

COC May 2024 Minutes

05/07/2024

Members Present:

Katherine (Katie) Burnette | YWCA
Aaron Davies | McNabb Center Blount County
Michelle Davis | The Lighthouse
Shannon Dow | McNabb Center
Bobby Eason | Foothills Community Development
Haley Emmitt | Choice Health Network
Karen Ferguson | TVCH
Kennith Hawkins | Choice Health Network/Positive Living
Dewanna Henderson | TVCoC Governing Council
Tiffany Higgenbotham | US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Stephen Huskey | First Baptist Church Sevierville
Nikki Lynn | TVCH
Katelyn McGuire | TVCH
Samantha Peach | Clinch Powell Resource Conservation and Development
Melina Politte | Haven House
Sabrina Seamon | Clinch Powell Resource Conservation and Development
Bruce Spangler | A Place to Stay
Angela Stope | Blount County United Way
Kimberly Terry | TVCH
Blair Trout | Salvation Army Sevier & Cocke Counties
Kristi Willingham | Community Member

Reminder: This meeting will be recorded. 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 – Lead Agency

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

Welcome: Katelyn McGuire – Lead Agency

We are going to start this meeting with an Opening Discussion Question.

CoCs were created to strive towards solutions to homelessness, knowing that local communities know what solutions would serve their people best.

*What challenges do you face in your community when seeking solutions to homelessness?

*What are some success stories from your community regarding solutions to homelessness?

*What type of resources would be helpful to create change in your community (printed informational materials, networking events, training on certain topics, etc.)?

Katherine (Katie) Burnette – YWCA

I am the Anderson County Court Housing Coordinator for YWCA. I am seeing here in my county is when someone hears unhoused or homeless they automatically have this very negative picture in mind. There is a stigma attached to it and they do not necessarily feel compelled or compassionate for those who are unhoused in our community. I see a lot of victim blaming. I see people who are unhoused being dehumanized. They are not viewed as a neighbor, they are viewed as a nuisance. I do believe that is one of the main issues and challenges that I am seeing in just combating the increasing number of unhoused.

Angela Stope - Blount County United Way

I agree Katie. The stigmas also keep our neighbors from seeking out resources.

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

That is something other communities have experienced as well that stigma associated with homelessness really impacts your ability to engage the community or enact long lasting solutions.

Katherine (Katie) Burnette – YWCA

Yes and the thing about stigma and community opinion, and even opinions of our leaders is that's not something that anyone can change overnight. We definitely have a lot of conversations going on. What are some small things we can start doing to try to change that narrative and try to really get people's compassion? Find their compassion and bring them back to caring, caring about everyone in the community? Regardless of housing status.

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

Are there any communities that are working toward solutions in the same struggle?

Angela Stope - Blount County United Way

We started an initiative here about 18 months ago. One of the pillars we saw was that community engagement stigmas was going to be a big part of finding housing solutions in our community. So that is one area we are working on. We have done some surveys to kind of get people's actual opinions of what housing is to find out what their stigmas actually are versus what we think they might be. We started with survey and some social media trying to put, I don't want to say a positive spin, but understanding that how close we are to our young adult, senior citizens, veterans, who all is impacted by being precariously housed, especially in Blount County.

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

I know at TVCH we have people concerned at the fact that we do street outreach. We had a community member actually pull over when my staff was doing street outreach to inform them that they were providing band aids and enabling people to cheat the system. I think this comes back around to what Katie was saying about that lack of compassion and the lack of being able to humanize folks.

As you are working through these solutions and trying to find ways to address homelessness, if there is anything that you think could be really helpful, coming from a regional perspective, please feel free to reach out and let us know - whether its information, different pamphlets, or materials, whether it's hey-, I really want my community to understand a little more. Is there some sort of training that we can offer?

Tiffany Higgenbotham - US Dept of Veteran Affairs

Could we possibly do an infographic that searches our HMIS system to show how many people experiencing homelessness this year had a job, or how many are parents? Things that are perceived as positive attributes. We could look at some criteria and then do an infographic to try and change that narrative.

Katherine (Katie) Burnette – YWCA

I like that idea Tiffany! All my clients who are experiencing homelessness are fleeing domestic violence. Some are teachers, bus drivers, nurses, etc., and that is not what the stigma would have us believe about those who are unhoused.

Nikki Lynn – TVCH

Tiffany, that is something that is the goal of the Data Management Committee. We are going to be focusing on this summer.

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

I think something that is also important to note is that when we are talking about HMIS and data we are definitely as good as the data we can acquire. If we do not have a lot of folks entering HMIS or if we have a lot of folks doing amazing work but we are not seeing that data being reported, it gets hard to fully represent the region. HMIS is the data management system that we use as a CoC. If you are interested in learning about what that data management system looks like, feel free to reach out to Nikki at nlynn@tvceh.org. If you are not looking at taking on a data system but you want to share your data, also feel free to reach out to Nikki and see if we can find some sort of solution for your organization. We really want to be able to represent the region as a whole.

