



The mission of the Tennessee Valley Continuum of Care is to foster collaborative efforts that enhance awareness and create solutions to prevent, reduce, and alleviate homelessness in our region.

ANDERSON • BLOUNT • CAMPBELL • CLAIBORNE • COCKE • GRAINGER • HAMBLEN • JEFFERSON • LOUDON • MONROE • SEVIER • UNION

July 11, 2023

Partner Spotlight



Rita Barrett

Creating Homes Initiative: Regional Housing Facilitator

rita.barrett@westcare.com

New Business:



CoC Successes
&
Partner News/Updates

New Business:



CoC Updates

NOFO!!

CoC Data Reports

GRADE BASED ON COUNT FOR EACH ELEMENT:	HUD UDE ONLY	Additional ONLY	HUD Verification ONLY	OVERALL
	B	B	B	B
	94.18%	94.55%	92.54%	93.89%

Quarterly Monitoring is Going on Now!

Pay attention to entering families and ensure that you are entering information for all household members.

Timeliness of Data: Data must be entered within 0-3 days of entry/intake into a project.

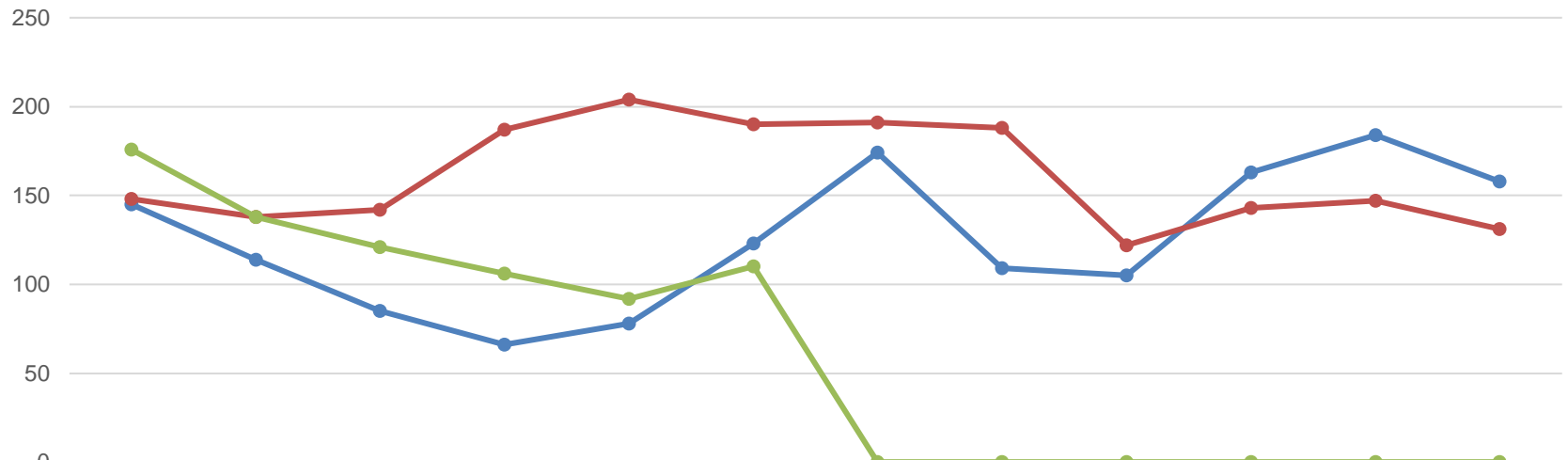
Data Quality Standards: Policy 10.2.2: For all clients served and entered in HMIS by a HMIS Member Agency, no more than 5% of all client level data should be “blank/not reported/null”.

Data Element	Required for
*HUD Universal Data Elements:	
Name	All
Social Security Number	All
Date of Birth	All
Race	All
Ethnicity	All
Gender	All
Veteran Status	Adults
Disabling Condition (Y/N)	All
Prior Living Situation	Adults/HoH
Length of Stay in Previous Place	Adults/HoH
Destination (Exit)	Adults/HoH at Exit
Relationship to Head of Household	All
Client Location	HoH ONLY
Additional Data Elements:	
Domestic Violence	Adults/HoH
Services Not Included	N/A
Income Received (Y/N)	Adults/HoH
Non-Cash Benefit Received (Y/N)	Adults/HoH
Covered by Health Insurance (Y/N)	All
HUD Verification: (Elements measure completeness at entry ONLY)	
Disability Type	All
Income Source	Adults/HoH
Income Amount (for all valid sources)	Adults/HoH Recv Inc = Y
Non-Cash Source	Adults/HoH
Health Insurance Type	All

