will be available for Veterans enrolled in assistance program. Currently hiring for a new shallow subsidy coordinator. Contact Jessica Rice Veterans Services of the Carolinas 855-962-8387 vsc@abccm.org

Kim Cashatt: NWRHA is still closed to the public but is available 8:30-3 by appointment. NWRHA received 44 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) EHV and a few more recently, but

only 10 have gone to contract. Achieved the first benchmark of issuance for EHV but housing remains difficult to find for contract. Also have Housing Choice Vouchers available.

Lori Watts: Housing Specialist with VAYA. VAYA staff inform applicants in need of housing assistance of programs in the region/other counties where Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) is more available rather than waiting for 1-2 years for a HCV as seen in some communities in the region. The VAYA one-time housing support assistance program has funding that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance. Particular increase in referrals for assistance is noted from Wilkes in VAYA's 22 county catchment. Providers may contact Lori Watts for guidance on submitting the referral forms for the one-time assistance program. Consolidation with Cardinal is in process- once completed, VAYA will serve 9 additional counties (mostly Northern counties and East: Rowan, Stokes, Caswell, Alamance, Chatham, Person, Granville, Vance, Franklin.)

Graham Doege-Osler: Continuing to enroll literally homeless individuals and families in the Rapid Re-Housing Program. Hope to have housing for a large family by end of the week. Working on landlord recruitment. Contact Graham if you are aware of any potential units or have a landlord interested in working with the program at graham@hospouse.org.

Marnie Slawson: A reminder that the Homelessness Prevention and Diversion (HPHD) program can work with DV clients under Prevention and DV/SA/SSA victims do not need to be at-risk/imminent risk of homelessness for program eligibility. Currently working with 6 households in the program but exiting two in a few weeks. For RRH, I have added 7 households. There is some movement in Wilkes County on affordable units. Email or have clients call directly for intake/assessment and eligibility questions.

Nanette Franklin: Safe Harbor High Country. I am joining the Northwest CoC as a new member. Safe Harbor High Country started in August as recovery house for women. We offer several programs. One program is a yearlong specifically for persons exiting jail/prison or those that need recovery assistance. It is located in Hickory and uses Evidence Based outcomes. The program is Christ centered and helps clients establish boundaries, change community, etc. The second is a Transitional Shelter called Greenleaf for women. Clients are given an apartment and the rent is paid by Safe Harbor. We can serve families with up to 3 children. Currently have 10 apartments but all are full at this time. Institutional exits can apply to get in with full financial assistance from Safe Harbor. Clients do need a vehicle to be in program because of the remote location. Empowerment to Employ is also part of the program. Safe Harbor is in Hickory. We have luncheon tours from noon to 12:30 twice a week. We have overflow from Hospitality House and the Rescue Mission in WNC. We offer a Day Center as well. Seeing older women more than ever before in our area and are trying to get those persons into assisted living. Will place from NW to Hickory as changing community assists clients with recovery. Trying to expand outreach and approach homeless service providers. Invited to Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Coalition meeting to present on Safe Harbor. For more information, contact Nanette Franklin - Safe Harbor High Country - 828-719-9154. nanette@safeharbornc.org

Tina Krause: Executive Director/CoC Lead, Hospitality House of Northwest NC. Hospitality House (HH) is also seeing trend toward elderly persons who are homeless coming for assistance. Many need to be in an assisted living facility- not a shelter. These are 70-80 yr. olds experiencing homelessness, many for the first time. There is currently one opening in the PSH scattered and staff are reviewing the byname list. It's a two-bedroom unit located on the bus route. Contact Harley Atkins if a household may be appropriate for PSH (need disability) and is not on the by-name list. The Hospitality House emergency shelter is taking persons on a night-by-night basis into overflow. Winter Shelter (seasonal) has been eliminated and we will operate in this manner going forward. If bed availability, up to 8 for household size, admitted to isolation for 72 hours before ES regular admission. HH is performing COVID tests and

