

# Tennessee Valley Continuum of Care

## August 5 2025 Minutes

### **Members Present:**

Sarah Bradsher | Knox County Public Safety  
Allie Cohn | Overdose Prevention Director Hellbender Harm Reduction  
Rosie Cross | Regional Housing Facilitator for Region 2 Creating Homes Initiative  
Aaron Davies | McNabb Center Blount County  
Mattie Elliott | Volunteers of America Mid State  
Karen Ferguson | TVCH  
Kennith Hawkins | Positively Living & Choice Health Network  
Dewanna Henderson | TVCoC Governing Council  
Sascha Henderson | Substance Use Regional Housing Facilitator Creating Homes Initiative 2.0/McNabb Center  
Tiffany Higgenbotham | US Dept of Veteran Affairs  
Kent Jones | The Salvation Army Knoxville  
Matt Magrans-Tillery | River Valley Health  
Katelyn McGuire | TVCH  
Nikki Lynn | TVCH  
Andy O'Quinn | TORCH  
Taylor Pierce | MATS  
Tonya Polidoro | MATS  
Samantha Brantley Smith | Shiloh Recovery Services  
Angela Stolpe | TVCH YHSI Coordinator  
Kimberly Terry | TVCH  
Blair Trout | The Salvation Army Sevierville  
Jami Wilson | Haven House Maryville

### **Call to Order: Katelyn McGuire – Lead Agency**

Katelyn called the meeting to order 10:00 a.m.

### **Updates in Homelessness**

#### **Katelyn McGuire | TVCH**

Katelyn spoke on the Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets Executive Order.

### **Individual Agency News/Updates/Agency Successes**

#### **Matt Magrans-Tillery | River Valley Health**

Cherokee Health Systems is changing their name to River Valley Health. Also, on Thursday we have a ribbon cutting grant opening in Lenoir City.

**Katelyn McGuire | TVCH**

We set up our Shower Trailer for the first time in Union County. We had a lot of community support.

**Samantha Brantley Smith | Shiloh Recovery Services**

I am a co-founder of Shiloh Recovery Services which started in February of this year in Union County. We are here for substance misuse, harm reduction, mental health service, and we have peer support on staff. I am a certified peer recovery specialist. Good news—I went to court this morning with one of our recovery court participants. She was awarded unsupervised nightly visits with her daughter for the first time in years.

**Katelyn McGuire | TVCH**

We will be moving three people into housing in our region through our permanent support housing program.

**Andy O'Quinn | TORCH**

Torch is having a fundraiser. It's a golf tournament that is coming up on August 16, 2025.

**Lived Expertise Compensation Policy**

A vote was taken for compensation for individuals with lived expertise in our CoC funding grant cycle starting in September.

Below is the link explaining the policy:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:2fbcea14-6c0a-47e1-94ec-dbef0b70218f>

**Tonya Polidoro | MATS**

I'm excited to see this hit our CoC.

Allie Cohn | Overdose Prevention Director Hellbender Harm Reduction-Motion to Approve

Andy O'Quinn | TORCH-Second the Motion

Kennith Hawkins | Positively Living & Choice Health Network-Yes

Dewanna Henderson | TVCoC Governing Council-Yes

Tonya Polidoro | MATS-Yes

Rosie Cross | Regional Housing Facilitator for Region 2 Creating Homes Initiative-Yes

Blair Trout | The Salvation Army Sevierville-Yes

Samantha Brantley Smith | Shiloh Recovery Services-Yes

Katelyn McGuire | Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless-Yes

Tiffany Higgenbotham | US Dept of Veteran Affairs-Yes

None opposed.

**CoC Updates****YHSI Coordinator****Katelyn McGuire | TVCH**

TVCH has hired a part-time CoC position to focus on youth homelessness within our region.

This position is technically funded through the Chattanooga Continuum of Care. Angela Stolpe is our part-time YHSI Coordinator.

**THDA Project-Based Vouchers****Katelyn McGuire | TVCH**

The project based voucher program is a rental assistance program that links Federal subsidies to qualified housing units on behalf of eligible families. Katelyn spoke more detailed about this.

## **CoC Data Reports & Updates**

### **Nikki Lynn | TVCH**

Nikki gave an update on CoC Data Reports. Our Coordinated Entries are up this month, giving a better picture of the needs in our continuum. Data quality is 97.80%. Timeliness Calculation is at 76.79%. HMIS End User Office Hours, Thursday August 28 2025 1:00pm-3:00pm. Topic: Living Situations. Office Hours are now required for HMIS End Users.

### **Upcoming Trainings:**

TVCoc QPR Suicide Prevention Training by MDC

August 13 2025

12pm-1pm

Zoom

TVCoc Stigma-First Person Language Training by MDC

September 23 2025

12pm-1pm

Zoom

### **CoC Committee Updates:**

**HMIS & Data Management** – Chair: Andy O’Quinn [andy.oquinn@oakridgetorch.org](mailto:andy.oquinn@oakridgetorch.org)

We are working on policies and procedures. Next meeting is August 19 2025 10:00 am – 11:00 am. It is virtual.

**Coordinated Entry Committee** – Chair: Tiffany Higginbotham [tiffany.higginbotham@va.gov](mailto:tiffany.higginbotham@va.gov)

The next meeting is Friday at 9:30 am and August 28 2025 at 9:30 am

**PIT/HIC Committee** – Chair: Nikki Lynn [nlynn@tvceh.org](mailto:nlynn@tvceh.org)

We will be doing a lunch and learn, it is not set up yet. Our first committee meeting will be in September.

**Written Standards Committee** – Chair: Tonya Polidoro [directorofmats@gmail.com](mailto:directorofmats@gmail.com)

We are on page 20 of 90. Hopefully it will be finished by October or November.

**Rank & Review Committee** – Chair: Open Katelyn McGuire | TVCH [kmcguire@tvceh.org](mailto:kmcguire@tvceh.org)

We are looking for individuals who are interested in the rank and review committee. This committee reviews the applications for organizations who are interested in projects for the CoC. The projects are then ranked in order and they get funded.

**BFZ Improvement Committee** – Co Chairs: Angela Stolpe [astolpe@unitedwayblount.org](mailto:astolpe@unitedwayblount.org)

Katelyn McGuire [kmcguire@tvceh.org](mailto:kmcguire@tvceh.org)

We are still working on coming into the collaborative for this committee.

### **Tonya Polidoro | MATS**

Tonya spoke about the knowledge she received during her time on the Rank and Review Committee.

**Closing: Katelyn McGuire – Lead Agency**  
Katelyn closed the meeting at 11:01 am.

**Dates for the upcoming COC meeting**

September 2 2025 Virtual  
October 7 2025 In-Person  
November 4 2025 Virtual