CoC Data Reports



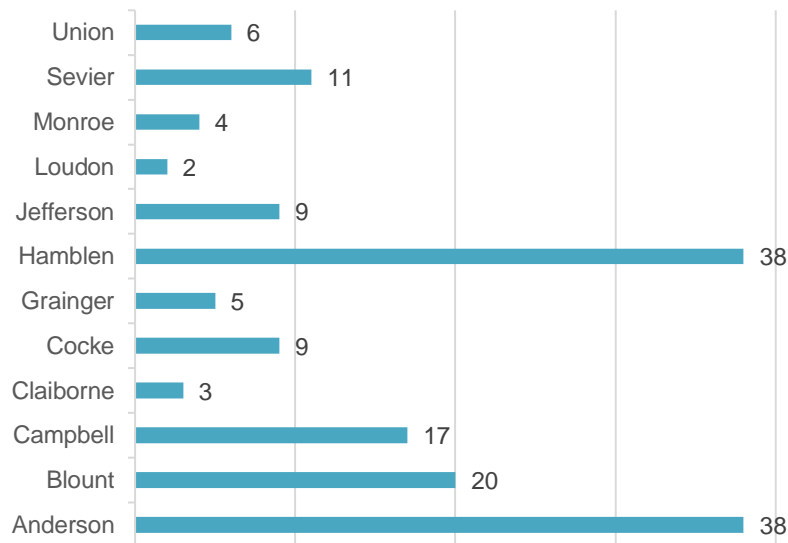
Total CES Participation



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2021	145	114	85	66	78	123	174	109	105	163	184	158
2022	148	138	142	187	204	190	191	188	122	143	147	131
2023	176	138	121	106	92	110	0	0	0	0	0	0

CoC Data Reports

CES by County for the Previous Month



110 Coordinated Entry
program intakes

1009 Unduplicated
individuals served in June

14 Veterans on our By Name List.

3 veterans is our threshold for
Functional Zero

We first reached
functional zero for
vets in 2019.

CoC Committees



HMIS & Data Management – Andy O’Quinn –
andy.oquinn@oakridgetorch.org

Coordinated Entry – Aaron Davies –
aaron.davies@mcnabb.org

Rank & Review – Allie Cohn – cohnab@ridgeview.com

PIT/HIC – Nikki Lynn – nlynn@tvceh.org
Meetings to resume in August

Homeless Awareness & Advocacy – Katelyn Mcguire –
kmcguire@tvceh.org

Old Business



In-Person Meeting –
August 1st @ 10 am
United Way of Greater Knoxville
1301 Hannah Ave, Knoxville, TN 37921

Discussion/Questions



What programs/solutions to homelessness has your community implemented with positive impact?

Thank you for attending!



Proud CoC Members



COC July 2023 Minutes

7/11/2023

Members Present:

Rita Barrett | WestCare
Teagan Buckner | Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System
Lisa Buhl | VOA
Jan Cagle | Ridgeview
Allie Cohn | Creating Homes Initiative – Ridgeview
Bobby Eason | Foothills Community Development
Haley Emmitt | Choice Health Network Positive Living
Karen Ferguson | TVCH
Brandon Harris | TVCH
Kennith Hawkins | Choice Health Network Positive Living
Sascha Henderson | Creating Homes Initiative – McNabb
HomeSource
Nikki Lynn | TVCH
Matt Magrans-Tillery | Cherokee Health
Katelyn McGuire | TVCH
Courtney Niemann | Helping Mamas
Andy O'Quinn | TORCH
Samantha Peach | Clinch Powell
Tonya Polidoro | MATS
Sabrina Seamon | Clinch Powell
Bruce Spangler | Community Representative
Angela Stolpe | United Way of Blount County
Kimberly Terry | TVCH
Katie Williams | Legal Aid of Mid TN & The Cumberlands
Kristi Willingham | Salvation Army

Call to Order: Tonya Polidoro COC Chair called the meeting to order 10:01 a.m.

Welcome: Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair

Tonya welcomed everyone.

