

COC May 2023 Minutes

5/2/2023

Members Present:

Penny Blakely | Community Representative
Teagan Buckner | Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System
Lisa Buhl | VOA
Allie Cohn | Creating Homes Initiative – Ridgeview
Aaron Davies | HRMC
Shannon Dow | McNabb
Lauren Farmer | CCR&R
Karen Ferguson | TVCH
Sarah Gulley | TN Valley Housing Services – Morristown Housing Authority
Joel H | Community Representative
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
Kitty Lewis | Union County Food Pantry
Macrea Love | TVCH
Nikki Lynn | TVCH
Letisicia McQueen | WestCare
Paula Murphy-Turjillo | Legal Aid LTC Advocate
Andy O'Quinn | TORCH
Samantha Peach | Clinch Powell
Kimberly Poff | VBH
Tonya Polidoro | MATS
Melina Politte | Haven House
Alexia Rutland | Haven House
Sabrina Seamon | Clinch Powell
Bruce Spangler | Community Representative
Kimberly Terry | TVCH
Katie Williams | Legal Aid of Mid TN & The Cumberland
Kristi Willingham | Salvation Army

Call to Order: Tonya Polidoro COC Chair called the meeting to order 10:12 a.m.

Welcome: Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair

Tonya welcomed everyone and was excited to see everyone in person after three or four years.

Partner Spotlight: Andy O'Quinn – Executive Director TORCH

Andy spoke on lessons learned, things that worked for TORCH and how they were able to build up in Anderson County from a tiny agency to an agency with multiple services, multiple case managers and having a few non congregate shelter properties.

You need community acceptance. Talk to city officials – help them understand what your agency does, be partners.

Next, you need to stay focused. Look at your past statistics and see how you can help the most people (where do you get the most bang for your buck?). By staying focused TORCH has figured out different paths out of homelessness. Example: I'm homeless because I lost my job. TORCH has a path. I'm homeless because my income cannot pay for childcare and a home. TORCH has a path. I'm homeless because I have an addiction. TORCH has a path out of homelessness for you.

Remember – keep the door open for people to fail. When this happens, let it go, move on. You will never understand why.

How could the CoC be useful? Ask your partners about the different grants they are on. Ask about forms you might use when housing people. Ask about their policies and procedures. You do not have to start from scratch. Andy and Katelyn spoke about a public shared drive for generalized information.

Andy encourages you to reach out to him for anything or any advice.

Andy.Oquinn@OakRidgeTorch.org

New Business: Tonya Polidoro – Governing Council Chair

Please drop your name and organization into the chat so that we can keep up with attendance.

Everyone that is here at United Way, we have a sign in sheet.

We have a spot open for anyone interested in taking the minutes. Let Katelyn know.

Individual Agency News/Updates:

TVCH Katelyn McGuire: We have open spaces for our Permanent Supportive Housing Program. We have six open spaces in our Veteran Focus Program and two open spaces in our Family Services Program. There are certain eligibility requirements. If you know of anyone interested, feel free to contact us. If you have any clients that might benefit from these services, feel free to refer them to us. The requirements are: Chronic homelessness, a documented disability, and someone who can vouch for the chronically homelessness.

We have more donations than our storage facility can handle. If you have any certain needs or any certain things that your organization needs, please let us know. We will make a list and let you know when we have it. We have lots of men's and women's clothing.

Our open spots are in all 12 counties of our CoC.

Legal Aid Society-Paula Murphy Trujillo: The Legal Aid Society will have a clinic on the third Tuesday of this month. This is for bankruptcy, probate, and estate matters. 1-800-238-1443. ptrujillo@las.org

Unknown Speaker: There is a job opening in Campbell County for a social worker. It will be on USA jobs until May 22, 2023. It's a therapy mental health job.

Volunteers of America: Volunteers of America has an outreach position open.

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

PIT/HIC 2023 from January 25, 2023. A total of 170 sheltered, 514 unsheltered, and a total of 684. Now we are going to talk about what it looks like to gather PIT data. We rely on community partners to help in all 12 counties for the PIT data. We need everyone's help, everyone to be on the same page when we are recording and filling out the same paperwork the same way. Next year everyone should be using 2024 paperwork.

From the 10-year trends, it is going down, but there are dips. Last dip was 2020 during covid. It is going back up since we are coming out of Covid.

This number is not going to be accurate. Not all data could be counted because of HUD's definition. They have to be literally street homeless (on the street or vehicle; without power) and we are an emergency shelter. We cannot count Rapid Rehousing nor PSH.

