

Somerset County Health Department

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Health Officer Danielle Weber, MS, RN

HALS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Name:	Homeless Alliance for the Lower Shore Continuum of Care Committee (HALS COC)			
Date of Meeting:	Sep 11, 2025		Time:	10:00AM - 11:30AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Sharon Creasy		In-person Meeting	521 Mack Ave Salisbury, MD 21801
1. Attendees:				
Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD), Emily Moore (SCHD), Ray Lockamy (SCHD), Leslie Leether (SCHD), Linda Copeland (Zion House), Rachel Mitchell (Wor. Youth & Family), Tory Stone (Diakonia), Shelly McCrae (VA), Sharon Creasy (SCHD), Erin Leffew (Life Crisis), Diane Palmer (Sante Group), Anthony Dickerson (Christian Shelter), Christine Chestnutt (City of Salisbury), Kathy Cannon (Compass Health), Loré Chambers (Zion House), Jerrisha Hood (SCPS), Ivy McKenzie (St. James), Romanda Hutt (Village of Hope), Jessica Pastusak (SCHD), Demettris Dryden (SCHD), Morgan Flanagan (SPD), Jennifer Trager (Seton Center), Denise White (SHORE-UP!), Tina Thomas (WICHHD), Tara Winder (Oasis of Hope), Karen Simon (Oasis of Hope), Rev. Tony White (Oasis of Hope), Viola Robertson (MRSS), Anthony Waters (Lead4Life)				
2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:				
Welcome	Co-chair Tory Stone called the meeting to order and warmly welcomed everyone. We also took a moment of silence in remembrance of 09/11.			
CoC Reminders	Funding information is sent out regularly; if you would like to be added to the CoC distribution list, please contact Sharon Creasy: Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov 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.			
Approval of August Minutes	August Minutes were approved by Amber Green, and 2nd by Christine Chestnutt			

Data Subcommittee	<p>Members: Leslie Leether, Emily Moore, Rachel Mitchell, Carey Kelley, Brooke Bartrom</p> <p>Description of Group: 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>Built for Zero: The data committee is working on a project from DHCD, 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>Report Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We continued discussing a mapping process for unsheltered homelessness, which is part of the DHCD Built for Zero project that we have been working on for a little while now. ● We are still working on figuring out how we would like to do the mapping and how to do it in such a way that the exact locations of encampments are not made public, possibly using a heat map. ● Possible steps that we may take include: group discussion of all unsheltered outreach program providers that are using HMIS and a discussion among faith-based outreach providers that are not currently using HMIS.
Equity Subcommittee	<p>NEED MEMBERS</p> <p>Description of Group: 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>

Homeless Advisory	<p>Members: 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</p> <p>Description of Group: This group is comprised of those who have experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness and the facilitators of this group are CoC Members.</p> <p>Report out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Shelter will have five new beds and a new process on entering the shelter • HOPE is requesting Emergency Services Funds • Seton Center is out of funds for HSP • Your local LBHA and HOPE assist with IDs and Birth Certificates for free with verification of homelessness
Homeless Youth	<p>Members: Victoria Stone-Chair Amber Green, Shannon Frey, Victoria Stone, Jackie Deal, Tim Gebhardt, Maxine Hillard, Joan Harris, Demettris Dryden, Sharon Creasy, Erin Leffew</p> <p>Description of Group: 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"> • Hoping to have some youth (18-24) come to the meetings and be representative. • Would like to go over By-laws to see if anything needs updating to include Sub committees • Amber (DHCD) will be working with Mid-Shore COC and hoping to learn how their COC meetings are done.
Veterans Workgroup	<p>Members: Michelle Hardy, Cherice Johnson, Chris Willliams, Lore Chambers, Shelly McCrae, Anielle Anwana, Greg Bisset, Julie Willis, Linda Copeland, Gregory Short, Steve Silberman</p> <p>Description of Group: 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"> Discussed the biggest issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing crisis Lack of Transportation Make sure Veterans have IDs-so they can verify who they are.
Agency Updates	<p>Christine Chestnutt (City of Salisbury)- PSH program is ending 09/30/2027. All clients in the grant that is ending are aware of the grant being cut. For Anne Street new clients: There is a 60 day grace period to make sure the program is a good fit. It is no longer a set 2 year program. There is currently a wait list, and 17 units have been filled.</p> <p>Amber Green (Fenix Youth Project)- An interim executive director has been hired and will start on October 1st. Also on the 1st is a fundraiser at Chipotle to support Youth. Amber spoke of her Environmental Specialist program; please see attached flyer for info.</p> <p>Anthony Dickerson (Christian Shelter) October 9th - 10th from 3pm to 3pm, Anthony will be doing Conversations On The Bench. Anthony will be interviewing and talking to anyone that would like to participate as he will be sitting/sleeping on a bench outdoors for 24 hours.</p> <p>Tina Thomas (WICHD), September 18, 2025: Pathways to Prevention & Healing 5:30pm-7pm at Library, and the Wor-Wic “ SHATTER THE STIGMA” WALK is being held on 09/27/2025 starting at 9:30am.</p> <p>Leslie Leether (SCHD)- Sep 19, 2025 Walk for Recovery from 7pm-8pm at Terrapin Trail in Crisfield</p>
Old Business/ New Business	<p>Old business:</p> <p>New business:</p> <p>Amber Green has stepped down as a Co-Chair representing Wicomico. We need a volunteer for this position. Please email Shannon Frey at Shannon.frey@maryland.gov for your consideration for the position. Also if you know someone you would like to nominate someone please make sure they are willing to do the position and know you are nominating them.</p>
Closing Remarks	<p>Meeting closed by Tory Stone. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for the agenda please reach out to our co-chairs:</p> <p>Jennifer Trager: jtrager@ccwilm.org</p> <p>Tory Stone: vstone@diakonia.org</p>
New Members	<p>Email Sharon Creasy at Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov to be added to the CoC email group.</p>
Next CoC Meeting	<p>Thursday, October 09, 2025 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801</p>