

Wake County Continuum of Care

Membership Meeting

April 16, 2024

Attendees – See end of this document for sign-in sheet.

Meeting start: 1:07 PM

Stephen Gruver, Chair of the Governing Board, welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

Lead Agency Discussion and Vote

Stephen introduced the topic with an explanation of the last six months of transition for the Collaborative Applicant, Coordinated Entry, and HMIS Lead rolls. Stephen called up the lead agencies to speak about what they have been doing during these six months and what work remains.

Michelle Zechmann was invited to speak about Haven House Services' role as Collaborative Applicant. Haven House just received their HUD funding on April 1st. They hired Erin Flynn as Wake CoC Coordinator. Haven House was planning on hiring a Wake CoC Director but didn't know what funding was coming in, so the position was not hired. Haven House has been working on getting the Wake CoC more organized with weekly communications, website updates, and Board and Member trainings, and looking at what else the Wake CoC can do to get more funding which has included research into previous NOFO applications to see where our community has missed points. Haven House is contracting with Fortis Consulting to help with the Housing First Assessment, monitoring documents and some policies. In Michelle's assessment, the role of the Collaborative Applicant is underfunded. Michelle noted that if we want the Wake CoC to get to a place where we are doing long term planning, then we need to fund the organizational work of the Wake CoC.

Stephen Gruver: We want to see homelessness end in Wake County, but we need to invest in these efforts to reach this goal. Stephen called for questions. No questions were asked.

Kathy Johnson from Oak City Cares was invited to discuss their role as Coordinated Entry Lead. Kathy echoes that Oak City Cares has been in an interim era for a long time. Oak City Cares just received their HUD grant on April 1. The Coordinated Entry grant timeline is April 1st-December 31st. The new Coordinated Entry Manager is Jenn Von Egidy. They are working on the By Name list for veterans, learning about and transitioning the By Name list, and

conducting meetings with other lead agencies to discuss the transitions. They are very excited about the opportunity for our community to move toward a more strategic and intentional CE Design, tailored for our specific community needs and priorities, and that will allow us to truly move the needle on reducing homelessness in Wake County through a new CE System that is data-driven, prioritizes the populations that our community data shows are the highest priority to house, and follows best practices that will keep our CE System in compliance with HUD guidelines. What they have witnessed so far is that coordinated entry has issues with the technical side of things (HMIS). Remedying this costs money. There are also issues with policies and procedures that surround coordinated entry. Kathy shared that when we transition to a Lead Agency that has the funding and better data research tools, it should help us keep in compliance with HUD, which would result in more funding and better data. Oak City Cares is going to hire two Coordinated Entry Specialists to travel through areas of the community to expand access across the region. There is an extensive list of people in referrals and the data needs to be sorted through to see if they still need the referral and who still needs the assistance. This clean-up will make going through the list easier and quicker for partner agencies. We should look for a Lead Agency that has the capacity to do this.

Stephen Gruver: We want to be transparent about what is going on in the Wake CoC, so our membership can make the best decisions.

Stephen called for questions. No questions were asked.

Peter Morris, Urban Ministries was invited to speak about their role as HMIS Lead. Peter thanked County staff and other agencies for their support during the transition. Urban Ministries works with BitFocus to license the HMIS system. Training was required by BitFocus for the HMIS Lead to keep the licenses. Our data needs to be cleaned up. A more comprehensive training has been called for, asking, “where are the most common data entry problems?” Peter says the Wake CoC and BitFocus have been great to partner with and that they hope to get the HMIS more organized before a transition.

Stephen Gruver: Our system could be more effective. If you use HMIS, we need to clean up the data with case notes, VI-SPDAT, exiting information, etc. The Governing Board appreciates all the interim Lead Agencies for their work.

Stephen called for questions. No questions were asked.

Duane Holder, Wake County Deputy County Manager, is invited to speak. He provides executive leadership for multiple departments in Wake County. The County is ready to step up and take on the challenge of Lead Agency for our community. They understand that this will not be easy and hope to build on and strengthen what the current Lead Agencies have already done. The Board of Commissioners just passed a Strategic Plan on April 15. The strategic plan has ambitious goals around the reduction of homelessness in Wake County. The County would set up the Lead Agency role as a new department; it would not reside under the Housing Department. They want to be deliberate in their staffing and team. They are not looking to do this permanently, but it would be a continued transition. The County hopes to eventually find an entity that can take on this role for the long term, that has the capacity to do so. They are thankful to our interim agencies for stepping up. The Raleigh/Wake Partnership had received funding from the City and County, but the interim leads did not, giving an insight to the amount of pro bono work that the interim agencies have been providing.

