

COC June 2024 Minutes

06/04/2024

Members Present:

Penney Blakeley | Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority; Senior Nutrition Client Service Manager
Kaitlyn Booth | A Place To Stay
Katherine (Katie) Burnette | YWCA of Knoxville & the TN Valley
Jan Cagle | Ridgeview Behavioral Health
Allie Cohn | Creating Homes Initiative/Ridgeview Behavioral Health
Michelle Davis | The Lighthouse
Bobby Eason | Foothills Community Development
Karen Ferguson | TVCH
Haley Griffith | Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Kennith Hawkins | Choice Health Network/Positive Living
Dewanna Henderson | TVCoC Governing Council
Sascha Henerson | Creating Homes Initiative/McNabb Center
Tiffany Higgenbotham | US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Katelyn McGuire | TVCH
Andy O'Quinn | TORCH
Samantha Peach | Clinch Powell Resource Conservation and Development
Taylor Pierce | MATS
Melina Politte | Haven House
Amanda (Mandy) Proffitt | A Place to Stay
Sabrina Seamon | Clinch Powell Resource Conservation and Development
Angela Stope | Blount County United Way
Brittany Thompson | Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Caitlin Torney | Legal Aid of East Tennessee
Brittney Wayman | A Place to Stay
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

Today's partner spotlight is Hayley Griffith with Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CCAHT)

Partner Spotlight

Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CCAHT)


Hayley Griffith Education & Outreach Coordinator

Hayley@ccaht.org

<https://growfreetn.org>

865-770-8037

In the State of TN you have three different organizations that are commissioned by the Governor to provide counter trafficking services in all 95 counties in TN.



The image displays four logos at the top: RestoreCorps (with tagline 'Empower Survivors - Equip Communities - Change the System'), Ancora TN (with a stylized flame logo), CCAHT (Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking), and Powering Grow Free Tennessee (with a heart logo). Below the logos is a map of Tennessee divided into three regions: the western part is light gray, the middle part is medium gray, and the eastern part is dark teal. A mouse cursor is pointing at the western boundary. Below the map, three columns of text provide contact information for each organization.

Organization	Referral line	Website
RestoreCorps	(901) 410-3590 ext. 104	restorecorps.org
Ancora	(615) 806-6899 ext. 1	ancoratn.org
CCAHT	(865) 292-0285	growfreetn.org

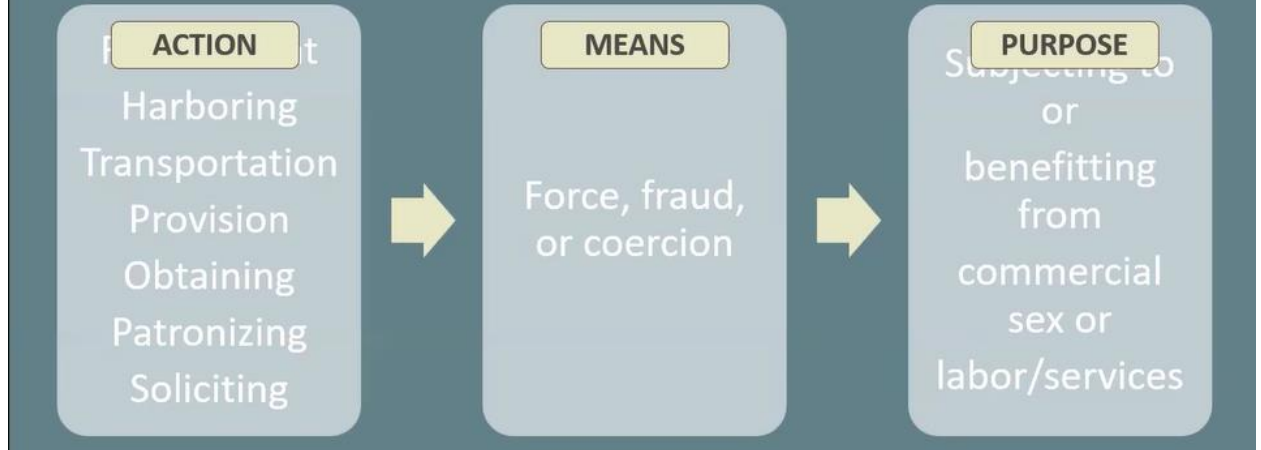
Anytime TBI does a human trafficking sting in one of these counties they will involve our organization so that we can provide aftercare services to those survivors. We also work very closely with DCS as well.

