

Tennessee Valley Continuum of Care

March 2025 Minutes

03/04/2025

Members Present:

Airika Actouka | Westcare Tennessee
Sarah Bradsher | Knox County Grants and Community Development/Public Safety
Corey Clark | VBHCS
Allie Cohn | Hellbender Harm Reduction
Joey Collins | ADFAC
Rosie Cross | Ridgeview – Creating Homes Initiative
Aaron Davies | McNabb Center Blount County
Michelle Davis | True Purpose Lighthouse
Shannon Dow | LCSW-McNabb Center
Kaitlyn Elliott | A Place to Stay
Karen Ferguson | TVCH
Elizabeth Grisham | Clinch Powell Resource Conservation and Development
Dewanna Henderson | TVCoC Governing Council
Sascha Henderson | Creating Homes Initiative/McNabb Center
Tiffany Higgenbotham | US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Kent Jones | The Salvation Army of Knoxville
Julia Kendrick | YWCA
Jennifer McManus | VBHCS
Nikki Lynn | TVCH
Katelyn McGuire | TVCH
Andy O'Quinn | TORCH
Taylor Pierce | MATS
Tonya Polidoro | MATS
Mike Rivera | WCTN VSP
Kimberly Terry | TVCH
Brittany Thompson | Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Blair Trout | The Salvation Army of Sevier and Cocke Counties
Jennifer Whitehead | James H Quilen VAMC
Jami Wilson | Haven House

Call to Order: Katelyn McGuire – Lead Agency

Katelyn called the meeting to order 10:02 a.m.

Partner Spotlight:

McNabb Center – Shannon Dow
Senior Director of Blount County Services
Shannon.dow@mcnabb.org

Shannon spoke to everyone about the Blount County Transition Campus, which is a transformative initiative designed to support individuals with co-occurring disorders as they transition from incarceration back into the community.

New Business:

Legislative Updates:

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH

Katelyn explained what Executive Orders are and how they impact Nonprofits. The National Council for nonprofits has a great breakdown of all the different executive orders that are going to impact on nonprofits.

Individual Agency News/Updates/Agency Successes:

Andy O'Quinn | TORCH

Andy updated everyone about what THDA said regarding Home Arp Funds. There is going to be more Home Arp money, but they do not know if they are going to extend it or have everyone reapply for it.

Allie Cohn | Hellbender Harm Reduction

allie@hellbenderharmreduction.org

Allie is the Overdose Prevention Director and manages the mail-based Naloxone program.

To get nasal naloxone or test strips mailed to them for free, go to:

www.hellbenderharmreduction.org then scroll to the "Services" tab.

Kaitlyn Elliott | A Place to Stay

Is accepting clients for the PSH program in Blount County

A Place to Stay (Main Line) : (865)-606-0714

A Place to Stay (My work cell) : (865)-214-5639

Airika Actouka | Westcare Tennessee

Airika.Actouka@westcare.com 865-466-8344

Airika is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Westcare TN. Westcare TN is a behavioral Health Nonprofit. She spoke on all the programs they have.

Sascha Henderson | Creating Homes Initiative/McNabb Center

The CHI applications are currently not open for funding.

CoC Data Reports

Nikki Lynn | TVCH

Nikki gave information from the Data Reports.—Total CE Participation by Month and Year, Number of Active Program Participants by County, Percentage of Total Active Enrolments by Program Type, and Data Quality Report.

CoC Updates

Katelyn McGuire | TVCH

Email Katelyn at kmcguire@tvceh.org to be put on our TVCoC Listerv to receive the TVCoC Resource Email.

Training Updates---The TVCoC calendar will be updated as training is scheduled throughout the year. You can find the calendar at tvchomeless.org. Katelyn also gave a list of trainings that are scheduled.

Federal Funding Freeze---Katelyn gave an update on the Federal Funding Freeze
2025 THDA ESG Application---the 2025 Emergency Solutions Grant funding opportunity is open. Due date is March 27 2025.

CoC Membership & Dues---Katelyn spoke about what you would do to become a TVCoC member and be able to vote. Also she spoke about the application, and how it is different this year.

CoC Committee Updates:

HMIS & Data Management – Chair: Andy O’Quinn andy.oquinn@oakridgetorch.org
Nikki Lynn | TVCH – Our next meeting will be Tuesday March 18 10:00am via zoom.

Coordinated Entry Committee – Chair: Tiffany Higginbotham tiffany.higginbotham@va.gov
Next meeting is virtual at 9:30am on March 27, 2025. We will be working on written standards and I will be stepping down from committee lead.

PIT/HIC Committee – Chair: Nikki Lynn nlynn@tvceh.org
If you have not filled out the survey from assisting with the point in time count, please do that. Here is the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/zHa1nk1Vse>

Written Standards Committee – Chair: Tonya Polidoro directorofmats@gmail.com
We are still working on the first draft of the written standards.

Rank & Review Committee – Chair: Angela Stolpe astolpe@unitedwayblount.org
Katelyn McGuire kmcguire@tvceh.org:TVCoC was undergoing technical assistance for the Rank and Review and Written Standards. HUD has put a hold on Technical Assistance. We are hoping the contract starts back up in the next couple of weeks.

BFZ Improvement Committee – Co Chairs: Angela Stolpe astolpe@unitedwayblount.org
Katelyn McGuire kmcguire@tvceh.org
They are looking into landlord engagement opportunities and engagement, to be able to use vouchers and utilize housing programs.

QUESTIONS/OPEN DISCUSSION

Closing: Katelyn McGuire – Lead Agency
Katelyn closed the meeting at 11:04 am.

Dates for the upcoming COC meeting
April 1 2025 In Person Meeting @ 10:00 am

May 6 2025 Virtual
June 3 2025 Virtual
July 8 2025 In-Person
August 5 2025 Virtual
September 2 2025 Virtual
October 7 2025 In-Person
November 4 2025 Virtual