



## **S3 Housing Connect Zoom Meeting**

**9/9/2021**

**Attendance** (32): Cindy Hall, Bill Carver, John Kirkman, Hamer Carter, Laura Spivey, Tamara Brogan, Bob Hughes, Marcia Johnson, John Campbell, Paul Tate, Dr. William Hall, Kimberly Rau, John Campbell, Kerry Bashaw, Brian Alexander, Heather Garrity, Tracy Staley, Johnnye Waller, Lillian Hatton, Dehra Green, Randall Broyles, Ruth Price, Quiotti Ratliffe, Tonya Gray, Gabby Murillo, Holly Marosites, Constancita Nieves, Darla Shoults, Joey Mosley

**Staff:** Karen Kennedy, Rachel Mann, Stan Holt

**I. Welcome, Mission Statement-** Tamara Brogan, Chair

**II. Consider Approval of S3 Housing Connect Bylaws Revision-** Tamara Brogan

John Kirkman motioned to approve the revised bylaws; Max Dolan seconded. Unanimous approval from S3 voting members sent to Rachel in the chat.

**III. Success Story-** Darla Molina Shoults

Darla reminded everyone that the fact that people can come in and take showers and eat food at the Navigation Center is a success in itself. She then shared a success story of a homeless veteran who received a new CPAP machine from Helping Hand Clinic. Darla also shared a story about a mom with children who received mattresses from Sweet Dreams Mattress Store and case management from S3 agencies.

**IV. Understanding the Balance of State and Regional Processes for ESG and COC funding-** Brian Alexander

Before the presentation began, Stan asked Brian if this presentation could be recorded. Brian agreed to the recording, so this presentation was recorded.

Brian Alexander works with the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH). NCCEH is a statewide homelessness advocacy agency. They focus on building best practices, increasing resources, and advocating for those experiencing homelessness in NC. NCCEH helps its Continuum of Care (A CoC is a planning body that HUD put into place with a geographic structure) meet Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements for funding, implements governance for the CoC, helps the Homeless Management Information System collect and submit data, organizes the Point in Time count, housing inventory counts and more! Data is extremely important. NCCEH strives to assist with data collection so they can submit correct data to HUD; Correct data will help NC receive more money over time. NCCEH also oversees state funding processes.

NC Balance of State (BoS) is one of 12 CoCs in NC. BoS was broken into 13 regional planning areas. Regional committees should meet at least quarterly if not monthly. Anyone is welcome to come to steering committee meetings. NCCEH encourages everyone to join! Elected positions for regional committees include a regional lead, regional lead alternate (who recruits new agencies to come onto HMIS), coordinated entry lead, unsheltered point in time lead, webmaster, and project review committee member. As part of coordinated entry, case conferencing meetings should be happening at

least weekly. Cindy Hall asked about PIT requirements, Brian asked her to speak with the regional PIT lead.

*Questions:* Darla asked if the regional lead should be responsible for conducting regional meetings if they are applying for funding? Brian said that NCCEH is at a statewide level so they sometimes don't know what's happening locally; However, no regional agency should have say-so in who is funded. The regional lead is the conduit for information. However, it's hard to find people to fill these positions since these are all volunteer roles. Often, funded agency representatives step into these roles which can create a conflict of interest. Each region has to hold their leadership accountable. NCCEH can't be part of all of these regional meetings. Brian suggested encouraging leadership to attend the steering committee so they'll understand how the processes work.

At the August Region 7 meetings, there was concern around how the regional funding process was being handled. S3 members asked questions and made several comments about the August issues, leading Brian to say that if someone wants a new regional lead, people need to step up and apply to be the regional lead. Nobody else applied to be lead this year, so there was no change. NCCEH is reliant on regions to let them know when counties need help. 79 counties are asking NCCEH for help, with only six NCCEH staff.

*Funding (ESG funding and CoC funding):* Right now, Region 7 has no Continuum of Care funding. Region 7 has not had it for several years. In our CoC, an agency has to currently be operating rapid rehousing with other RRH funds to be eligible for RRH funds. If an agency wants RRH funds, they should start with ESG funds first and then apply for CoC funds later. NOFOs are important because it tells limitations of what funding can be used for. NCCEH never knows when NOFOs from HUD will come out, but that kicks off funding process. If you are interested in funding, reach out to NCCEH and express interest; They are happy to help! Please have conversations with the region too so there is no duplication of services. Ruth asked if NCCEH's data and funding formula could be shared; Brian said it's not NCCEH's formula, it's HUD's, and it's extremely confusing. Data can be pulled out for Region 7 and Lee County but it's only as good as what's being entered into HMIS. The steering committee has been working on a CoC dashboard to share what the CoC's data looks like. This dashboard will be perfect for what we need in Lee County! The dashboard will be coming in six-nine months, but it will be rolled out at the November BoS steering committee meeting.

*ESG Funding Conversation:* Under the ESG process, each region has its own fair share of funding. CoC funding does not have a fair share per region. Street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention are all included under this funding. The project review committee evaluates each application. The region does not make any decision about funding levels at all. Someone asked if committee members could have access to funding applications. NCCEH probably can't share applications with regions, but brand-new agencies who are applying for funding shouldn't be funded; Only active organizations should be funded. NCCEH will always tell agencies to contact their region first with questions. In a highly functioning regional committee, everyone would be sharing applications and helping each other; Thinking about how to prioritize dollars in community.

The ESG office sets a final deadline (October 1), but there are internal CoC deadlines. CoC funding is highly competitive, especially for new applicants.

**V. Eviction Moratorium Updates-** Kerry Bashaw

Brick Capital submitted a CoC application for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). There are no other applicants for this funding in Region 7. The eviction moratorium was extended but then ended by the Supreme Court. The local magistrate is hearing eviction cases due to nonpayment right now. The good news is that the wave of evictions has not yet happened- The magistrate has not seen a flood of eviction cases. There is still plenty of HOPE money. Kerry is working with the City and County to get word out about the HOPE Program. The eviction committee is still continuing to meet. Legal Aid still anticipates an eviction wave coming.

**VI. Discussion about Cow Patty Bingo Event Funds-** Karen Kennedy

We still have not determined where Cow Patty funds will go. Right now, there is \$7079.85 available. Think about how to use the money, and send suggestions to Karen!

**VII. S3 Visioning Exercise Update,** Stan Holt- postponed until October

Where is S3 heading? Committee chairs will get together and discuss. More to come.

**VIII. Committee Reports:**

1. Services- Spent time talking about data collection and how to improve local data. As a community, more dollars come from local community than federal dollars.
2. Housing- Linden Avenue groundbreaking happened, and Bob Hughes was the main speaker. Cape Fear Collective meeting happened this month too! The CEO of CFC, Patrick Brien, spoke on funding, impact investing and affordable housing.
3. Community Outreach and Engagement- CCCC event postponed. We all have stories to tell, type them and send to Rachel! We have a good thing going but a lot of people haven't heard of us still!
4. Advocacy- Discussed the purpose of the committee, which is to gathering information and to have closer and more frequent conversations with state, federal and local elected leaders.

**IX. Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Tamara thanked everyone for attending the meeting!

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.