Partner Spotlight: Rita Barrett – WestCare Tennessee

Good morning. I am with the Veteran Empowerment support team. I am a peer support person. I work in Jefferson and Cocke Counties.

This program is not here to focus on suicide, but the prevention of suicide, and how we can, as a community, best achieve this goal. One of the things we need to do is bring down the stigma in the communities that we are different, or we have weird habits.

We offer peer support. In peer support we have coffees, gatherings, meetings, and safe talk space. We have special support withing the community. We have offsite groups and activities such as hiking, fishing and get together as family days.

We offer case management. Case Managers identify the names of participants in the program, assign individuals to meet those needs, assess them, and make sure they are connected with the proper places. We like to send them back to the VA to make sure that they are getting counseling with the appropriate people.

We also have in-house groups in the community. We go to the DAV once a week. We are there from 9:00 in the morning until noon, longer if the mean in there. Here we have the ability to be there with them and talk with them and do their intakes. There are people there doing the VA benefits at the same time. This way they are getting all their care in one space. We have space there to do group if that's what needs to be. I have a space for peer support.

We are looking to be able to build more of these spaces in the communities, so if you are a place where we can set up those places, we need to be able to connect with you to do that.

We have a lot of other programs within WestCare where we can plug people in. We have the map program in Jefferson County. At our Dandridge office we have parenting classes that are free in the community. We have a program that is Plant the Seeds in the Boys and Girls Clubs in the schools. We also have Camp Fariposa.

Legacy Warriors Coffee: Hosted by Veterans Empowerment Support Team
Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:00 am
WestCare Tennessee
219 East Broadway Street
Newport TN 37821

Rita Barrett
WestCare Tennessee
Peer Support Specialist
Rita.barrett@westcare.com
865-371-3272

New Business: Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair
Are there any individual agency news, updates, and successes?

Individual Agency News/Updates:

TVCH Katelyn McGuire:
We partnered with Helping Mamas recently and did a diaper drive with them.
Courtney Niemann-Helping Mamas
Courtney.niemann@helpingmamas.org

Cherokee Health Matt Magrans-Tillery:

I haven't been to the CoC in a long time, but I'm back since being with Cherokee Health. I was VP of real assistance for KCDC, the public housing authority in Knoxville. I am now regional director of several different clinics within Cherokee, and that brings me outside of the jurisdiction just within Knox County. So glad to be back with organizations that I know and love. Let us know what we can do at Cherokee for any facilitations specifically with homeless and veterans services.

Torch Andy O'Quinn:

The shelter has been running for about three months now. We have had our first couple of move-ins for folks that have gone through the shelter program and moved into permanent housing. Three months is what we are looking at and hoping for in terms of people getting onto the wait list. The shelter is working and going well.

My biggest concern right now is that in Anderson County we were set up and thinking that we would be working with around 6-9 families at a time because this is what we were doing in hotels. The last few months, things are kind of going crazy. The number of homeless families that are facing eviction is going up. We have around 15 homeless families at a time. Just within the last year the number has increased dramatically.

MATS Tonya Polidoro:

Does anyone have prevention funds?

Clinch Powell Sabrina Seamon:

THDA eviction prevention money should be available to us August 15 2023. Andy, do you have a theory as to why the number of homeless families has gone up?

Torch Andy O'Quinn:

1. Rent increased by \$400.00+ dollars. A family decides to look for a cheaper place. Can't find one. Gets evicted.
2. The rental they are living in gets sold.

VOA Lisa Buhl:

Many people have been living in an apartment building that has been sold and just given a 30-day notice and the new landlord kicks them out and doubles the rent. If they are a homeless veteran, please send them to VOA at 865-338-3528. We serve all 12 counties.

MATS Tonya Polidoro:

If you know people that are facing eviction, if we can oscillate who has prevention funds, that would be great to make that connection.

Ridgeview Jan Cagle:

In the past Ridgeview has got emergency shelter fund/rapid rehousing, so I'm guessing we got that again. I'll check.

TVCH Katelyn McGuire:

TVCH manages a homeless assistance help line for the region. We receive phone calls from all over the State. We received over 700 phone calls for the month of June. We have a comprehensive resource manual that we utilize. We just have permanent supportive housing right now, but we know we have partner agencies here in the Tennessee Valley and Knox County that can be added to the resource manual. We will say "Hey TVCH doesn't have funding for that but let us connect you with someone who might be able to point you in a better direction". We never promise services and we never promise that you will have the funding. If you all are interested in being a part of the resource manual, we would love to continue to add and make it more comprehensive for the services that are available in our CoC. If you do get referrals from us, it comes thru the helpline or a case manager on our website.

kmcguire@tvceh.org

MATS Tonya Polidoro:

Yes, we use those resources as well, so it would be good to share the resources.