boosters for staff. Have quarantine spaces available for those that test positive/are at high risk of COVID. The testing today is being coordinated by High Country Health and DHHS. All programs participants and staff are eligible due to recent outbreaks of Delta variant/COVID-19. There has been an increase in requests for the Combined Component program from families, most are from Wilkes and from school systems referrals. Hospitality House is going to provide a Thanksgiving meal from 12-2pm for the community but it will follow Covid protocol. Residents will have inside dining option- tents set up outside with tables/chairs for a meal or get a to-go box for non-residents.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- NOFO update: The 2021 NOFO is submitted/on 11/15/2021 and posted on the NW CoC website. Email notices were sent to project applicants on inclusion in the Consolidated Application and the funding/ranking of projects on the Priority Listing for NC 516 are posted on the NC 516 website. Award notice from HUD will most likely not occur until early 2022. Both OASIS and Hospitality House submitted renewal projects and OASIS submitted a DV Bonus application.
- HMIS reporting: System Performance Measures (SPM) are open for submission but CoCs have until the end of February to complete SPM. Shane Johnson has started data clean-up already. The Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) is supposed to be available later this month. The annual PIT/HIC will occur in January of 2022 but HUD has not released PIT/HIC guidance yet. Full count (sheltered and unsheltered) is anticipated. In the NC HMIS meeting, there was a general discussion on HUD requiring SPM for DV agencies 'required'. Will continue to watch as this discussion is ongoing.
- DV comparable database funding: VOCA funding has been reduced and will affect DV agencies across the country. The NCCADV uses VOCA funding to cover costs for Osnum. Current agreement runs until 9/2022. There may be alternatives in funding to provide this resource for DV agencies. Debra Fox, MCAH representatives, and Christiana Glenn Tugman met this month to discuss issues related to this funding cut and explore opportunities for ESG funding to supplement costs for comparable databases. Over 60% of DV agencies in NC use Osnum as their comparable database.
- NC HMIS: meeting monthly as Governance Committee and several committee meetings per month. Racial Equity Training is paid for and will start in the early spring. Will work with CoC individually for special stuff requests/reports. Both Shane and Kennedy will go to Tabluea Training which will enable public data interface for NC 516. NC HMIS is paying for the training.
- MCAH contract is finalized for this FY for NC 516. A few of the implementations in NC HMIS are doing an RFP, either for a Lead or a software vendor that is currently Wellsky. Will watch- HMIS fees could go up for NC 516 if other CoCs pull out of the implementation.
- ESG-CV funding: Hospitality House is preparing budget amendment for the ESG-CV contract. Agencies need to turn in reporting for currently funded programs to request budget shift for these funds. If are not on target to spend out by June 30, 2022, agency's need to make a shift now or risk returning money. Sub-recipients should look at spend-down rates for programs to do a shift, but the ESG can provide report to assist. OASIS just did shift recently but will look again for detailed budget information.
- Annual ESG funded activities are mostly on track to spend out before the end of calendar year. Hospitality House received award letter/contract and must submit all state and federal certifications and a procurement policy before contract is finalized.
- Prevention/RRH/Street Outreach update: DV Outreach is operating well in Wilkes office but works differently than regular street outreach. Logan Shaut, Street Outreach Coordinator from

Hospitality House, is excited about having access site in Wilkes for upcoming PIT/HIC. The Wilkes office is close to the river and known campsites in the area.

- **Other Business:**

- Fair Housing Law and Equal Access Rule Training
PowerPoint from today's training and the Equal Access Agency Assessment Tool link will be sent out to those attending the training.
- OASIS staff provided the following information on DV protection in NC:
 - **§ 42-42.2. Victim protection - nondiscrimination.**
 - A landlord shall not terminate a tenancy, fail to renew a tenancy, refuse to enter into a rental agreement, or otherwise retaliate in the rental of a dwelling based substantially on:
(i) the tenant, applicant, or a household member's status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or (ii) the tenant or applicant having terminated a rental agreement under G.S. 42-45.1. Evidence provided to the landlord of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking may include any of the following:
 - (1) Law enforcement, court, or federal agency records or files.
 - (2) Documentation from a domestic violence or sexual assault program.
 - (3) Documentation from a religious, medical, or other professional. (2005-423, s. 6.)