Tiffany Higgenbotham - US Dept of Veteran Affairs

There was a study that Shawn Griffith did. He works for the Knox County office on housing stability. But back in his student days, he was part of a research study in Houston Texas. It was after the hurricane and the city was able to house an unbelievable amount of people within 90 days after the hurricane. The research was showing why, when we haven't been able to house them before, and it was because their perception of homelessness changed. It went from being, quote unquote those people or those types of people to their friends, their neighbors, just people that they are used to, you know their coworkers.

Angela Stope - Blount County United Way

I cannot recall the exact number but we asked our neighbors that used warming shelters this winter if they were employed.

Bruce Spangler | A Place to Stay

Center of Housing Policy as just released a paper on the Role of Affordable Housing in Creating Jobs and Stimulating Local Development:

<https://www.opportunityhome.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Housing-and-Economic-Development-Report-2011.pdf>

Individual Agency News/Updates/Agency Successes:

Shannon Dow |McNabb Center

Hi everyone. I am Senior Director for Services here in Blount County. We are excited to partner with the Cares Committee here in Blount County to provide what we are calling the Blount Transition Campus which will help to provide housing for those coming out of incarceration and have substance abuse and/or mental health challenges. We are in the process of starting the building of that and hope to start serving individuals next year around fall. At any given point in time we will serve around 62 individuals at a time.

We have been working on this project since 2018. The Cares Committee was appointed by the commissioners here in Blount County as well as the mayor in hopes of finding a solution to the overcrowding into jail as well as for individuals who are leaving incarceration, unfortunately as you all know, find themselves without a place to go. We are excited to announce that here at the McNabb Center we were awarded three different grants that we applied for 6 million dollars to support the capital. We will be able to build six facilities that will support those coming out of incarceration.

Katherine (Katie) Burnette – YWCA

I do have one that is still kind of in the making of a success, but we have come a long way. This client became unhoused due to domestic violence. She has four children who are under the age of ten. She is in her mid-twenties, so she is still trying to get her footing in a lot of different areas. If any of you have dealt with waiting for a client to get into public housing, she is now number six on the list and I am so excited because I have other clients who are number 200 and something. So, when I finally get a client who is about to get an apartment into public housing, it is such a celebration. Unfortunately, right now, even for the full-time employee it is hard to afford a two bedroom apartment on your own. Being able for my client to finally be looking at getting into an income based rental, it just means stability. It means that her children can have their own space, their own beds. If anyone on here is from housing authority or is involved with housing choice voucher programs, I want to say thank you so much, because many of my clients would not reach housing stability without those organizations.

Updated HMIS Documents

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

With the email that went out with the agenda on Friday, there were some documents attached for HMIS. The updated HMIS documents were sent out to the entire CoC Listserv for review. The CoC Membership must approve the updated documents via a vote for them to be implemented. If your agency has paid their dues, then you are a voting agency for the CoC. The floor is open for discussion on proposed HMIS documents.

Nikki Lynn – TVCH

The biggest changes we made is some edits as far as language we are replacing. We removed homeless as referring to individuals experiencing homelessness or with people with lived experience and expertise. We have also done some changes as far as requirements for extra insurance for servers and such.

Shannon Dow |McNabb Center

Nikki, thank you for your work on that and I motion to approve those documents.

Bobby Eason | Foothills Community Development

I'll second

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

If everyone who is a voting agency can vote yes, no, or abstain within the chat that way we can go ahead and record those votes.