Duane called for questions.

Latosha Walker, The Green Chair Project: Do you have an idea of the timeline for the project? Do you have an entity or agency in mind that would be equipped by that time?

Duane Holder: There have been early conversations about a term of no more than 5 years, but the County would love for it to be shorter if possible (2-3 years). We need to ensure that we transition to an entity that has the capacity to sustain. No, there is no one in mind now.

Johnnie Thomas, Governance Committee/Member with lived experience: Asked about the strategic plan that the County has just adopted, specifically if Raleigh's, other municipalities, and other agencies' plans were taken into consideration?

Duane Holder: As far as jurisdiction is involved, we only have "control" or "authority" over a few things that can be mandated for the whole county. As far as the strategic plan is concerned, this has been a 13-month discussion including focus groups, surveys, and community engagement in the creation of the strategic plan. In addition, the County staff reviewed all other County plans. The goal of the strategic plan is to complement existing plans and he does not think there is anything in the plan that would make anything redundant. It should complement other plans. They are working with all the municipalities.

Johnnie Thomas: Is Wake County prepared for the criticism that will likely come when Wake County is the one also regulating housing?

Duane Holder: One thing that excites me about serving in this role, is that as the Lead Agency, education is key. We need to do a better job educating people about housing and the system that we work in. The knowledge can help gain more funding.

Rick Miller-Haraway, board member at Oak City Cares : Will this department report to the County Manager?

Duane Holder: The department will report directly to me, and I will report to the County Manager.

Rick Miller-Haraway: How does this department plan to work with the Housing Department?

Duane Holder: This is a line that needs to be established. The County currently has programs operating out of the Housing Department that are HUD funded. We would be foolish to not rely on the Housing Department's expertise. But we also have expertise in IT, Communications, and more.

Thurston Alexander-Smith, Individual Member: Last time this relationship came around, it fell apart. Now that there is better understanding of the HUD/CoC structure, how will that play out?

Duane Holder: The County is approaching with the expectation that Wake County works for you, and not them (the CoC) for us. Wake County does not need credit, but needs homelessness to be rare, brief, and non-recurring. The community needs the credit, we all need to score higher and get more funding.

DaQuanta Copeland, Wake County: Will we be building an entity?

Duane Holder: I cannot speak to that yet, but it is best that any new entity be led by community leadership rather than the government. In an ideal world, someone would change their mission and say this is what they want to do.

Teena Baker, Wake County: Would it be helpful for the room to know how many people it will take to man this project?

Duane Holder: I don't know yet. Last year, there was a discussion of around 20 people, so possibly the same number.

Stephen Gruver: The current system needs 20.

Duane Holder: Possible outsourcing as well.

Cynthia Thelen, Caring Connections Ministry: Has the County thought about how you will promote this role to the community, such as renaming?

Duane Holder: We have not had a discussion with the Board yet. Personally, I'd hope that the Wake CoC Board and the membership are the public face. Wake County would be behind the scenes.

Latosha Walker: Would Wake County be supporting the board and agencies in the community?

Duane Holder: Yes, Wake would support and be behind the scenes.

Johnnie Thomas: Are you prepared to take on complaints about other agencies as the Lead Agency?

Duane Holder: The County has a bit of practice We have experience with contracts and subrecipients who are responsible, but Wake County takes public responsibility for their work.

Rick Miller-Haraway: What is the timeline? When would Wake County start?

Duane Holder: As quickly and as orderly as possible. A chart with different functions and grants has been given to Wake County for reference. The County would not wait for HUD to transfer any grants because Wake County has the capacity to fund while HUD is still transitioning. The first thing would be hiring a director to start immediately.

Stephen thanks Duane. He notes that membership is not voting today. There is a new voting process that is more equitable and provides more education prior to voting. Stephen shares that the transition is going to look different for each current Lead Agency. HMIS Lead at Urban Ministries ends July 1st. They can do it on a month-to-month basis after then, but

we are trying to create a rapid but effective and clean transition. Agencies will not just “be done.” There will need to be agency support throughout the transition.

Stephen called for questions to the Governing Board. No questions.

Stephen Gruver shared that we have a new voting procedure that will come with the new charter. All votes will be sent out electronically and a week will be given to vote. If the motion is made and seconded, then a ballot will get sent out and members will have a week to vote. The votes will then be tallied and sent to the community.

The Governing Board met and approved recommending that "The CoC Membership consider electing Wake County Government as the new Lead Agency for the NC 507 CoC for the purpose of stabilizing the system, which would include the roles of Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead, and Coordinated Entry Lead."