A lot of times when we think of trafficking, we think of human smuggling. We think of movement across the border. But human smuggling and human trafficking are statutorily very separate and distinct crimes.

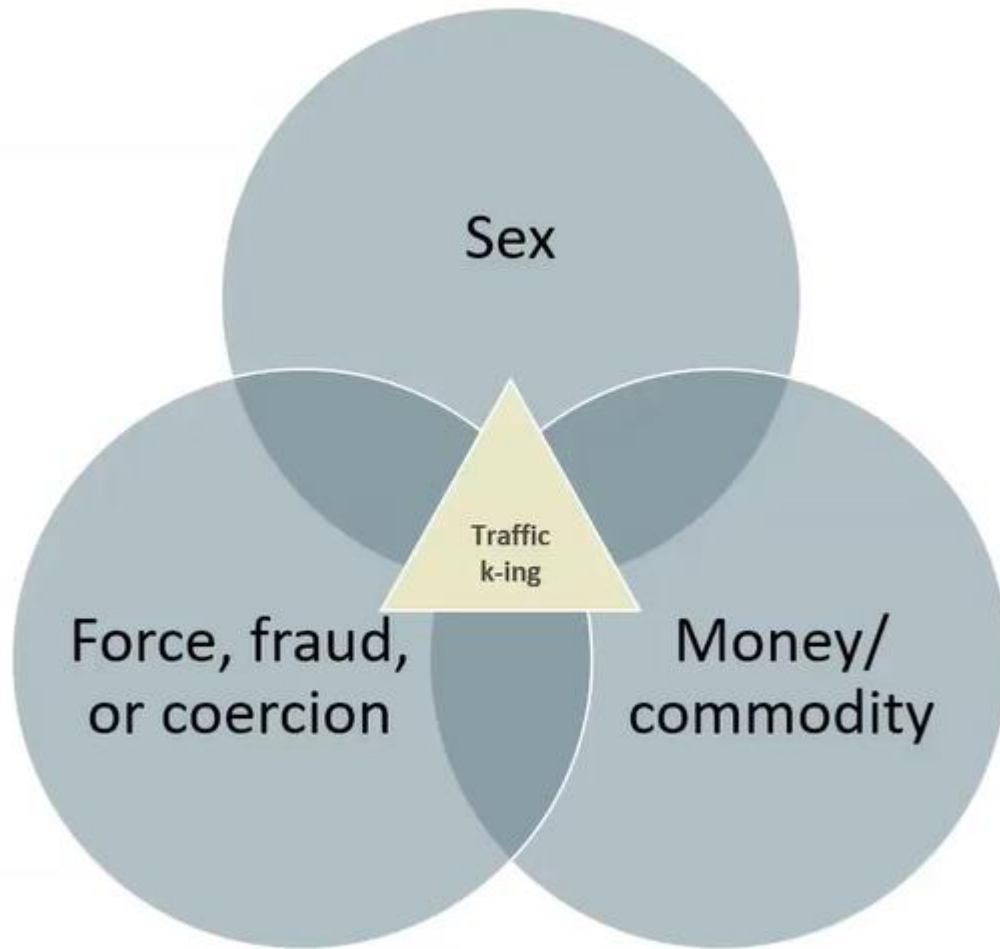
Smuggling is a crime against a border. Trafficking is a crime against a person. A lot of people think trafficking happens through someone being kidnapped by a stranger, but we really see that.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

The use of force, fraud, or coercion
to obtain some type of labor/services or commercial sex act



