

COC October 2023 Minutes

10/03/2023

Members Present:

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH
Nikki Lynn | TVCH
Tiffany Higgenbotham | VA
Allie Cohn | Creating Homes Initiative/Ridgeview Behavioral Health
Tonya Polidoro | MATS
Sascha Henderson | CHI 2.0 Regional Housing Facilitator – McNabb Center
Kennith Hawkins | Choice Health Network/Positive Living
Kimberly Terry | TVCH
Micah Barnwell | Cherokee Health Systems
Hollan Kasper | Oak Ridge Housing Authority
Bobby Eason | Foothills Community Development
Shana Pope | Ridgeview Behavioral Health
Karen Ferguson | TVCH
Jan Cagle | Ridgeview Behavioral Health
Aaron Davies | McNabb Center
Haley Emitt | Choice Health Network
Macrea Love | TVCH
Deborah Parker | VOA
Andy O'Quinn | TORCH
Samantha Peach | Clinch Powell
Brennen Morrow | Community Representative

Note: The first 40 minutes was not recorded. My minutes will not be as in depth as previous meetings.

Reminder: Change your Zoom name to include your first and last name, pronouns (if you would like), and your organization. Mute your audio.

Call to Order: Katelyn McGuire – CoC Lead

Called the meeting to order 10:03 a.m.

Welcome: Katelyn McGuire – CoC Lead

Partner Spotlight: Choice Health Network A Positively Living Company

Haley Emitt
Choice Health Network
865-525-1540 ext 232
Haley@choicehealthnetwork.org

Kennith Hawkins
Choice Health Network
HOPWA housing
Kennith@choicehealthnetwork.org

Our mission: to provide compassionate care to empower, promote, and inspire wellness.

Organizational Background:

*From its inception in 1996 as a day center for people living with HIV, the organization has evolved to include client services, medical services, prevention and harm reduction.

*In 2018, with the launch of our medical clinic, Positively Living became Choice Health Network.

*Today, we serve nearly 6,000 Tennesseans who are living with challenges associated with HIV, mental illness, addiction, homelessness, disabilities, discrimination, and stigma.

*We currently have four primary locations across Tennessee, providing comprehensive care and prevention service.

Our Locations:

*Headquarters – 1925 Ailor Ave., Knoxville TN

*Chattanooga, TN

*Memphis, TN

*Cookeville/Upper Cumberland, TN

Our Programmatic Pillars:

*Medical Services

*Client Services

*Prevention & Harm Reduction

Medical Services:

*HIV Medical Care

*Rapid start program available

*Clients living with HIV do not have to be insured.

*Hepatitis C Treatment

*HIV Prevention (PrEP/PEP)

*Primary Care For Clients Living With HIV and/or Hepatitis C

*On-Site Pharmacy

Harm Reduction Programs:

*HIV/HCV/STI-Testing: Operates Monday-Friday. Walk-in or appointment.

*Referral to treatment.

*Condoms & lube distribution

*Educational outreach

*PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)

*PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis)

*SSP (Syringe Service Program): Operates three days per week, by appointment only (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)

*Overdose prevention (free Narcan/naloxone training and distribution)

PrEP:

*Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP): a pill taken daily to prevent HIV infection. It is recommended that you use other barrier methods with PrEP, such as condoms.

*Daily PrEP reduces the risk of contracting HIV via sex by more than 95% for men who have sex with men. Among people who inject drugs, it reduces the risk by more than 70%.

PEP:

*PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) is an option for someone who thinks they have recently been exposed to HIV during sex or through sharing needles and works to prepare drugs.

*PEP must be started within 72 hours of possible exposure to HIV. If you are prescribed PEP, you will need to take it for 28 days.

Client Services:

*Case Management Services

*Ryan White Part B

*HOPWA

*Behavioral Health Services

Ryan White Case Management:

*Ryan White Part B provides support for people living with HIV.

*Services:

*Insurance and copay assistance

*Medical and prescription assistance

*Dental

*Vision

*Food Cards

*Transportation assistance

*Housing:

*Short-term rent/utility assistance

*Emergency housing

HOPWA-Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS:

*HOPWA is a HUD-funded program serving the housing needs of people living with HIV. Choice Health Network provides HOPWA services in the East and Upper Cumberland regions.

*Emergency Housing (FB): Emergency housing program maintains a waitlist.

*Move-In costs: deposits/first month's rent/application fees (PHP)

*Short-term rent/mortgage/utility assistance (STRMU)

*Supportive Services: case management, food assistance, transportation assistance

HOPWA: Short Term Rent, Mortgage & Utility Assistance:

*Must have income (employment, social security, disability, etc.)