Amy Smith moved the motion to read: "The CoC Membership moves to elect Wake County Government as the new Lead Agency for the NC 507 CoC for the purpose of stabilizing the system, which would include the roles of Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead, and Coordinated Entry Lead."

Alice McGee, Church in the Woods: For what period of time does this cover?

Stephen Gruver: Some of this will need to be worked out with the Governing Board and Wake County in the MOU. This will be a timeline that is adjusted based on how effectively the transition can take place.

Thurston Alexander-Smith: A lot of the good faith portion is captured in the wording, “stabilizing the system.”

Johnnie Thomas seconded the motion.

Stephen Gruver: We have a motion and a second, and we will send out the vote for all of the Wake CoC membership. You will have seven days to ask questions and vote.

Teena Baker: How will the vote be done?

Michelle Zechmann: It will be sent to the primary voter of your organization with a survey (ballot) link and description in an email.

DaQuanta Copeland, Wake County/2 B’s Brains to Brothers: Some who are representing for their own businesses can it go straight to alternate?

Stephen Gruver: Yes, it can go to alternate. Speak to Michelle or Erin if you wish to have this happen.

Amy Smith: Will the vote be approved with a simple majority or 100% response?

Stephen Gruver: Simple majority (50% plus 1).

DaQuanta Copeland: Are new membership applications closed off?

Stephen Gruver: This vote will be only for members who are approved as of today.

Charter Update

Nicole Stewart provided a brief update on the draft Charter. The Charter Review Workgroup is Chaired by Eric Braun who could not be here today. A draft of the Charter has been posted on the website and there is a 45-day review for public comment (ends May 23rd). We have received input from the City of Raleigh and Wake County leadership as well as HUD TA. We need community input to have a solid document for future approval. There will be a webinar in May to discuss the changes. We will share the day/time when it's set.

Amy Smith: How are comments being collected?

Nicole Stewart: All answers are being collected in a form, which will be brought to the workgroup after the public comment period closes.

Amy Smith: How do we know they (comments) are being implemented other than through the comparison webinar?

Nicole Stewart: The Charter Review Workgroup will discuss making sure this part of the process is transparent.

Committee Updates

DaQuanta Copeland (Racial Equity Committee co-chair): We would like to invite people from different marginalized groups (American Indian, Muslim, etc.) to join the REC. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month (including right after this meeting).

Agency Updates and Events

Stephen Gruver calls for agency announcements.

Vanessa Kopp, Wake County: Wake County Housing department released their Unsheltered Housing Facility. You can register for a listening session by April 19. Information will be sent out in the Wake CoC Newsletter.

DaQuanta Copeland: Wake County Annual Action Plan needs public comment and is open until April 29th.

Rebekah Shamberger, Town of Apex: Town of Apex is having a housing fair on April 27th at 9 AM.

John Niffenegger, City of Raleigh: City of Raleigh is working to provide fair housing training. Information will be sent out in the Wake CoC Newsletter.

Stephen Gruver announced other upcoming events:

- Bringing It Home Conference (June 4th-5th) Registration Open
- Wake CoC 101 Training Coming Soon
- CoC Harm Reduction Training (May 6th)

Rick Miller: Oak City Cares celebrated their 5th birthday last week and is celebrating with a fundraiser on Thursday April 18th.

Meeting concludes at 2:31 PM

Next meeting is May 20th @ 2 PM at Pullen Memorial

Wake CoC Committee Updates For Wake CoC Membership meeting: April 16, 2024

Coordinated Access System Committee (CAS):

Chair: Rebekah Shamberger

March 27th Meeting:

- By Name List Discussion
 - Factoring in a “medically fragile” prioritization
- New Assessment
 - HART Tool Discussion from the Balance of State
- A HUD TA request has been submitted for Coordinated Entry prioritization and assessment assistance.
- Next meeting will be on Wednesday April 24th from 10am - 11am.

Data Advisory Committee (DAC):

Chair: Thurston Alexander-Smith

April 16th meeting:

- Meeting with “Familiar Faces” staff
 - Familiar Faces project looks to promote cross-sector collaboration (HMIS, EMS, Hospitals, etc.) through client informed data-sharing.
- Legacy data transferred to new HMIS system continues.
- HMIS Lead RFP on hold for the time being.
- DAC will be looking to evaluate data quality and HMIS user training needs in upcoming meetings.
- DAC collaboration with partners around the state for data sharing

Homelessness Emergency Response Committee (HERC):

Chair: Pastor Vance Haywood

No updates at this time. Next meeting is 4/18/24.

Racial Equity Committee (REC):

Co-Chairs: DaQuanta Copeland and Johnnie Thomas

No updates at this time. Next meeting is immediately after this meeting on 4/16/24.

