

# Somerset County Health Department

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Health Officer Danielle Weber, MS, RN

## \*HALS MEETING MINUTES\*

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	<b>Homeless Alliance for the Lower Shore Continuum of Care Committee (HALS COC)</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>May 8, 2025</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>10:00AM - 11:30AM</b>
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	<b>Sharon Creasy</b>	<b>In-person Meeting</b>	<b>521 Mack Ave Salisbury, MD 21801</b>
<b>1. Attendees:</b>			
<b>Carey Kelley</b> (Somerset DSS), <b>Ivonne Lomax</b> (WoCHD), <b>Loré Chambers</b> (Zion House), <b>Emily Moore</b> (SCHD), <b>Bridgette Gregory</b> (SCHD), <b>Ray Lockamy</b> (SCHD), <b>Jessica Pastusak</b> (SCHD), , <b>Leslie Leether</b> (SCHD), <b>Christina Williams</b> (Labor), <b>Linda Copeland</b> (Zion House), <b>Rachel Mitchell</b> (Wor. Youth & Family), <b>Kathryn Lewis</b> (WoCHD), <b>Teresa Shatney</b> (TidalHealth), <b>Tory Stone</b> (Diakonia), <b>Shannon Frey</b> (SCHD), <b>Cherice Johnson</b> (Labor), <b>Maggie Moore</b> (WCHD), <b>Shelly McCrae</b> (VA), <b>Sharon Creasy</b> (SCHD), <b>Erin Leffew</b> (Life Crisis), <b>Tina Thomas</b> (WICHHD), <b>Ivy McKenzie</b> (St. James), <b>Diane Palmer</b> (Sante Group), <b>Molly Hillgoss</b> (Habitat for Humanity), <b>Tasha Jamieson</b> (Wicomico HD), <b>Twanda Redding</b> (MDOL), <b>Steven Silberman</b> (Addictions Wellness center), <b>Anthony Waters</b> (Lead4life), <b>Thomas Ballard</b> (Lead4life), <b>Gregory Short</b> (WorWic)			
<b>2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:</b>			
<b>Welcome</b>	Co-chair <b>Tori Stone</b> called the meeting to order and warmly welcomed everyone.		
<b>CoC Reminders</b>	Funding information is sent out regularly; if you would like to be added to the CoC distribution list, please contact Sharon Creasy: <a href="mailto:Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov">Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov</a> The majority, if not all, of organizations present follow HIPAA guidelines. At no point in time do we share consumers (clients) personal information. We can collaborate to find solutions, however we must not reveal identifying information.		
<b>Approval of November Minutes</b>	April Minutes was approved by Shannon Frey, and 2nd by Carey Kelley		

<b>Data Subcommittee</b>	<p><b>Members:</b>  <b>Leslie Leether, Emily Moore, Rachell Mitchell, Carey Kelley, Brooke Bartrom</b></p> <p><b>Description of Group:</b>  The Data committee will read and interpret various data about homelessness., including first time homelessness numbers, length of time homeless. exits to permanent housing/housing retention, and rates of return. The group will brainstorm and research solutions that can be implemented across the COC</p> <p><b>Built for Zero:</b>  The data committee is changing course slightly, because DHCD has now implemented a new project that the entire state will be working on, through a system called Built for Zero. The ultimate goal is to have a by-name list that will cover both clients active and not active in HMIS, and allow for a better referral and client conferencing process (hopefully).</p> <p>We are required to create some new policies and will also be working on a more continually updated list of resources, utilizing our existing resource lists and also investigating new resources that may not be noted elsewhere. This is a long-term project that will result in ongoing data collection and a new online dashboard related to data quality across the CoC.</p> <p><b>Report Out</b>  <b>Building our Lower Shore Scorecard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mapping of the outreach area</li> <li>● Coordinate outreach so there are no duplicating scorecards.</li> <li>● So all Homeless individuals are accounted for in our area</li> </ul>
<b>Equity Subcommittee</b>	<p><b>NEED MEMBERS:</b></p> <p><b>Description of Group:</b>  The focus of this subcommittee is ensuring fairness in services (both available and actually supplied) to individuals and families from a lens of equity.</p>
<b>Homeless Advisory</b>	<p><b>Members:</b>  <b>Tasha Jamison, Maggie Moore, Cristi Richardson, Bridgette Gregory, Jessica Pastusak, Ray Lockamy, Teresa Shatney, Michelle Smith, Denzell Bledsoe, Kathryn Lewis, Ivonne Lomax Dale Simms, Robert Audet</b></p> <p><b>Description of Group:</b>  This group is comprised of those who have experience or are currently experiencing homelessness and the facilities of this group are CoC Members.</p>