Katherine (Katie) Burnette | YWCA

Yes

Bobby Eason | Foothills Community Development

Yes

Haley Emitt | Choice Health Network

Yes

Aaron Davies | McNabb Center Blount County

Yes

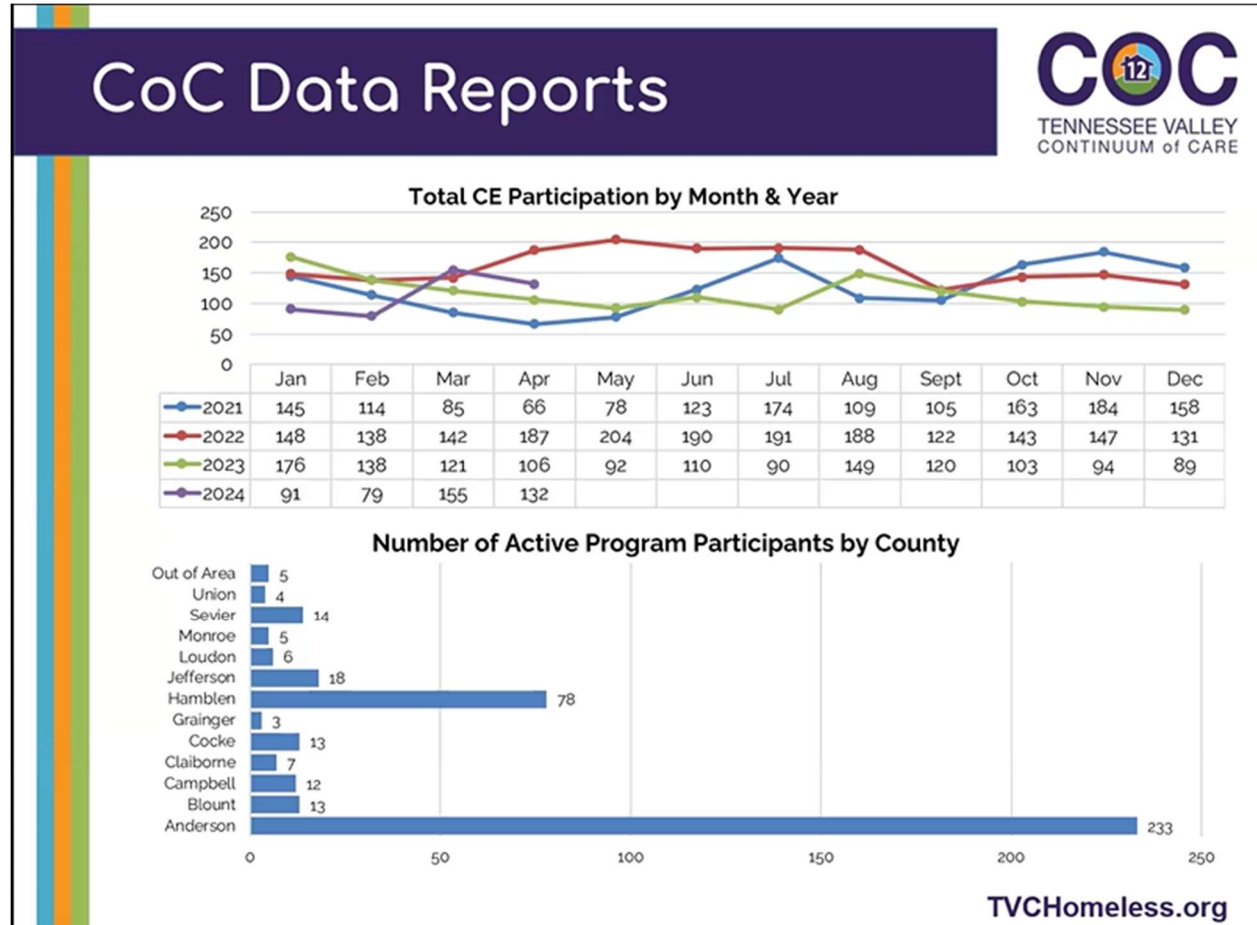
Sabrina Seamon | Clinch Powell Resource Conservation and Development

Yes

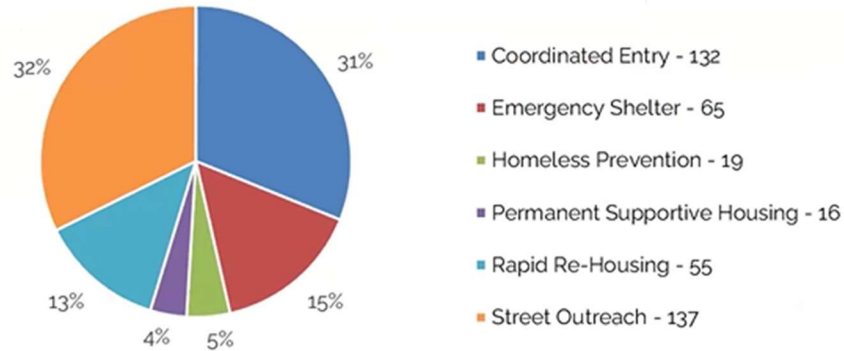
CoC Data Reports

Nikki Lynn – TVCH

We will start with Coordinated Entry participation, and you can see we are rolling along with a general trend. It looks like as we go toward May it will be another decreased number month and we will see an uptick when the hot months come in June, July, and August.



CoC Data Reports



Total number of unduplicated individuals that are actively enrolled: 382

Percentage of Veterans – 6.81%

Percentage of Domestic Violence Victims – 4.19%


Percentage of Disabled Individuals – 43.93%

Percentage of Chronically Homeless – 14.92%

TVCHomeless.org

Data quality is looking better but the culprits are pretty much the same. That is something we are hoping to address when we get some language clarification from the governing council and monitoring, but length of stay in previous place is not being answered as well as it should. If you have questions that come up on your error report or you see those numbers look pretty wonky on your caper apr that Kimberly sends monthly, please reach out. Let us know and we will be happy to coach you through what is causing that.