- **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**

- Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC- **December 21, 2021 at 10:00 am**
[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
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 10:00am
Via Phone Conference**

Attendees:

Shane Johnson: Director of Grant Funding, Hospitality House of Northwest NC
Graham Doege-Osler: RRH Coordinator; Hospitality House
Christiana Glenn Tugman: Compliance and Planning Specialist; Hospitality House
Lori Watts: Housing Specialist; VAYA Health
Kim Cashatt: Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator; Northwestern Regional Housing Authority
Jennifer Herman: Housing Program Director, OASIS, Inc.
Jordan Edmisten: Housing Manager, OASIS, Inc.
Kecia Robinson: Veteran's Administration Medical Center (VAMC) Salisbury
Tequila Sanford: Regional Director of Operations, Infinite Beginnings
Austin Combs: Director of Services, Watauga County, Daymark Recovery Services

- **Welcome & Agency Updates and COVID-19 Response**

Jennifer Herman: OASIS has hired new Executive Director- Jerry Shore who will join the next Northwest CoC meeting. Currently, OASIS has 5 households in emergency shelter and is at capacity. Both Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs are also full. OASIS is conducting a holiday toy/gift drive to benefit program participants as persons are not comfortable with participation in public settings. OASIS applied for the full DV Bonus under the HUD NOFO to provide more housing for survivors of DV in the Northwest CoC.

Jordan Edmisten: OASIS does have ESG funding for hotel vouchers for overflow shelter. The ESG Outreach program is operating very well. Please contact Jordan for any information.

Tequila Sanford: Infinite Beginnings is offering both virtual and in-house therapy and treatment. Expanding services and hoping to soon bring Medication Assistance Treatment.

Kim Cashatt: Northwest Regional Housing Authority (NWRHA) is currently planning/working on some development projects slated for Yancey, Avery, and Mitchell counties. NWRHA is looking at 30-40 smaller home developments each with a community center. NWRHA is working with Dogwood Health Trust on some funding for projects and other developments in the west of the region. NWRHA just closed on property in Yancey County that will support approximately 27 one bedroom homes with units available by December of 2022. A site in Mitchell County is under contract that will support approximately 30 homes and a community center. A development site in Avery is still not definitive. Fourth site is pending in Newland for the development of workforce housing. May have site control by the end of this week for the site in Newland which will be intended for families with at least one working adult and the units will be affordable but may not be subsidized. Will keep posted on projects. The EHV program is moving forward and has issued 45 vouchers with 17 under contract. Also have Housing Choice Vouchers available. NWRHA staff will be gone the week after Christmas and is still closed to the public because of COVID but is available 8:30-3 by appointment.

Graham Doege-Osler: Placing a few households from the Rapid Re-Housing Program in units this week. The RRH program is continuing to enroll literally homeless individuals and families in the Rapid Re-Housing Program despite unit availability. Always working on landlord recruitment. Contact Graham if you are aware of any potential units or have a landlord interested in working with the program at graham@hosphouse.org.

Austin Combs: Daymark Recovery Services is working to get the walk-in process more streamlined for client care. Daymark is currently hiring to staff a part-time administration position, two new case managers, and a full-time adult services clinician to start in early January. Daymark has hired a children's clinician who will begin employment in January. Daymark can provide group and individual therapy and currently has over 100 groups across the service area via telehealth. Please contact Austin Combs for more information or referral at- acombs@daymarkrecovery.org

Lori Watts: Housing Specialist with VAYA. The VAYA one-time housing support assistance program has funding that allows up to \$500 per qualifying household for rent/utility assistance. Particular increase in referrals for assistance is noted from Wilkes in VAYA's 22 county catchment. In January, VAYA will have 9 new counties because of the consolidation with Cardinal. There will be some additional funding to expand housing resources to those counties and hire new staff to support the coverage area. The VAYA Housing team will expand to 6 more staff and a new department will be formed that will combine TCL and housing support. Providers may contact Lori Watts for more information.

Kecia Robinson: VAMC-Salisbury. No announcements but a reminder that the Salisbury VAMC has PSH and covers Ashe, Alleghany, and Wilkes County. The VAMC also has programs in Charlotte, Gaston, and Iredell counties. The VA has recently expanded VASH eligibility to OTH (Other than honorable) discharge. Please reach out if you are working with a Veteran that has an OTH or was previously denied because of an OTH and needs a VASH to maintain housing.