	<p>Report out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Formal Groups-</b> around the Tri-counties (library's, Wellness and recovery centers, community centers) to give the local homelessness clients a chance to share what obstacles they need help with.</li> <li>● Ms. Taylor is an insurance Broker for the Princess Anne area. We help with Veterans and filling out Medicaid, energy assistance, and utility payments. There will be a Summer Kick Off on June 6th from 12-4 with Free food, All donations will be accepted</li> </ul>
<b>Homeless Youth</b>	<p><b>Members:</b>  <b>Amber Green, Shannon Frey, Victoria Stone, Jackie Deal, Tim Gebhardt, Maxine Hillard, Joan Harris, Demettris Dryden, Sharon Creasy, Erin Leffew</b></p> <p><b>Description of Group:</b>  The goal of the homeless Youth Subcommittee is to identify, develop, and implement homeless youth services on the Lower Eastern shore.</p> <p>Report out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Resource Guide for Youth- needs also to be in Haitian Creole and Spanish</li> <li>● We looked into a safe place to park or hang out. There are a few over the bridge and we want to look into grants for a wraparound service for the youth here on the shore.</li> <li>● There is an event happening at 822 W. Grove here in Salisbury, lead4life is partnering with Shore Legal and the recovery center to do a resource fair from 10-2. This area does not have any resources around it, so we are coming to them. If anyone wants to come out and be a vendor you are welcome.</li> </ul>
<b>Veterans Workgroup</b>	<p><b>Members:</b>  <b>Michelle Hardy, Cherice Johnson, Chris Willliams, Lore Chambers, Shelly McCrae, Anielle Anwana, Greg Bisset, Julie Willis, Linda Copeland, Gregory Short, Steve Silberman</b></p> <p><b>Description of Group:</b>  The Veterans Workgroup is focused on the needs of homeless veterans in our area. The is a separate group from the Veterans-by-name listing meeting and does not discuss specific veterans. *The group includes members of both inside and outside of the CoC *</p> <p>Report out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spoke about new resources in the area's</li> <li>● St James has resources for Veterans with Medicaid</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● talked about the funding being cut and how much harder it is going to be for everyone to help.</li> <li>● spoke on the overwhelming high electric bills being in the thousands which most of us don't have funding for.</li> <li>● Molly spoke about a program with Habitat that for first time home buyers there is a 45,000in special funds and up to 20,000 for down payment</li> </ul>
<b>Agency Updates</b>	<p><b>Loré Chambers</b> (Zion House) I would like to thank everyone that came out for VA Stand Down</p> <p><b>Tina Thomas</b> (WICHD)-Has brought some Resource Guides with her today, You can request up to 30 copies per agency and each county has their own copies to hand out.</p> <p><b>Steven Silberman</b> (Addictions Wellness center)-HOPE Inc. is having a resource fair today from 10-2. We will be opening our Recovery 180 in Baltimore with 80 male beds. Once its open for 30 days there will be a reevaluation and will be planning a female facility.</p>
<b>Old Business/ New Business</b>	<p><b>Old business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● none</li> </ul> <p><b>New business:</b></p>
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<p>Meeting closed byTori Stone. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for the agenda please reach out to our co-chairs: Jennifer Trager: <a href="mailto:jtrager@ccwilm.org">jtrager@ccwilm.org</a> Amber Green <a href="mailto:Amber@shorelegal.org">Amber@shorelegal.org</a> Tory Stone: <a href="mailto:vstone@diakonia.org">vstone@diakonia.org</a></p>
<b>New Members</b>	<p>Email Sharon Creasy at <a href="mailto:Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov">Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov</a> to be added to the CoC email group.</p>
<b>Next CoC Meeting</b>	<p><b>Thursday, June 12, 2025 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801</b></p>