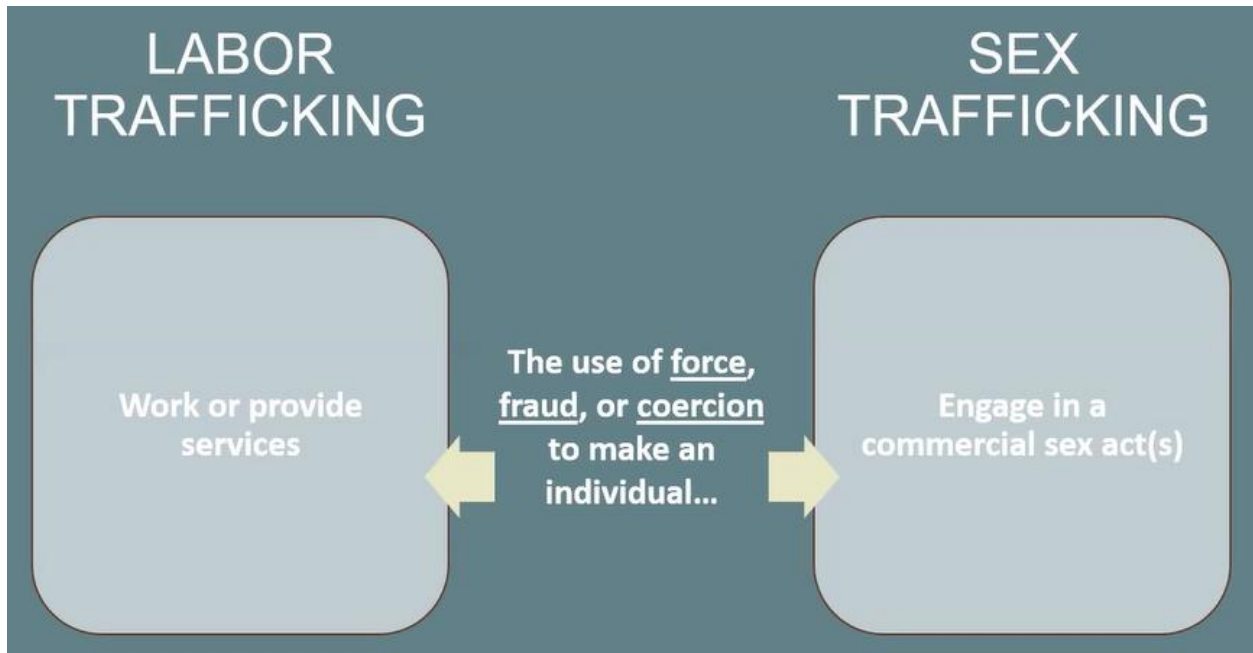
Below are three different elements. You must have all three of them in order for there to be a trafficking victimization. For sex trafficking, you have a sexual act. You have that being an exchange for some type of money or commodity. Anything of commercial value is going to count. It can be food, shelter, drugs, anything that has commercial value. If a sexual act is being exchanged for that through the use of force and coercion, that is when you have trafficking. So, if you just have two of these elements, if you just have a sexual act in exchange for money, that would be considered prostitution, which is still a crime in the State of TN. If you have the other two elements, you had sex through force, that would be sexual assault or rape. It is when you have all three of them working together that you have a trafficking victimization.



TENNESSEE STATISTICS

- Polaris received 525 hotline calls from Tennessee in 2021 (2022-2023 data not published yet)
- TBI received 1,375 hotline tips in 2023.
- In 2023, CCAHT received 531 new referrals (304 youth).

The above is a low estimate as to what the scope of the problem actually is because human trafficking is such an unreported crime. Studies show only about 14 to 18% of cases get detected.



FAMILIAL

- Family member acts as the trafficker
- Most common form of sex trafficking in rural communities
- Often multi-generational
- Crime of opportunity; recruitment of victims is convenience-based; may only be advertised by word-of-mouth

INTIMATE PARTNER

- Someone outside the home/family
- Someone in a “relationship” with their victim
- Involves strategic, targeted exploitation of vulnerability(ies)

Familial is typically the biological mother who is acting the trafficker, so Mom is trafficking the child because she was trafficked by her mom. It goes back and back and back through that family line as a way to provide for basic needs. In our region, bio dad is the trafficker by a very small margin.

VULNERABILITIES

Involvement with the child welfare or juvenile justice systems	History of physical or sexual abuse
History of running away	Self or familial substance use or mental health problems
Homelessness	Unmet intangible needs (<i>e.g.</i> , love, affection, belonging, protection)
Financial hardship/poverty	Low self-esteem/lack of identity
LGBTQ+ identity	Lack of familial/relational/social supports
Immigrant or refugee status	

When we have individuals that are presenting a lot of different vulnerabilities, especially the more that are co-occurring at one time, the more we begin to wonder if there is some type of trafficking victimization going on.

When a minor is involved in sex trafficking, you do not have to prove force or coercion anymore because of age consent laws all you have to know and show is that the minor is exchanging a sexual act for something of commercial value.