*Up to 147 days of assistance per year (just under 5 months)

*Must provide lease for rental assistance

*Checks come from Mission Rental Assistance for confidentiality

*Typically runs out of funding in the last quarter of the grant year.

Motel Housing Assistance:

*HOPWA-up to 60 days of assistance at a motel, with weekly case management appointments required.

*Small case load – intensive case management

*Has a waitlist

*Ryan White Emergency Housing – 2 weeks max

*Primarily for acute medical or safety issues

***All Housing services are for people living with HIV**



**Tennessee and Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA)
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**



City of Memphis, Div. of Housing & Community Development (3 counties)
170 N. Main St., 4th Floor
Memphis, TN 38107
Kimberly Mitchell
kimberly.mitchell@memphis.tn.gov
901-636-7347

West TN Legal Services (18 counties)
210 W. Main St., PO Box 2066
Jackson, TN 38301
Carita Cole
carita@wfls.org
731-426-1327

Nashville CARES (4 counties)
633 Thompson Ln.
Nashville, TN 37204
Erin Pickney, LCSW
epickney@nashvillecares.org
615-921-0339

Columbia CARES (11 counties)
1202 S. James Campbell Blvd., Suite 8B
Columbia, TN 38401
Letitia Franklin
letitiafranklin@columbiacares.org
931-381-0114 ext. 11

Davidson Metropolitan Development & Housing Agency (13 counties)
712 S. 6th St.
Nashville, TN 37206
Shelley Fugitt
sfugitt@nashville-mdha.org
615-252-6702

Positively Living-Upper Cumberland (11 counties)
1100 England Dr.
Cookeville, TN 38501
Jered Croom
jered@positively-living.org
931-283-1544

Chattanooga CARES/CEMPA (11 counties)
1000 E. 3rd St., Suite 300
Chattanooga, TN 37403
Sherry Martin
sherrym@cempa.org
423-648-9909

Positively Living (16 counties)
900 E. Hill Ave., Suite 280
Knoxville, TN 37915
Haley Emitt
haley@choicehealthnetwork.org
865-525-1540 ext. 224

Frontier Health/Hope for TN (8 counties)
1570 Waverly Rd.
Kingsport, TN 37664
Megan Suggs
msuggs@frontierhealth.org
423-224-1427

HOPWA Director Contact: 615-532-7914

Food & Transportation Programs:

*Food Assistance:

*Ryan White Program-\$40.00 in food cards per month

*HOPWA Program-\$25.00 in food cards per month & dry goods from our pantry

*Transportation Assistance:

*Ryan White Program-gas cards, bus passes, ETHRA transportation or Uber Health for medical, dental, vision, or behavioral health appointments

*HOPWA Program-gas cards & bus passes for housing-related needs

Behavioral Health Services:

*No-cost therapy for Choice Health Network clients living with HIV

*Behavioral health services are offered in-person at our Knoxville location, or via telehealth.

How to refer?

*Referrals must come from within the agency-a patient's medical provider, case manager, or prevention staff member.

How to Refer – Clinic & Case Management:

*Send us a message through our CONTACT form at www.choicehealthnetwork.org

*Call our front desk (865)525-1540

*Email us: info@choicehealthnetwork.org

Kimberly Terry | TVCH

What program do you use for your data management?

Haley Emitt | Choice Health Network

For our Ryan White and HOPWA grants, we use internal databases as well as RWES, REDCap, and CAREWare through the TN Dept of Health

Individual Agency News/Updates/Agency Successes:

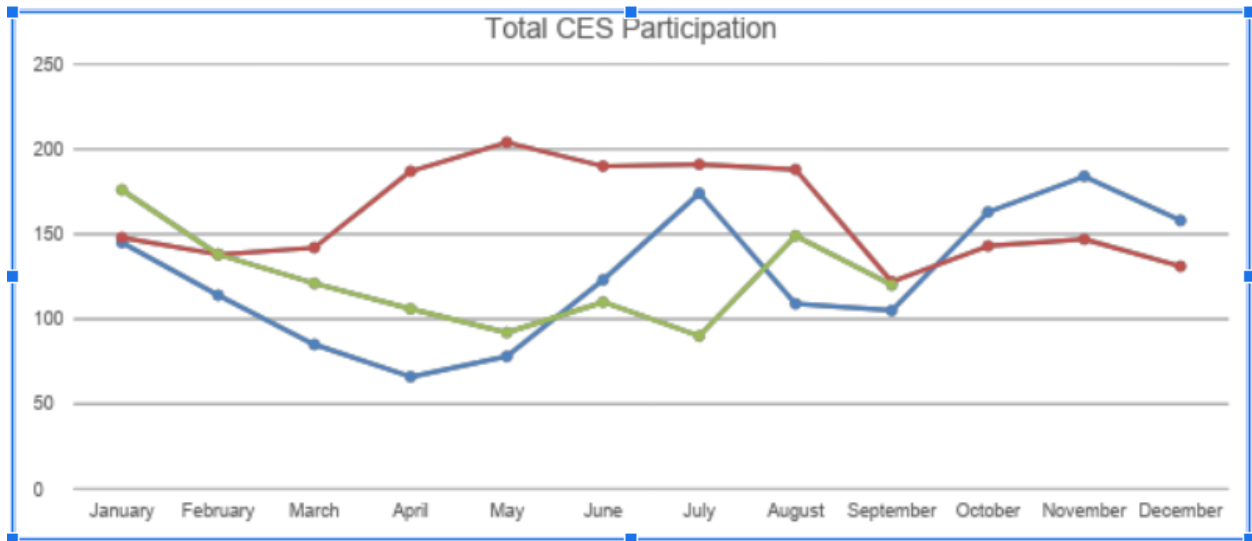
Micah Barnwell | Cherokee Health Systems