Funding Review Committee (FRC):

Co-Chairs: Michelle Grant and Meredith Yuckman

No updates at this time. They will be setting their first meeting of 2024 for May.

Wake Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

Name	Email Address	Organization	Check One:		
			Individual CoC Member	Organizational CoC member	Unsure or Neither
Libby Stephens	libbystephens@hstnc.org	HOST		✓	
Amanda Blue	ablue@healing-transitions.org	HT		✓	
Rick Miller-Haraway			✓		
Rashawn Stanley	Rashawn.Stanley@family.comise-triangle.org	FP of the Triangle		✓	
Frank Baldisa	F.Sonk.baldisa@ussolventary.org	Solvation Army		✓	
Danielle Butler	dbutler@tfsnc.org	Triangle Family Services		✓	
Adrianna Mee	amee@hopecenteratpohk.org	Hope Center at Pothon		✓	
Renate Benders	Rbender@alliancehealthplan.org	Alliance Health Plan		✓	
Saura Green	Sgreen@passagehome.org	Passage Home		✓	
Tamy Mauld	Tmauld@dtfsnc.org	TFS			
Alexis Hampton	ahampton@healing-transitions.org	Healing Transitions		✓	
Nicole Stewart	nicole@sjf.org	AJF		✓	
Rebekah Shabergs	rebekah.shabergs@apexnc.org	Team of Apex		✓	
Teene Baker	teene.baker@wake.gov	Wake Co		✓	
Griffith Davis	Claus@passagehome.org	Passage Home		✓	
Debbie Tann	dtann@passagehome.org	Passage Home		✓	
Daquanta Copeland	daquanta.copeland@wake.gov	WAKE Gov. Housing	✓		

Wake Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

Name	Email Address	Organization	Check One:		
			Individual CoC Member	Organizational CoC member	Unsure or Neither
Michelle Zellmann	mzeckman@haventhouse.org	Haven House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Kelsea Mosley	kmosley@haventhouse.org	Haven House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Karen Lassiter	karen@families-together.org	Families Together	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Elise Butler	elise.butler@wake.gov	Wake Co. Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Cynthia Thelen	cynthia@caringconnections.org	Caring Connections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Crystal Russell	crystal.russell@wake.gov	Wake Co. Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Jackie Jordan	jacqueline.jordan@nc.gov	City of Raleigh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Paige Feltner	paige.feltner@wake.gov	Wake County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Catoya Turner	Catoya.Turner@thegreengrains.org	The Green Chair Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Catasha Walker	lataska@thegreengrains.org	The Green Chair Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Emily Downing	emily.downing@thegreengrains.org	The Green Chair Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Caroline Seydi	cseydi@urbannin.org	Urban Ministries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lynndi Blank	lynndi.blank@wake.gov	Wake Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Alicia Arnold	alicia.arnold@wake.gov	Wake Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Paarth Mehta	Paarth.Mehta@wake.gov	Wake Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Chase Bullock	chasebullock@downtownalliance.org	Downtown Raleigh Alliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Arleve Smith	arlene.smith@wakemed.org	WakeMed H.E.A.R.T.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Wake Continuum of Care Membership Meeting

Name	Email Address	Organization	Check One:		
			Individual CoC Member	Organizational CoC member	Unsure or Neither
Peter MAZZEI	Peter.Mazzei@wake.gov	Housing + Reentry		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Eric Flynn	eflynn@naversol.com	Haven House		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
ERIN YATES	Eyates@casanv.org	CASA		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Derwin L. Willoughby	Dwilloughby703@gmail.com	Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Cody Hamrick	dchamrick@gmail.com	The LGBT Cent of Raleigh		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Chris Budnick	cbudnick@healing-transitions.org	Healing Transitions		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Talisha Lewis	tlewis@havenhouse.org	Haven House Services		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Michael Pearson	michael.pearson@thecityplace.org	The City Place		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Berkley Dixon	bdixon@neighborhoodcenter.org	Neighborhood Health Center		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Vance Haywood	vance.haywood@stjohnsmcc.org	St John's MCC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Thurston Alexander-Smith		Individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ande Curry	ande.curry@doresnc.org	Dores		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Amy Smith	amy.smith@womenscenter.org	Women's Center		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Karnien Okoro	kokoro@urban.org	Urban Min		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Meredith Luckman	mluckman@charlotteholers.org	Hope Center at Pullen		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tosharia Brown	tosharia.brown@doalcitycares.org	Doal City Cares		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Johanne Thomas	thomas.johanne48@gmail.com	SCF AC & CoC Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