PIT/HIC 2023: Anderson 174, Blount 175, Campbell 80, Claiborne 7, Cocke 42, Grainger 0, Hamblen 88, Jefferson 22, Loudon 15, Monroe 4, Sevier 4, Union 14. Monroe, Loudon, and Jefferson were lower because we did not have partners there to do the search. Also remember it was January, very cold and hopefully the people had somewhere warm to stay.

Something I found interesting: We actually had people that identified as not female or male. We had single gender or transgender folks report which is awesome. About 445 people identified as white and only 40 (the next highest) was African American. People who self-identified with mental health disorders were 236. We had over 250 that identified as having drug use.

If you use the counting us app, it will drop a pin where you are. Also – lots of churches will pay for hotel rooms for the homeless. That is why we need to build partnerships so that we can get those numbers. This data is reported to HUD, they compile it all and take it to Congress.

Knox County had 1,200 folks. So out of 12 counties, we do have more homeless individuals.

Monthly Data Reports: HUD UDE ONLY: Grade A Additional Only: Grade A
HUD Verification Only: Grade B Overall: Grade A
214 Program Entry & Exits
Disability Type: 88.03%
Income Source: 96.06%

Income Amount: 99.52%
Non-Cash Source: 96.36%
Health Insurance Type: 94.34%

CES by County for the Previous Month:

Sevier:	6
Monroe:	1
Loudon:	1
Jefferson:	5
Hamblen:	33
Grainger:	1
Cocke:	2
Campbell:	3
Blount:	20
Anderson:	35

Macrea Love TVCH:

We did find 14 individuals on the street, but I don't feel that number represents the problem in that community (Union County). There are entire communities without water, without electricity. I've found more encampments. There are people living in tents next to the shoreline at Norris Lake and people living in broken down houseboats.

Also Monroe County: People gathering together, sharing motel rooms, and living in RVs. I think it is very important when we do the PIT in the future to know the area that we are covering to identify these at risk communities.

Unknown Speaker: Does the CoC conduct any telephone surveys? Example of what we do: We run a report in HMIS to see the people that we have identified that were homeless through street outreach in the last three months. We call them and if they are still homeless, we include them in the PIT.

Unknown Speaker: Since we need more volunteers it would be a good idea to tap into some of the colleges and universities.

Leticia McQueen West Care: We would like to help with the PIT.

CoC Updates:

Katelyn McGuire TVCH

With the CoC, there are funding opportunities that come from HUD. The CoC is like an umbrella in that it is able to disperse funding into our communities. They are anticipating that the NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunities) is to be dropped in May or 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. I want to

hold an information session for anyone who is interested in funding. TVCH is the collaborative applicant to the CoC. If you are ever interested in funding, or have questions about funding, reach out to me. You can reach out to me at kmcguire@tvceh.org or info@tvceh.org.

Allie Cohn Creating Homes Initiative – Ridgeview

There is a statewide conference being held in Chattanooga. It's called Leading The Way Home. It is being organized by the Chattanooga CoC. June 27-29 2023 at Chattanooga Convention Center website: <https://leadingthewayhometn.com/>. Questions can be directed to Mike Smith msmith@homelesscoalition.org. The overview is that it's a best practice to address homelessness. There should be something for everyone and a great way to network with other partners from across the state. They are offering student discounts; you can use HUD funding grants to attend and there is a 50% off of registration for volunteers. Even if you can only go for a day, it would be worth your while. They will have national presenters from HUD and from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

CoC Committee Updates: Committee Chairs

HMIS & Data Management Committee – Nikki Lynn nlynn@tvceh.org if interested. Making sure all of our agency paperwork for HMIS data is up to date and looking at creating a general how to guide. Please email if interested in joining this committee.

Coordinated Entry Committee – Aaron Davies aaron.davies@mcnabb.org if interested. We will be going over some annual updates for the coordinated entry process and written standards. THDA is going to be coming out with some additional guidance later in the year – but we want to go ahead and update what we have and what's required right now. Please email if interested in joining this committee.

PIT/HIC Committee – Nikki Lynn nlynn@tvceh.org if interested. We are going to reconvene the PIT/HIC Committee meeting starting in August. Please email if interested in joining this committee.