Shane Johnson: PSH for Hospitality House is now full. Through Coordinated Entry, the available unit at Wintergreen is filled. Hospitality House is experiencing some positive cases of COVID at the emergency shelter. Offering isolation beds, doing weekly testing of staff and residents in coordination with the Watauga Health Department and following CDC guidance on cleaning and social distancing. The Hospitality House night by night shelter is continuing on but warmer weather has reduced demand. Have quarantine rooms available but require residents to be there by 7:00 for shelter to coordinate intake. Shane Johnson is leaving his position as Director of Grant Funding but will maintain part-time position as LSA until another person is hired. Will continue to work on the PIT/HIC for January and the SPM and LSA reports which are due in the spring.

- **CoC Planning Members**

- NC 516 PIT and HIC is pending in late January. Forms for PIT/HIC count will be out in early January. Partners across the Northwest CoC participate in the annual requirement: Homeless Coalition in Ashe, DV agencies, and local crisis organizations. This year the unsheltered count is important. Street Outreach Coordinator will be key to help in the planning this year. Northwest has teams that report back their count during the PIT week of unsheltered persons. Seek to identify encampments prior to PIT/HIC (January 26th). For 2022, the HIC will need to be updated because of the closing of shelters (closed 50% of DV beds) in Alleghany/Ashe/Wilkes. Will also go to nutrition sites for PIT count. The PIT and the HIC provide an annual depiction of homelessness in the Northwest region. Yancey shelter/agency closed. Moved ES beds to Madison. Those will be counted in BoS. Historically- the count varies from year to year however, grants don't get cut as a result of lower/higher numbers but unmet need/bonuses can be impacted.
- NOFO update: Awards have not been announced. Anticipate notification after the holidays. Both OASIS and Hospitality House submitted renewal projects and OASIS submitted a DV Bonus application in this FY's Consolidated Application.

- o HMIS reporting: The Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) draft has been uploaded. The final LSA is due 2/15/22 and the NC 516 System Performance Measures (SPM) are due February 28, 2022. SPM preparation is going well. Data specialist Kennedy Freeman has been cleaning data for a year so the report should look good. The LSA draft that was submitted in HDX2 will be reviewed with HUD TA- first submission had less errors but still have issues to work out with TA. Some issues are related to upload in HDX2 that are software based. Have support through MCAH as well. Will most likely have two more submissions prior to the final submission. The LSA and SPM are similar but breakdown data differently. Northwest CoC will use STELLA to produce graphs this year on the PIT/HIC, LSA and SPM reports to share.
 - o NC HMIS: meeting monthly as Governance Committee and several committee meetings per month. NC 507 (Wake) has given NC HMIS written notice of their intent to leave the NC HMIS implementation on June 30, 2022. Have an RFP for new software/lead and will be doing software demonstrations in their CoC during the spring before making final determination. Racial Equity Training is paid for and will start in the early spring. Staff from Hospitality House will go to the Tableau Training which will enable public data interface for NC 516. NC HMIS is paying for the training.
 - o Prevention/RRH/Street Outreach update: DV Outreach is operating well in Wilkes office but works differently than regular street outreach. Logan Shaut, Street Outreach Coordinator at Hospitality House, is excited about having access site in Wilkes for upcoming PIT/HIC. The Wilkes outreach office is close to the river and known campsites in the area.
 - o NC American Rescue Plan funds: The NC Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) held a meeting with CoC leadership to discuss the state's ARP allocation and ask for input on funding priorities. The NCHFA will be in communication with stakeholders/holding input sessions around the state on needs/funding gaps and the intersection of eligible activities/projects for ARP funding before releasing the RFP for these funds in the late spring. The presentation and the notice will be sent out to the Northwest listserve.
- **Other Business:**
 - o No other business.
 - **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
 - Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest CoC-**January 18, 2022 at 10:00 am**
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 828-552-4129](#) United States, Asheville (Toll)
 Conference ID: 585 407 593#
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