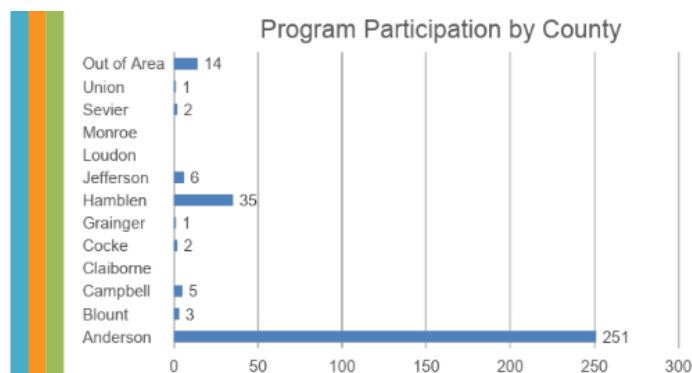
We are holding an Insurance Enrollment and Renewal Event for TennCare/CoverKids on Saturday, October 14th 2023 at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Eastern) at 2018 Western Ave, Knoxville TN 37921. It is a free event that is accepting walk-ins only. If they have questions prior, they can call 1-866-672-1979

Tiffany Higgenbotham | VA

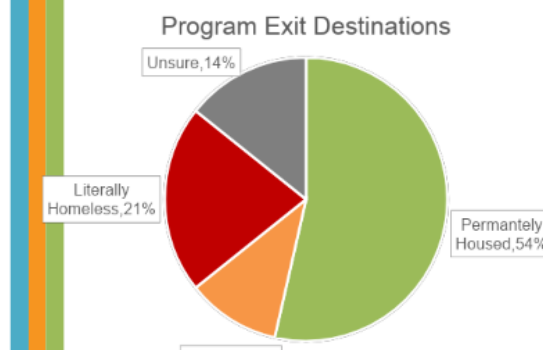
Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHALENG2023>. This survey only takes about 6 minutes. The results of this survey will help to improve the quality of service by helping to shape the direction and focus of services and the Veteran experience.

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





320 active participates enrolled in programs



Permanently Housed:	Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	1
Permanently Housed:	Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy (HUD)	7
Permanently Housed:	Staying or living with family, permanent tenure (HUD)	7
Temporarily Housed:	Staying or living with friends, temporary tenure (e.g., room, apartment, or house) (HUD)	1
Temporarily Housed:	Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher (HUD)	2
Literally Homeless:	Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside) (HUD)	5
Unsure:	No exit interview completed (HUD)	4

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH 2023 NOFO Update

The collaborative application has been submitted!!
<https://tvchomeless.org/continuum-of-care/cocnofo2023/>

Member suggestions for 2024 CoC Trainings

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH BFZ Conference Recap

Attendees: Allie Cohn (Ridgeview), Tiffany Higginbotham (VA), Deborah Parker (VOA), Katelyn McGuire (TVCH), Nikki Lynn (TVCH)

Built for Zero Movement: Built for Zero is a movement, a methodology, and proof of what is possible. Over 100 cities and counties have committed to measurably ending homelessness for entire populations. Using data, these communities have changed how local homeless response systems work and the impact they can achieve. Together, they are proving that we can build a future where homelessness is rare overall and brief when it occurs.

Want to learn more about this movement?
<https://community.solutions/built-for-zero/the-movement/>

Want to be involved in the local movement? Contact Katelyn McGuire at kmcguire@tvceh.org

Built for Zero Conference Takeaways

Deborah Parker | VOA

It was a great learning experience. I came away with a lot of new creative ideas on how to do outreach in the community and innovative ways to approach homelessness. I would like to continue to be involved in it. It is a great program.