Rank & Review Committee – Allie Cohn cohnab@ridgeview.com if interested. When the NOFO drops there is a process and included in that process is a rank and review of submitted proposals for funding. We need to put a committee together for our CoC to review those proposals. We want to make sure that projects that are submitted are appropriately ranked and fairly ranked and submitted to HUD. We need committee members to join soon because the NOFO is going to drop. We need to get the timeline together, make sure we have our threshold requirement documents together, and make sure we have a ranking tool that feels comfortable. On this committee we are responsible for reviewing all the applications and we want to make sure that they meet the eligibility and threshold requirements. We would need to meet as soon as the NOFO drops. Once every week or two weeks for an hour or less. Then when ranking and review would happen once all the proposal have been submitted. That is usually a four hour process that happens in the morning and it's close to the end of when the application would be submitted. Please email if interested in joining this committee.

Homeless Awareness & Advocacy Committee – Katelyn McGuire kmcguire@tvceh.org if interested. This would be coming from a CoC perspective working on eliminating or at least

lessening the stigma associated with homelessness; creating awareness and creating advocacy around anything that could help reduce that stigma. Also being a voice and base for the CoC. Trying to recruit new members and telling them this is a useful partnership and this is what you can benefit from it. Also navigate through resources within our communities. Please email if interested in joining this committee.

2023 CoC Member Dues: Tonya Polidoro

Karen got the 2023 membership invoices out with a due date of December. We want to bump that to 60 days because having dues paid drives the voting rights that you have as part of the CoC. If new members join after September, their dues will pay for the next year.

Katelyn McGuire TVCH: I wanted to mention is TVCH manages the call line for Eastern Tennessee. I wanted to throw some numbers out there so everyone is aware of the kind of assistance needed. Last month we received over 600 phone calls through just the helpline. We receive at least 100 emails a month requesting help. These numbers are very concerning when you look at the PIT count. Once again, the number of people that we can physically count in an area does not represent all the needs that we are seeing in our helpline, case managers and website. People are in need in all our counties currently. With that being said, there are only so many direct services that TVCH itself can offer. We will do a referral to those organizations in that county that the individual is in. If you are not currently receiving any referrals from us, and would like to get on the resource list, please let us know so that we can get you added.

Bruce Spangler – Retired from Volunteer Ministry Center: I want to continue to be part of the solution, if I may. If I can help with your organization in terms of visioning, mission, strategies, or Grant Writing. I will leave my card with my contact information. I'll be glad to assist you in any way that I might be able to do so.

The next meeting is: June 6, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Virtual link will be shared prior to meeting.

Dates for the upcoming COC meeting

July 4, 2023	October 3, 2023
August 1, 2023 In person	November 7, 2023 In person
September 5, 2023	December 2023 – No Meeting

Regarding the July 4th meeting: We understand that people will be off for the holiday, but we do have to have one in July to be compliant with 10 meetings for the year.

Tonya Polidoro closed the meeting at 11:38 am



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

May 2, 2023

Meeting Agenda



- Partner Spotlight –TORCH, Andy O’Quinn
- New Business - Tonya Polidoro
- CoC Data Report –Nikki Lynn, TVCH
- CoC Updates –Katelyn McGuire/ Allie Cohn
- Committee Reports –Committee Chairs
- Old Business - Tonya Polidoro
- Questions
- Closing –Tonya Polidoro
- HMIS Training Session to follow

