



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 • HAMBLÉN • JEFFERSON • LOUDON • MONROE • SEVIER • UNION

June 6, 2023

Meeting Agenda



- Partner Spotlight
- New Business- Tonya Polidoro
- CoC Data Report – Nikki Lynn, TVCH
- CoC Updates – Brandon Harris/ Allie Cohn
- Committee Reports – Committee Chairs
- Old Business- Tonya Polidoro
- Questions
- Closing – Tonya Polidoro

Partner Spotlight



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Tiffany Higginbotham

Health Care for Homeless Veterans
Coordinated Entry Specialist

tiffany.higginbotham@va.gov



JAMES H.
QUILLEN VA
MEDICAL
CENTER
CATCHMENT
AREA

REVIEW OF LOCAL VA HOMELESS PROGRAMS

- HUD-VASH (Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing)
 - A collaboration between the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the VA
 - HUD provides eligible Veterans with a Housing Choice rental voucher
 - The VA provides ongoing case management and supportive services which address issues contributing to or resulting from homelessness. Housing stability is a goal of the case management services.
- Grant & Per Diem (GPD)
 - GPD provides transitional housing through contracted community partners
 - Steps House, Inc. in Knoxville, TN (2301 Davenport Road, Knoxville, TN)
 - Johnson City Salvation Army in Johnson City, TN (200 Ashe Street, Johnson City, TN)

REVIEW OF LOCAL VA HOMELESS PROGRAM CONTINUED

■ SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families)

- Rapidly rehouses Veterans and their families that are experiencing homelessness and prevents homelessness for those that are imminently homeless.
- Volunteers of America Mid-States
 - Johnson City Office (serves the Tri-Cities & the surrounding areas)- 423-461-0044
 - Knoxville Office (serves Knox and the surrounding counties, along with our 4 Kentucky counties)- 865-338-3370
- Volunteers of America Chesapeake and Carolinas- (serves our 7 Virginia counties)- 844-461-2892

■ Domiciliary

- Provides a 24/7 structured and supportive residential environment; includes rehabilitative treatment with a primary focus on establishing stable housing upon discharge.

■ Other Services

- Community Outreach, Veterans Justice Outreach, Community Employment Services, Coordinated Entry, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Homeless Veterans Dental Program, along with VA Healthcare Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Knoxville Homeless Program Office:
865-670-2369

Johnson City Homeless Program
Office: 423-979-2871

National Call Center for Homeless
Veterans (NCCHV)- 1-877-424-3838

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP HOUSE VETERANS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

- Be aware of the VA Homeless Programs and how to make a referral
- Have the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV) telephone number ready to share (1-877-4AID-VET)
- Assess for Veteran status and homelessness when working with clients
- Collaborate with the VA Homeless Programs to house Veterans
- Collaborate with the VA Homeless Programs to fill unmet needs
- Take the CHALENG Survey

PROJECT CHALENG

- CHALENG stands for “Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups”
- VA initiative; started in 1994
- “Project CHALENG unites homeless service providers, advocates, Veterans and concerned citizens toward the goal of meeting the evolving needs of Veterans who are homeless.”
- Two main components:
 - CHALENG surveys- assess local challenges and unmet needs of Veterans experiencing homelessness
 - CHALENG meetings- foster collaboration between VA and community service providers to address barriers
- CHALENG data has been used to create and expand many VA services to Veterans (i.e. HUD-VASH, SSVF, VJO, Homeless Veterans Dental Program).
- Community organizations can use CHALENG data for grant applications

TAKE THE 2023 CHALENG SURVEY

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHALENG2023>





QUESTIONS

Tiffany Higginbotham, LCSW
HCHV Coordinated Entry Specialist
Tiffany.Higginbotham@va.gov
865-202-6973

Knoxville Homeless Program Office: 865-670-2369

Johnson City Homeless Program Office: 423-979-2871

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
(NCCHV)- 1-877-424-3838

New Business:

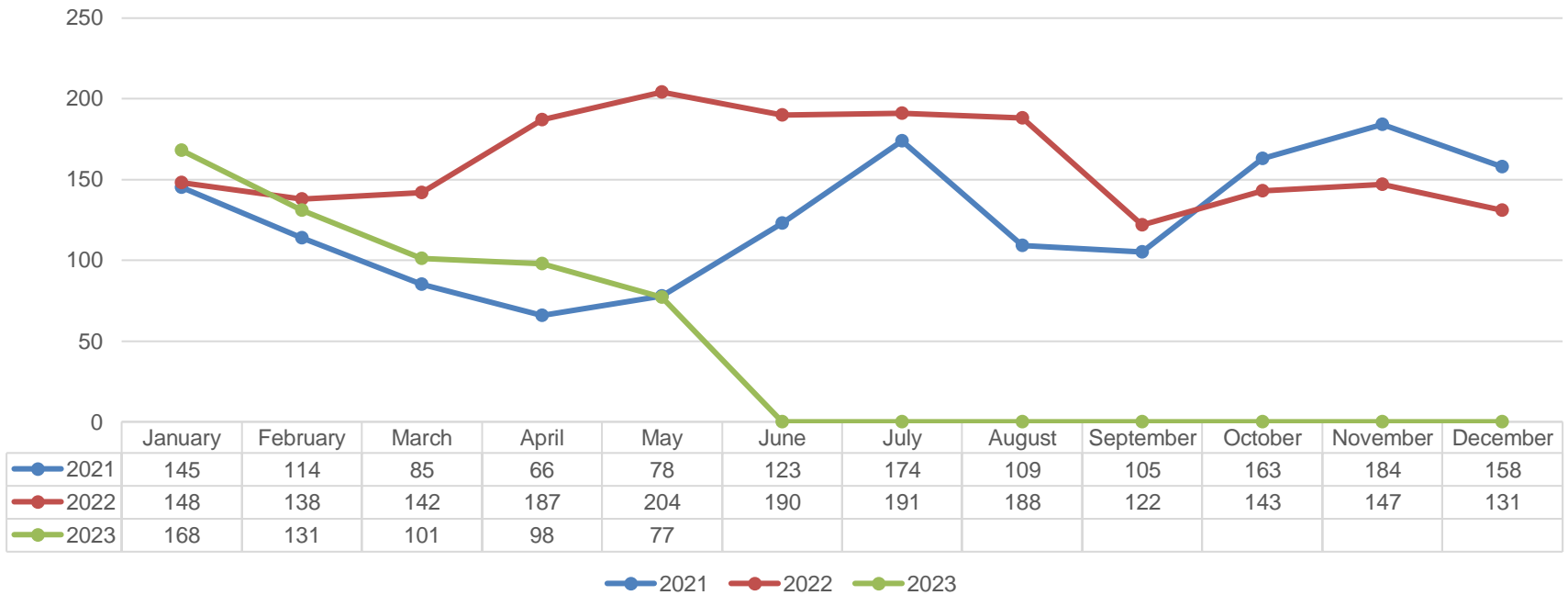


Share your agency successes,
upcoming events, or news with
other CoC Members!

CoC Data Reports – Update



Total CES Participation



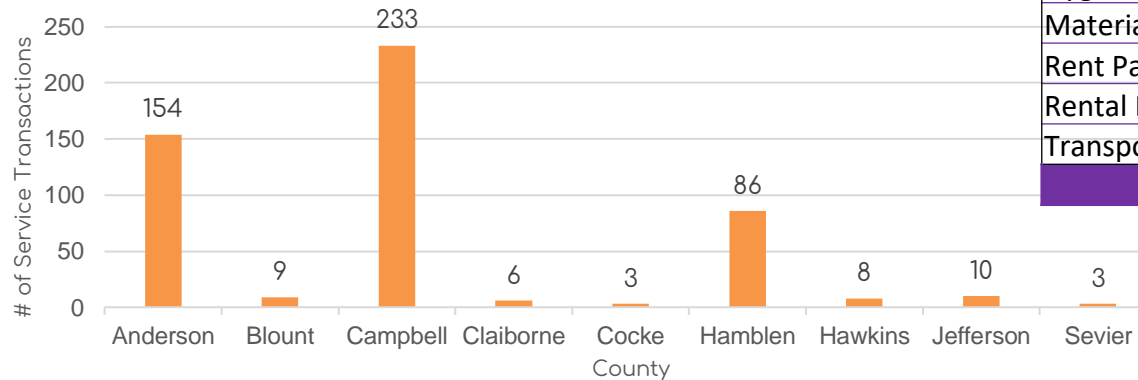
CoC Data Reports - Update



302
Individuals
Served in
May 2023

*number includes all service transactions, Coordinated Entry, and open Entry and Exit Programs

May 2023 Service Transactions by County



Service	# of Service Transactions
Advocacy	10
Benefits Assistance	1
Case/Care Management	139
Case/Care Management Referrals	4
Coordinated Entry SSO	77
Counseling Services	14
COVID-19 Antibody Tests	2
Emergency Shelter	30
Food	125
Health Education	8
Hygiene	62
Material Goods	9
Rent Payment Assistance	3
Rental Deposit Assistance	2
Transportation	31
Grand Total	517

CoC Data Reports - Update



Data Quality Year to Date :

	HUD UDE ONLY	Additional ONLY	HUD Verification ONLY	OVERALL
GRADE BASED ON COUNT FOR EACH ELEMENT:	A	A	B	B
	95.02%	95.17%	90.62%	93.52%

Quarterly Data Monitoring for CoC Quarter 1 needs to be scheduled with Nikki before June 16th.