For adults, two of the top vulnerabilities that we see are a history of physical or sexual abuse with a co-occurring substance use disorder problem. So anytime there is maybe sexual assault or substance use disorder co-occurring at the same time, it is a really good time to slow it down, have more of a thorough and assessment to see if there is some type of trafficking victimization going on.

CCAHT

Raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking

Train and equip primary responders and other allied professionals regarding human trafficking

Cultivate locally-focused, collaborative efforts through which counter-trafficking work can flourish

Chart a clear, restorative path for human trafficking survivors through our direct services program, Grow Free Tennessee

CCAHT also has:

GROW FREE TN

- Adult services

- Emergency Receiving Center
- Phoenix House
- Care coordination
- Therapy
- As You Are program

- Youth services

- Care coordination
- Therapy
- Psycho-education
- Foundations program
- Prevention education

REFERRAL PROCESS

What does it look like when someone calls the hotline?

Answering the Phone

- GFTN Staff will answer hotline and verify that potential client is safe and comfortable to talk.
- One of two options will take place if the potential client wants to continue with the conversation:
 1. If available, GFTN will send staff to meet in person with potential client.
 2. If unavailable, GFTN staff will continue with questionnaire over the phone.

Qualify – Now What?

- Once determined they meet criteria for GFTN services, we give brief description of what services are available and let them make their decision and next steps.
- If client is interested in emergency shelter, we would then discuss release / transportation.
- If client is interested in community services (therapy, care coordination) we will have a direct staff member follow up as soon as possible.

It is a 24-7 hotline where an actual person will answer.

THE ERC

Discharge from hospital, rehab facility, release from jail, etc. →
Appropriate for Emergency Receiving Center:

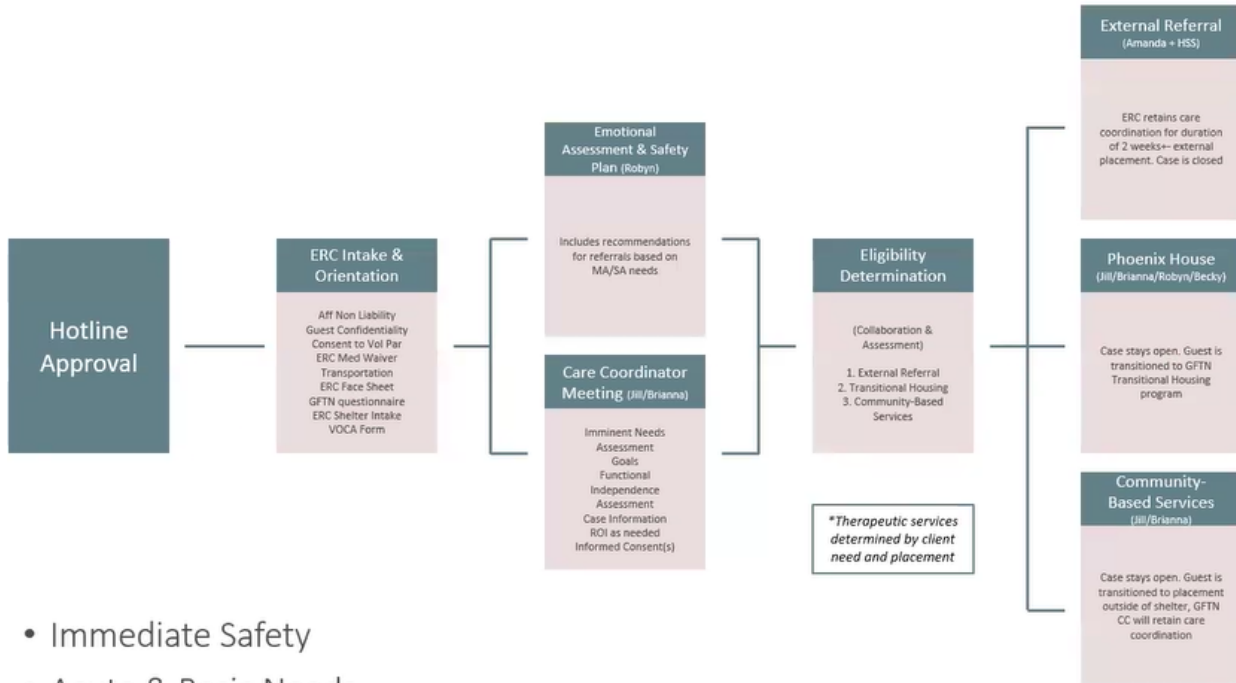
Cleared medically and mentally stable (with meds)	Ideally 30 days of prescribed medication	Follow up appointments set (specialists, PCP, med management)	Can manage stairs	Not in need of 24/7 care / supervision
Open to community living / shared space	If in active addiction, ability to not have drugs on property	Knowledge that ERC is temporary and not a permanent solution	Ideal for actively fleeing individuals with recent history of trafficking	Over 18 and identifies as female