CoC Data Report



TENNESSEE VALLEY
CONTINUUM of CARE

GRADE BASED ON COUNT FOR EACH ELEMENT:	HUD UDE ONLY	Additional ONLY	HUD Verification ONLY	OVERALL
	A	A	B	A
	96.00%	95.35%	94.66%	95.61%

Data Element	Required for	Number of Applicable Entry Exits	Number of Non-Null Values	Percentage Complete
*HUD Universal Data Elements:				
Length of Stay in Previous Place	Adults/HoH	190	168	88.42%
Additional Data Elements:				
Non-Cash Benefit Received (Y/N)	Adults/HoH	190	180	94.74%
Covered by Health Insurance (Y/N)	All	291	276	94.85%
HUD Verification: (Elements measure completeness at entry ONLY)				
Disability Type	All	291	260	89.35%
Income Source	Adults/HoH	190	180	94.74%

April 2024 Timeliness Calculation		
	# of Project Start Records	# of Project Exit Records
0 days	0	29
1 - 3 days	13	4
4 - 6 days	21	17
7 - 10 days	2	2
11+ days	0	8
Timeliness Percentage:		82%

See the Report PDF in the Chat for the full data report.

TVCHomeless.org

Remember we want to keep our timeliness of entering entry and exits between three and zero days. HUD looks at our timeliness and we want to get it up to 95.

CoC Updates

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

Governing Council Opportunities:

The Governing Council is looking to fill the following seats with individuals or organizations that represent/serve the following populations:

*Unaccompanied Youth

Tenant Right's Training

Please complete the Post-Survey if you haven't yet.

Need access to slides or recording? Email kmcquire@tvceh.org

Upcoming Training

Fair Housing Training

Legal Aid of East Tennessee

Date: July 15 2024

Time: 12p-1p

Format: Virtual

*Registration Link to Come

Do you have ideas for a CoC training opportunity?

Email kmcquire@tvceh.org

If you are not getting emails about CoC meetings, reach out to kmcquire@tvceh.org and I will add you to the list.

CoC Collaborative Application

*The Collaborative Application is made available by HUD in the summer/fall.

*This application process provides funding for specific programming within the CoC.

*Any CoC Member Agency can apply for this competitive funding.

*HUD will release information on eligibility, application focus, and other considerations with the FY24 NOFO

*Interested in learning more about this funding opportunity, the application process, or eligible programming? Email kmcquire@tvceh.org

If you are a CoC member agency, which means you pay your dues and you are in good standing, which means you are attending our meetings regularly, I believe it is 70%. You can apply for competitive funding. I do want to note that this funding is competitive, so the funding is competitive within our region.

CoC Committee Updates:

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

Andy was not at this meeting. Nikki Lynn – TVCH made the announcement. We will be holding our next data management committee meeting on Tuesday May 21 2024. It will be virtually via Zoom from 10:00a-11:00a. We will be continuing working on updating policies, procedures, and documents that is needed for HMIS as far as the CoC and Partners are concerned. I encourage everyone who has a stake in HMIS to please come to those meetings. Your voice is important. It will give you an opportunity to be involved in the policies and to learn more about our HMIS System. We are also gearing up to pull reports that Tiffany had discussed earlier in the meeting.

Coordinated Entry Committee – Tiffany Higginbotham tiffany.higginbotham@va.gov

I am going to be sending out another doodle poll to get another committee meeting scheduled in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to join the committee, please let me know and I will

get you on that doodle poll. Also please scan the QR code and take our survey because we are trying to adopt a prioritization tool for the entire continuum that will affect how we prioritize individuals and families for services in our continuum. The survey is going to ask a few quick questions. It will help determine if we need just a short simple tool or if we need a longer tool. You know how you are going to incorporate or you know how your are currently using the CoC tool versus your own agency tool.



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

I am hoping to send out a doodle poll within the next week or two to get a meeting on the books, hopefully for May or early June. The idea of that committee is to work around ways that we can try to create awareness and advocacy around homelessness within our communities. If you are interested in learning more about the committee feel free to reach out to me.

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

HUD extended the submission for PIT/HIC to this Friday because of software issues. The estimate right now is 784 individuals that experienced homelessness the night of the point in time count which was January 31 2024. I will be finalizing those numbers and hopefully be sending out a report to the CoC next week with our official number. We will discuss that more next month. If you are interested in helping plan the point in time count in 2025, we will be starting rough planning around August.

Closing: Katelyn McGuire – Lead Agency

Katelyn closed the meeting at 10:55 am

Dates for the upcoming COC meeting

June 4 2024

July 7 2024 – In person

August 6 2024

September 3 2024

October 1 – In person

November 5 2024