It used to be hard for agencies to navigate the prevention funds because clients had to go to court and a judge would have to sign off. Once it gets to that point, most of Landlord/client relationships were not salvageable. Now it is more appealing because you just need an eviction notice from the landlord.

Torch Andy O'Quinn:

In Anderson County we have ADFAC. They help with past due utilities. Maybe if someone can get help with their utilities, they can put that money toward their past due rent.

If you are doing prevention, you need to have a dedicated person specifically to do prevention because it is extremely overwhelming. We found that not only the number of telephone calls increased, but we were receiving non-prevention calls for every one homeless call. We found that \$20,000.00 for prevention only helped around 4 people. Because you must pay their past due rent, past due utilities and it adds up.

2023 CoC Program NOFO Update: Katelyn McGuire-Executive Director TVCH:

The NOFO dropped. The NOFO is the notice of funding opportunity that comes down from HUD that can help run CoC programming funding.

*It has been released and is currently being reviewed.

*A Timeline for the funding process will be created and made available.

*Members interested in applying for CoC Program funding please reach out to Katelyn McGuire at kmcguire@tvceh.org for more information/information session

*The TVCH website will be updated accordingly to reflect CoC Program Competition information <https://tvchomeless.org/continuum-of-care/>

It is due September 28, 2023, but individual applications will be due before that. We will let you know when that timeline is released. Be on the lookout for an email from us containing that initial information.

Leading the Way Home Conference Recap: Allie Cohn-Ridgeview

***Extensive Networking Opportunities:** We have 10 CoCs across the state and 9 were represented at the conference.

***Focus on Housing First approach:** The program director from Pathways to Housing spoke at the conference. Pathways to Housing is kind of the ground 0 for Housing First. Housing First is a priority for HUD. There are some focuses for HUD around inclusiveness with LGBTQ individuals experiencing homelessness. There was a site visit. Chattanooga has a sanctioned encampment.

***Focus on Collaboration:** Making sure that we are communicating with other Cocs and support one another in our endeavors.

CoC Data Report: Nikki Lynn – Director of Data Management TVCH:

We are doing quarterly monitoring right now. Something that we have found our errors are with families and children. When you are going through and doing your entry for a family, make sure that you are doing head of household first, and then you are doing the assessment by linking the dependent, or whoever else is in the household from that head of household. Make sure that you are going back and reviewing the other members of that household assessment to make sure any of the information that is individualized, such as name or social or veteran status is filed in. Also, specifically, relationship to head of household. Because that is not going to populate into those assessments because that is individualized for each client. I know that when this is entered correctly, we will see an improvement in our overall data quality. We got to get it up. 95% is what we want. We are at 93%.

Very Important: Data must be entered within 0-3 days of entry/intake into a project. I know if you go back and update information, it messes with that 3-day period. I am having conversations with Wellsky regarding this.

Also, our policy with HMIS and something that is required by HUD is “For all clients served and entered in HMIS by a HMIS Member Agency, no more than 5% of all client level data should be “blank/not reported/null”. This is why we are seeing a B grade.

CES by County for the Previous Month:

Union	6
Sevier	11
Monroe	4
Loudon	2
Jefferson	9
Hamblen	38
Grainger	5
Cocke	9
Claiborne	3
Campbell	17
Blount	20
Anderson	38

Monthly Data Reports: HUD UDE ONLY: Grade B Additional Only: Grade B

HUD Verification Only: Grade B Overall: Grade B

110 Coordinated Entry Program Intakes

1,009 Unduplicated Individuals served in June

14 Veterans on our By Name List.

Case Conferencing Group: We meet every other Thursday. We have a meeting this Thursday at 10:00 am. If you know events or have resources that you can provide our veterans, please send me an email, and I will make sure that you get a meeting invite.

CoC Committee Updates: Committee Chairs

HMIS & Data Management Committee – Andy O’Quinn andy.oquinn@oakridgetorch.org

We have been talking about updating the policies and procedures, and changes that are going to be coming up in HMIS. We are thinking about everyone in the data committee working collaboratively to come up with a specific yearly mission. Example: What data report would you need to be able to go out and advocate for a specific need in your area?

Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair

As a coalition we need to be able to have reports. We are feeding the data in, but it is important how we get it back out. The data is very helpful. I use the data myself. The CoC as a whole have come a really long way with what we have done with switching over to Wellsky. And I think we need more people in our coalition to enter data. It’s super important. It helps us know in our region how many homeless families we are dealing with. So, Andy, I think you are on the right road here. Thank you.

Coordinated Entry Committee – Aaron Davies aaron.davies@mcnabb.org

PIT/HIC Committee – Nikki Lynn nlynn@tvceh.org

Rank & Review Committee – Allie Cohn cohnab@ridgeview.com

I am excited that we have a committee in place. Once we compile the timeline, we will be able to get out more information about when rank and review will be happening.

Homeless Awareness & Advocacy Committee – Katelyn McGuire kmcguire@tvceh.org

We have not had a meeting yet. The idea behind this committee is that homelessness has a stigma around it. It has this idea of individuals who experience homelessness, what they look like, what they experience, how they act. I would really love to see this committee work to reduce that stigma and raise awareness in our communities. I’m hoping to create a group of individuals who can be that sounding voice while making sure we listen to those with the experience of homelessness, and to make sure we are bringing them into the conversations as well. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, shoot me an email and hopefully we will get started by September.

Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair:

That is for any committee that you see here. The more that joins the better the committee will be because of people being different. You are bringing thoughts and experiences and ideas, so that will make a better committee.

Open Discussion: What programs/solutions to homelessness has your community implemented with positive impact?

MATS Tonya Polidoro:

For us, even though we are an agency that has been around for 36 years, we are starting to really home in and do better about educating the community on what we do. We are starting to really ramp up communication, education, the awareness, what we are doing, and how we are set apart. We are starting to see some of our community being more supportive.

TVCH Katelyn McGuire:

TVCH has Permanent Supportive Housing that is a direct service that we offer to our communities. We have been working on our networking and collaboration across our counties. We sit on the Health Council in pretty much every county we serve. We are currently talking with individuals who are interacting in those communities each and every day so that we can learn. Each county is going to have a different need and a different set of requirements to serve their population. If we cannot offer the services, we like to make sure we have a list of individuals, organizations, and churches in that community that might can help. We have seen a positive impact that way to open the discussion for what we do as an organization and discussing with other organizations what they do to create better relationships. I have found when a referral comes from an agency itself, it has a little more impact in their ability to go through an assessment. They have kind of already been prescreened for services.

Torch Andy O'Quinn:

When we go out and find someone who has a drug or alcohol problem, we ask them if they would like to get into a drug or alcohol treatment. They will say "yes, I'm ready today". Then we are like "We just have to put you on a wait list". By the time their name comes up on the wait list, we might not be able to find them. So, we have started diverting \$2,000.00-\$3,000.00 a month of donation money towards paying for boarding homes and sober living facilities. So now we are usually almost immediately able to connect them with a sober living facility and put them in within 2 to 3 days. Sometimes on the same day. The sober living facilities are less expensive than a hotel, and they are less expensive than other places. They usually end up being about a \$400.00 deposit and \$100.00-\$150.00 per week. Once you are in the Sober Living facility nobody else is using drugs or alcohol and it gives you a time to clear your head. Then if things go well, they will get connected to a mental health treatment, or whatever other kind of drug and alcohol treatment they need. But since we have been doing this, we have been moving, probably between 4 to 6 people a month. This has been so successful because we are finding that we can really ship people off the streets quickly as long as we have a place for them. We started advocating and talking to other living facilities, even in different cities, Nashville and Knoxville.

VOA Lisa Buhl:

Volunteers of America recently increased the amount of AMI that we allow. Before they had to be 50% AMI or lower, now they are accepting people in that 50% to 80%. That is increasing the number of people we have coming in.

The next meeting is:

August 1, 2023, at 10:00 am.

United Way of Greater Knoxville

1301 Hannah Ave

Knoxville TN 37921

Virtual option will also be available.

Dates for the upcoming COC meeting

September 5, 2023

October 3, 2023

November 7, 2023, In person

December 2023 – No Meeting

Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair:

closed the meeting at 11:04 am