HUD Data Standards were released on May 5th

Major changes include:

Social Security
Race & Ethnicity
Gender
Veteran Status

Date Homelessness Started
Coordinated Entry
Translation Assistance
Sexual Orientation

2023 CoC Program NOFO Review

- Anticipated to be available in May/June
- Application Process will involve the rank and review of submitted programs
- Once information on the application is released, it will be available on the TVCH website for CoC Members
- An information session will be held once materials have been reviewed to answer questions and explain the process/eligibility requirements

Questions regarding the application can be directed to Katelyn McGuire, Executive Director of TVCH at kmcguire@tvceh.org

Leading the Way Home Conference Information

Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition's 2023 Educational Conference
June 27-29, 2023

Chattanooga Convention Center
<https://leadingthewayhometn.com/>

Questions can be directed to Mike Smith, msmith@homelesscoalition.org

CoC Committees



HMIS & Data Management Update – Andy O’Quinn
Email andy.oquinn@oakridgetorch.org if interested

Coordinated Entry Update – Aaron Davies
Email aaron.davies@mcnabb.org if interested

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

Rank & Review Update – Allie Cohn
Email cohnab@ridgeview.com if interested

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

What are the
biggest gaps of
care you see in
your
community?

Questions



The floor is
open for any
question!

Next Meeting



Next CoC Meeting:
July 11, 2023
10am

Virtual – Link will be shared
prior to meeting

Thank you for attending!



Proud CoC Members



COC June 2023 Minutes

6/6/2023

Members Present:

Penny Blakely | Community Representative
Lisa Buhl | VOA
Jan Cagle | Ridgeview
Allie Cohn | Creating Homes Initiative – Ridgeview
Joey Collins | ADFAC
Laura Contreras | Alanis HomeSource
Aaron Davies | HRMC
Shannon Dow | McNabb
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
Tiffany Higginbotham | VA
Hollan Kasper | Oak Ridge Housing Authority
John Lewis | TN Dept of Corrections Housing Coordinator East TN
Cary Loud | A Place to Stay
Nikki Lynn | TVCH
Courtney Niemann | Helping Mommas
Andy O'Quinn | TORCH
Mary Nelle Osborne | Peninsula
Samantha Peach | Clinch Powell
Tonya Polidoro | MATS
Alexia Rutland | Haven House
Sabrina Seamon | Clinch Powell
Bruce Spangler | Spangler Strategies
Angela Stolpe | United Way of Blount County
Kimberly Terry | TVCH
Katie Williams | Legal Aid of Mid TN & The Cumberland

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 and was excited to see everyone joining in the meeting.

Partner Spotlight: Tiffany Higginbotham – Coordinated Entry Specialist US Department of Veterans Affairs

Tiffany spoke on the US Department of Veterans Affairs services and how the CoC can partner together.

Their local VA Homeless Programs include:

HUD-VASH (Housing & Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing)

Eligible Veterans receive housing, case management & support services.

The goal is housing stability. Veterans can be in this program for as long as they qualify.

Grant & Per Diem

This is a Transitional Housing Program. US Dept of Veterans Affairs contract with two partners in our continuum: Steps House Inc and Johnson City Salvation Army. Veterans can stay anywhere from a few weeks up to two years depending on the program. There is a clinical program and a bridge housing program.

SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families)

Rapidly Rehouses Veterans and their families by paying first month's rent deposit, and pay for several months of rent if needed. Short term case management is provided. Volunteers of America Mid States, Volunteers of America Chesapeake and Carolinas are the grantees.

Domiciliary

Provides a 24/7 structured and supportive residential environment. Includes rehabilitative treatment with a primary focus on establishing stable housing upon discharge.

Other Services

Community Outreach, Veterans Justice Outreach, Community Employment Services, Coordinated Entry, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Homeless Veterans Dental Program, VA Healthcare Services.

Remember that veterans do not have to be eligible for VA Healthcare to receive our homeless program services. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans is 1-877-4AID-VET.

Please take the CHALENG SURVEY. This nationwide survey assesses the needs of veterans who are experiencing homelessness. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHALENG2023>
These responses do go to Congress. This survey takes 6-7 minutes.