The ERC is temporary. Average stay is two weeks to 40 days.

Individuals who can stay at the ERC are over 18 and identify as female. If we have an individual who identify as male or they have a disability, they can't manage stairs, we will find an alternative option. A Hotel if we need to.

Below is just a little bit more about once in shelter, what their journey looks like through our care.

THE ERC JOURNEY



- Immediate Safety
- Acute & Basic Needs
- Assessment & Referral

Contact info:

CCAHT

COMMUNITY COALITION
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

POWERING

grow
FREE
TENNESSEE



(865) 292-0285



info@ccaht.org



www.growfreetn.org



PO Box 20937
Knoxville, TN 37940

MAKE A REPORT

National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

TN Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-855-558-6484

TN Child Protective Services:

877-237-0004

CCAHT 24/7 Hotline:

865-292-0285

Individual Agency News/Updates/Agency Successes:

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

We were able to take our shower trailer out a second time recently. It going out for the third time tomorrow. Over the first and second times the shower trailer has been out, we have served over 35 folks in need of a shower. If you are interested in hosting the shower trailer or have any questions you can contact our Director of Outreach, Macrea Love at mlove@tvceh.org

Jan Cagle | Ridgeview Behavioral Health

Where will the shower trailer be set up this time?

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

Cocke County. Sevier, Monroe, Claiborne and Blount are in the process of setting up for the shower trailer. A person does not have to be homeless to use the shower trailer. We also try to bring a change of clothes. We provide everything for the shower, shave kits, hygiene products, and things like that.

I received an email from THDA trying to find some assistance for someone who was looking for deposit assistance. I referred them over to **Katherine (Katie) Burnette | YWCA of Knoxville & the TN Valley** who works locally within Anderson County and within a few days was able to secure deposit assistance for the individual from a local mosque.

Katherine (Katie) Burnette | YWCA of Knoxville & the TN Valley

This was definitely one of my feel-good moments for this week, because we all know how difficult it is. Sometimes it is just like we hit dead end after dead end trying to get assistance. This was a really great situation where we were able to work together with several different people and a community entity.

Taylor Pierce | MATS

MATS is doing their Family Fun Day June 29 at the Green in Morristown for children. We also have vendors set up for adults.