Tiffany Higgenbotham | VA

I love Built for Zero because it is like a movement. Several different communities across the country are involved. We have seen people there from California, Washington State, and Hawaii before. All these different communities are working together to end homelessness. I particularly love it because their initial focus is usually on Veteran homelessness. I know we hit functional 0 in 2019. So, we are always trying to get back to that. For anyone who may not know, functional 0 just means that statistically we are housing more people than we are identifying in a month.

We got some community planning time to discuss bringing more partners into our processes, and we talked about nontraditional partners. They had someone there from the fire department and police department. We talked about getting lawmakers and churches.

They had a seminar on people with lived homeless experiences. That is a sort of a new best practice is that we are really supposed to have someone with that experience to be a part of our decision making and a part of all of our processes in the CoC. They had 4 people that had lived experience to talk about their experiences on CoC boards and things like that. A few of the things that they said:

“My life has value; my lived experience has value. It should be rewarded and celebrated”

“My pain and my story. Don't get that for free:

“Be mindful of what you are asking, because it is a lot.”

“You are bringing a table out to me, but you are not engaging me. I'm coming up to the table, and you are talking to each other behind the table. Come out in front and talk to me. Don't be afraid to come from behind the table.

“Someone said to bring the most senior person from your organization and give people with lived experience direct access to them.”

So hopefully we can continue to work toward incorporating them as much as we can.

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH

Tennessee Valley has been selected as one of 25 communities across the nation to work on housing systems programming. We would like to make housing either more affordable or more accessible. How do we do that throughout the CoC system? We have been one of 3 rural communities to be selected for 25 community cohort to focus on that housing systems work and it will be for a 2 year length of time.

CoC Committee Updates:

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

Nikki and I had a meeting and we looked at the new HMIS system. We also talked about thinking of some additional questions that we could potentially add to make the HMIS data collection useful for people. So if there is something that you need to take to your supervisors

or if you need county specific statistics, now would be a good time to tell us about those, so we can figure out a way to integrate that into HMIS.

Coordinated Entry Committee – Aaron Davies/Tiffany Higginbotham

aaron.davies@mcnabb.org

Tiffany Higginbotham | VA

Nikki and I want to have a pre committee meeting so I can be updated on what is needed for the new updates. Once we have that, we will be scheduling a committee meeting.

Aaron Davies | McNabb Center

Yes Tiffany, we will meet to review the previous coordinated entry committee, these new standards, and how best to implement them.

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

We met in September to kick off things and roll through a pretty comprehensive list that we only got through one or two things. We are meeting again October 11 via zoom at 1:00 pm. We are going to focus on narrowing down training topics that are needed, narrowing down agencies that we need to identify for participation, specifically volunteer training. Also looking at the end goal of reporting. I personally think the entire CoC needs to be a part of the PIT/HIC committee meetings. Especially if you have got individuals in your agencies that have lived experience. This is a perfect place to ease them into the CoC because their voice is very valuable here. Specifically, because we are trying to identify places to find folks that are currently literally homeless in January.

Please don't publicize this openly but we have identified that January 31 2024 is going to be our point in time count date. We did this strategically because Knoxville/Knox County CoC is doing theirs January 24 2024. The goal is that agencies like Ridgeview and McNabb can participate in both pits and we can learn from each other.

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH

For those who might not be familiar with the acronym PIT or HIC it is a 24 hour count of those experiencing homelessness in our counties. The idea is to get a more accurate representation of those who are unhoused and unsheltered. That way we have a more accurate representation of how many people actually need the services in the counties that Tennessee Valley service, which is the 12 counties surrounding Knox County.

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

The Homeless Awareness & Advocacy Committee had their first meeting last month. We had a lot of great conversations about the kind of goals and expectations for the committee. The idea is to have discussions about what would be impactful and then work on creating materials within the next year that can be distributed throughout the CoC and tailored to each community to better create awareness and advocacy materials that people can use.

Typically, all the meetings for these committees are on the CoC website.

<https://tvhomeless.org/continuum-of-care/>

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH

We are working on some sort of training to go on after the meeting that might be impactful for everyone. If you have any type of training information that you would love to see in 2024 please let us know.

Closing: Katelyn McGuire – CoC Lead

Katelyn closed the meeting at 11:05 am
Some chose to stay for the Discussion/Questions.

Discussion/Questions

How do we better include individuals with lived experience in our CoC activities?

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH

I would love to create safe spaces where people feel they can disclose their experiences without judgement. I would love to create a CoC advisory board made of those with lived experience to better inform programming and decision making.

The next meeting is:

In Person Meeting
November 7, 2023, at 10:00 am.
United Way of Greater Knoxville
Virtual link will be provided via email

Dates for the upcoming COC meeting

December 2023 – No Meeting