Tiffany Higginbotham, LCSW
HCHV Coordinated Entry Specialist
Tiffany.higginbotham@va.gov
865-202-6973

Individual Agency News/Updates: Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair

MATS will be at the Farmers Market in Morristown on June 24 2023 for Family Fun Day. Next meeting is July 11, 2023. Next in person meeting is on August 1 2023.

Sabrina Seamon – Clinch Powell

Clinch Powell still has a little ESG CV2 money for Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention. Must spend this month.

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

May 2023 had 77 calls or visits entered into coordinated entry. That is not the total number of calls. The total number of calls per Kimberly Terry is 740. There is a number of calls that cannot go into coordinated entry because folks do not want their information entered into HMIS, or go through that process, or the phone calls are outside of our 12 county region. 302 individuals were served for the month of May 2023. 517 Service Transactions for May 2023. Transactions are low in some counties because they are not being tracked. If your organization would like to track service transactions in HMIS, please let us know. Data Quality Year to Date Overall is B (93.52%). We need to take a look at everyone's quarter one; please send that to me before June 16 2023. HUD requires an overall score of 95%.

HUD Data Standards were released on May 5 2023. Major changes include:

Social Security: HUD is looking for the last 4 numbers but I recommend using the full social security #.

Race & Ethnicity: Has been combined into one field.

Gender: All Gender identities will be included.

Veteran Status: This will be based on the VA's definition.

Data Homelessness Started: Based per episode.

Coordinated Entry: No open-ended questions. Boxes must be checked.

Translation Assistance: Do you need assistance with language? What is your preferred language.

Sexual Orientation: This field was added.

2023 CoC Program NOFO Update & Other Updates: Brandon Harris TVCH

Anticipated to be available at the end of June 2023.

Other updates: Looking to change our PSH Program. To extend it out so that we can house more people. Right now we have 5 veterans in the Operation Restore Program. A lot has been discharged over the last few years because of program abandonment, multiple addictions, and death. We will keep Operation Restore Veteran specific, but expand Family Services to our other counties. We still have openings in Operation Restore.

Leading the Way Home Conference: Allie Cohn Creating Homes Initiative – Ridgeview

There is a statewide conference that the Chattanooga CoC is organizing. There will be involvement from all 10 of the Tennessee CoCs. There will be national representation. There will be workshops. This will be a wealth of information. The dates are June 27-29 2023 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

CoC Committee Updates: Committee Chairs

Rank & Review Committee – Allie Cohn

We need two more people for the Rank & Review Committee. Please email me at

cohnab@rdigeview.com. The time spent overall for rank and review would be 4 hours at the most on the day of. Leading up to the day of the rank and review would be four hours sporadically.

Questions/Open Discussion:

What are the biggest gaps of care that you see in your community?

Lisa Buhl – VOA: There is nowhere for single fathers that are homeless to take their kids. **Tonya Polidoro – MATS:** We accept them. **Andy O’Quin – Torch:** We do if they are homeless in Anderson County.

Tiffany Higginbotham – US Dept of Veterans Affairs: Temporary foster homes for pets while people receive treatment or seek housing; services for registered sex offenders.

Andy O’Quin – Torch: We have a strange gap in Anderson County; for folks that do not want to get into drug or alcohol treatment, that does not have drug and alcohol issues and folks that do not have children.

John Lewis- TN Dept of Corrections Housing Coordinator East TN: from a corrections perspective, it is the sex offenders. Lazarus Project in Knoxville is taking applications. It is a treatment program. My contact information is 615-571-2282 john.w.lewis@tn.gov If you would like to get into with them.

Jan Cagle-Ridgeview: We use Emphasis House in Middle Tennessee. It is a treatment program for substance abuse.

Courtney Nieman-Helping Mommas: We are interested in doing a distribution of diapers for homeless families with other organizations. We serve 33 counties in Eastern TN. Courtney.niemann@helpingmamas.org. It’s not just diapers it’s also baby essential needs, period products, car seats and pack & plays.

The next meeting is: July 11, 2023 at 10:00 am. Virtual link will be shared prior to meeting. If you can, invite people that you know that are trying to help the homeless. Let’s try to grow our coalition and see if we can get more people on board. I think that will help with the referral process and coordinated entry.

Dates for the upcoming COC meeting

July 11, 2023

October 3, 2023

August 1, 2023 In person

November 7, 2023 In person

September 5, 2023

December 2023 – No Meeting

Closing: Tonya Polidoro-CoC chair thanked everyone for a wonderful meeting and closed the meeting at 10:58 am.