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

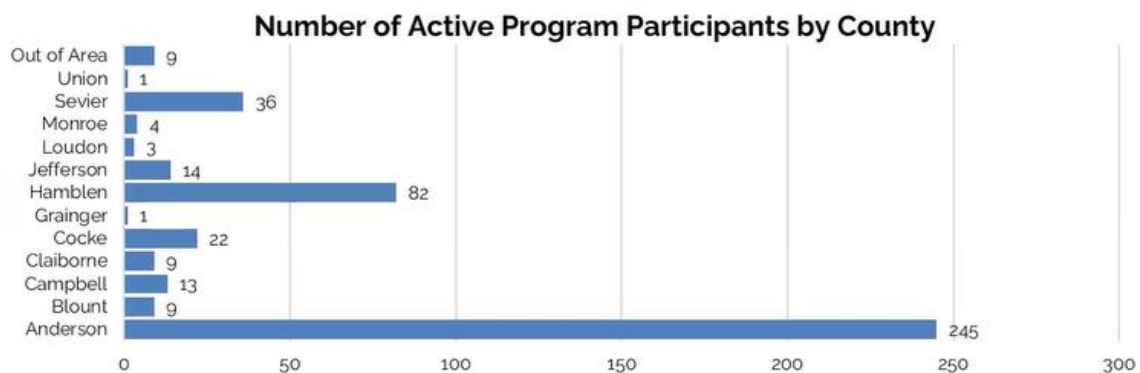
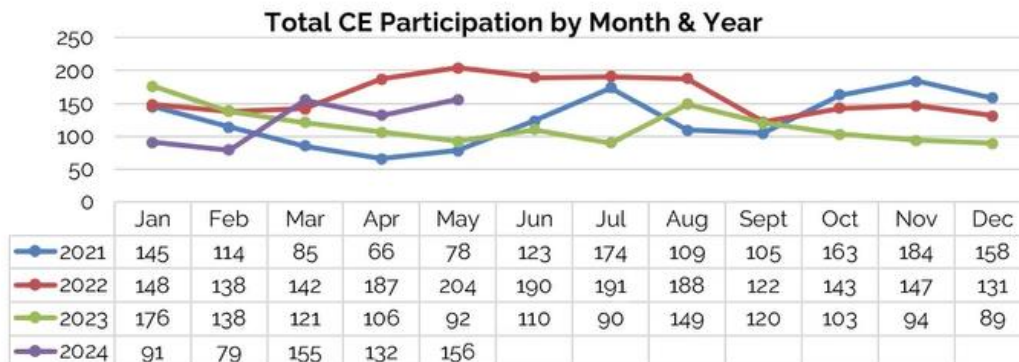
If you have any events coming up, any information, trainings, workshops, anything like that you think would be great to get out to the region, always feel free to send that to me in an email. I can send it out in our resource email that goes out to the CoC.

CoC Data Reports and Updates

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

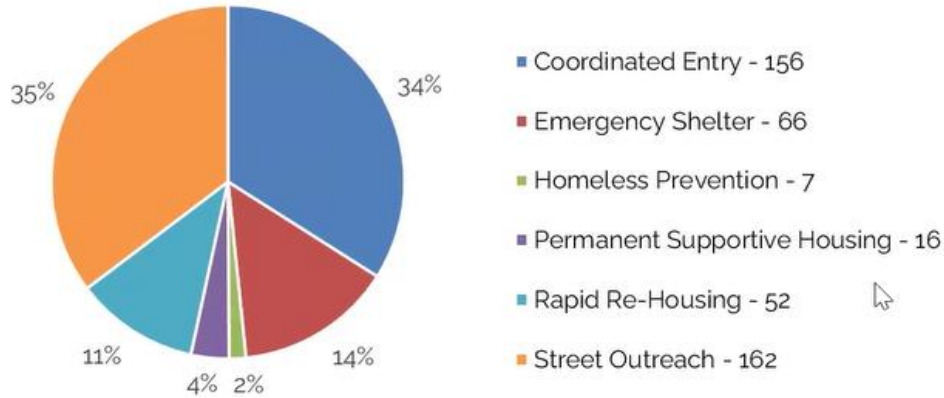
Our data team is attending the Well Sky Conference this week. I am presenting the data information.

CoC Data Reports



In May we had 156 coordinated entries. This is the intake process that you add into the HMIS database that a lot of our programs use across the CoC. Coordinated entry captures different information, demographics, living status, homelessness status, things like that. It is utilized to help prioritize folks into services and programming as well as it is used to determine what they might be eligible for programming wise. 156 is a lot higher than last year. A lot of that is the amazing work that all the organizations are doing within our counties. You have Anderson and Hamlin leading the way here. Also, at TVCH we have been able to bring on a dedicated coordinated entry person who is partnering with the outreach person as well.

Percentage of Total Active Enrolments by Program Type



Total number of unduplicated individuals that are actively enrolled: 414

Percentage of Veterans – 6.52%

Percentage of Domestic Violence Victims – 2.41%

Percentage of Disabled Individuals – 43.72%

Percentage of Chronically Homeless – 15.46%

Above is the percentage of total active enrollments by program type

If anyone is interested in learning more about the HMIS database, please reach out to Nikki Lynn at nlynn@tvceh.org or Kimberly Terry at kterry@tvceh.org

CoC Data Report



GRADE BASED ON COUNT FOR EACH ELEMENT:	HUD UDE ONLY	Additional ONLY	HUD Verification ONLY	OVERALL
	B	A	B	B
	94.75%	95.04%	93.55%	94.55%