Partner Spotlight



Andy O'Quinn

Executive Director

Andy.Oquinn@OakRidgeTorch.org

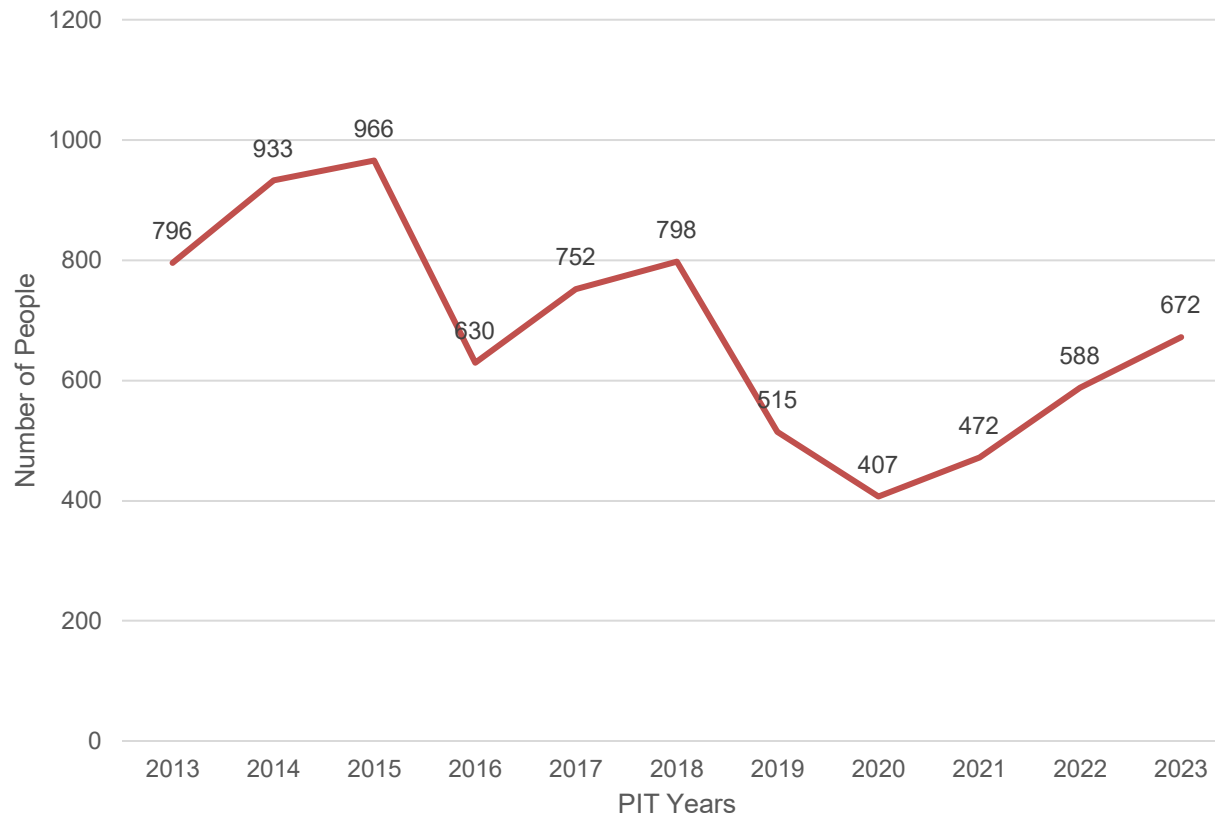
New Business:



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

PIT/HIC 2023

PIT Totals 10 Year Trend



Sheltered

170

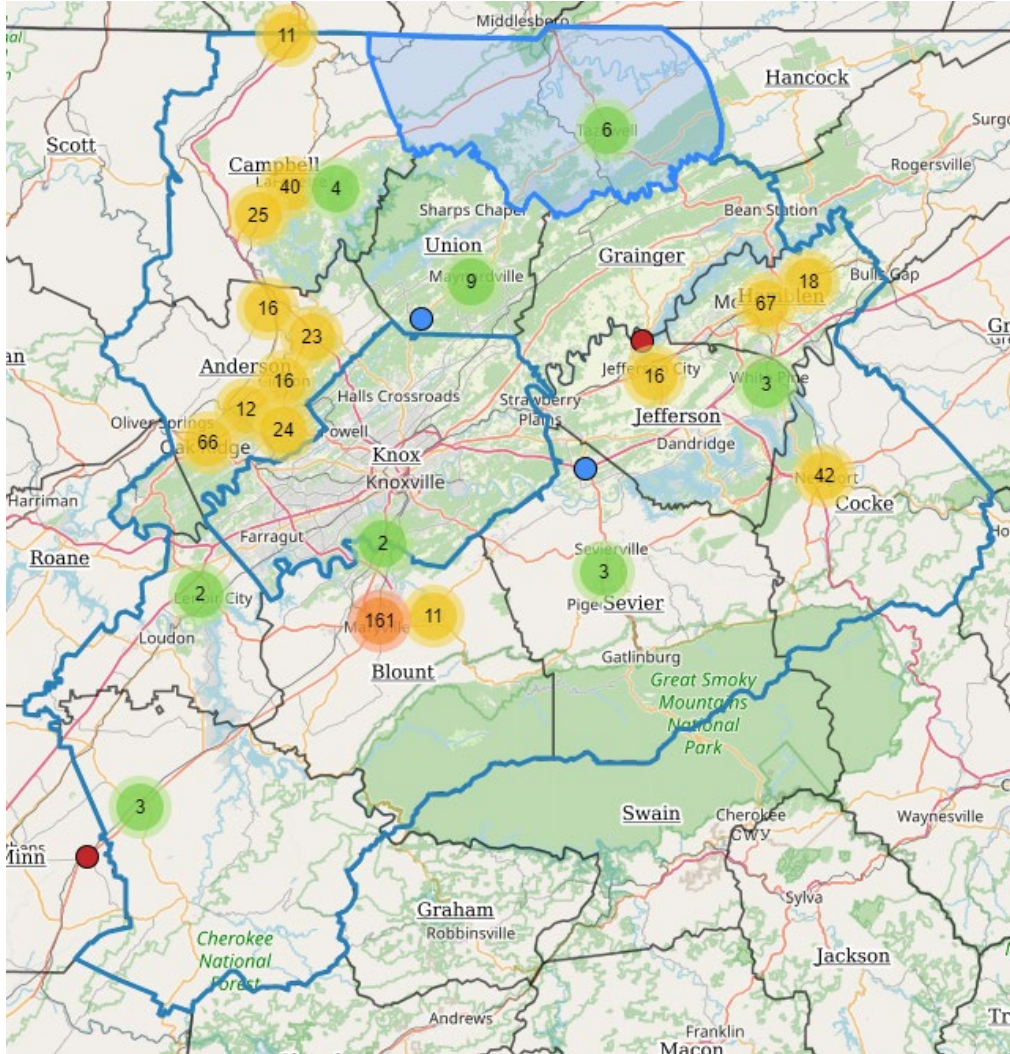
Unsheltered

514

Total

684

PIT/HIC 2023



County	
Anderson	174
Blount	175
Campbell	80
Claiborne	7
Cocke	42
Hamblen	88
Jefferson	22
Loudon	15
Monroe	4
Sevier	4
Union	14

CoC Data Reports - Update

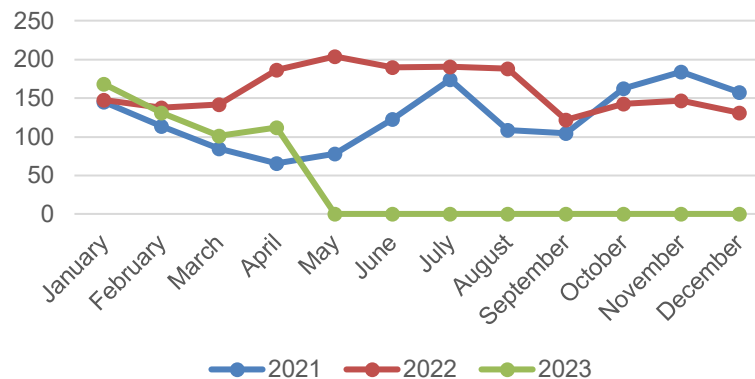
214
Program
Entry &
Exits

GRADE BASED ON COUNT FOR EACH ELEMENT:	HUD UDE ONLY	Additional ONLY	HUD Verification ONLY	OVERALL
	A	A	B	A
	95.59%	96.26%	94.02%	95.37%

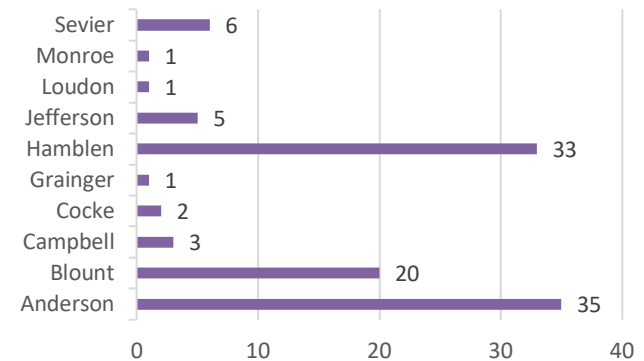
HUD Verification:
(Elements measure completeness at entry ONLY)

Disability Type	All	936	824	88.03%
Income Source	Adults/HoH	686	659	96.06%
Income Amount (for all valid sources)	Adults/HoH Recv Inc = Y	420	418	99.52%
Non-Cash Source	Adults/HoH	686	661	96.36%
Health Insurance Type	All	936	883	94.34%

Total CES Participation



CES by County for the Previous Month



CoC Updates



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

TVCHomeless.org

CoC Committees



HMIS & Data Management Update – Nikki Lynn
Email nlynn@tvceh.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

2023 CoC Member Dues – Tonya Polidoro

- 2023 Invoices will be sent out in May 2023 with a due date of 60 days from date invoice is received (approx. July 1, 2023)
- If new members join after September, their dues will pay for the next year.

Discussion/Questions

**The floor is
open for any
questions or
discussion!**

Next Meeting



**Next CoC Meeting:
June 6, 2023
10am**

**Virtual – Link will be shared
prior to meeting**

Thank you for attending!



Proud CoC Members