Data Element	Required for	Number of Applicable Entry Exits	Number of Non-Null Values	Percentage Complete
*HUD Universal Data Elements:				
Name	All	309	309	100.00%
Prior Living Situation	Adults/HoH	206	195	94.66%
Length of Stay in Previous Place	Adults/HoH	206	184	89.32%
Additional Data Elements:				
Income Received (Y/N)	Adults/HoH	206	194	94.17%
Non-Cash Benefit Received (Y/N)	Adults/HoH	206	195	94.66%
Covered by Health Insurance (Y/N)	All	309	293	94.82%
HUD Verification: (Elements measure completeness at entry ONLY)				
Disability Type	All	309	273	88.35%
Income Source	Adults/HoH	206	189	91.75%
Non-Cash Source	Adults/HoH	206	195	94.66%

May 2024 Timeliness Calculation

Timeliness Calculation	Input Your Data Below	
0 days	0 days	19 8
1 - 3 days	1 - 3 days	27 29
4 - 6 days	4 - 6 days	2 1
7 - 10 days	7 - 10 days	1 0
11+ days	11+ days	1 0

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

TVCHomeless.org

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

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 kmcguire@tvceh.org

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.

Rank & Review Committee

Allie Cohn | Creating Homes Initiative/Ridgeview Behavioral Health

For the past 4 years or so I have helped coordinate the rank and review committee for the Collaborative application. This year I am super grateful, **Angela Stope | Blount County United Way** is going to co-chair with me. We are responsible for helping to rank the submitted projects that go into the collaborative application in order to receive funding from HUD for permanent support of housing, supportive services, the planning grant, HMIS, and coordinated entry. All of that is what we rank and review. We are hoping to get new members on the committee this year. We would like to get people who are able to help with the ranking tools themselves. We develop those based off of the HUD guideline. We don't always know what needs to be ranked until the NOFO actually comes out from HUD. We also need people to serve as members for the actual rank and review session. Going through those applications and using those tools to rank and review projects in order to determine their prioritization.

Rank & Review Committee



- Project applications submitted to the CoC for the FY 2024 application cycle must be reviewed and accepted/ ranked, approved, or rejected by the CoC.
- The Rank & Review Committee is looking for 3-5 individuals from community partners to help with the rank and review process for 2024 NOFO, which includes the following responsibilities:
 - Help develop and update TVCoC ranking tools
 - Participate in the review and ranking process
 - Help document scores during the ranking process
 - Submit ranking outcomes to TVCoC membership
- Time Commitment
 - Up to 1 hour/ week leading up to NOFO announcement (typically early to mid-July)
 - 4-6 hours (broken into 2 days) to rank projects as a committee
 - Time commitment will increase during the review week to accommodate the review of all project applications. This can vary depending on each committee member.
- If you are interested in becoming more involved and learning about the projects being funded by the TVCoC, please reach out to Allie Cohn at cohnab@ridgeview.com
- We hope to continue to diversify our committee as we bring in new CoC members to uplift new voices and experiences that could help inform services and programs within the region we serve.

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

July Meeting Date Change:
New In-Person July Meeting Date
July 9th 10am
United Way of Greater Knoxville
1301 Hanna Ave Knoxville TN

If you can attend in person, I really encourage you to. It's a great space to network and meet people face to face instead of screen to screen. If you want, you can bring business cards, pamphlets, whatever you have to hand out to folks who are in person. There will be a virtual option as well.

CoC Committee Updates:

HMIS & Data Management – Andy O'Quinn andy.oquinn@oakridgetorch.org
We are working on the policies and procedures.

Katelyn McGuire – TVCH

I encourage anyone who is in HMIS or coming into HMIS to talk to Andy about being involved in this committee. If you are active in that database, we have to have a voice.

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

We are still promoting our survey to help us identify and/or create a new prioritization tool for coordinated entry, which will help us be able to determine who is the most vulnerable and who should receive assistance first. This survey helps us learn how you will be using a CoC wide tool and will help us determine if it needs to be shorter or longer or incorporate any special things that you may need into the tool. Please scan the QR code below. Also the Veterans By Names List meeting has been changed to the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 10 am.



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

A meeting poll went out yesterday. 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

Closing: Katelyn McGuire – Lead Agency

Katelyn closed the meeting at 10:58 am and thanked everyone for coming to it.

Dates for the upcoming COC meeting

July 9 2024 – In person

August 6 2024

September 3 2024

October 1 – In person

November 5 2024