

# 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>Nov 13, 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>Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD), Emily Moore (SCHD), Ray Lockamy (SCHD), Leslie Leether (SCHD), Rachel Mitchell (Wor. Youth &amp; Family), Tory Stone (Diakonia), Shelly McCrae (VA), Sharon Creasy (SCHD), Erin Leffew (Life Crisis), Christine Chestnutt (City of Salisbury), Jerrisha Hood (SCPS), Ivy McKenzie (St. James), Jessica Pastusak (SCHD), Demettris Dryden (SCHD), Denise White (SHORE-UP!), Tina Thomas (WICHHD), Knita Cartwright (MYWCPS), Amy Kelly (DHS-Wic,County), Teresa Shatney (Tidalhealth), Leliya Lindsay (Salisbury PD), Latoya Ward (Push &amp; Purpose), George Wilson (SSVF St James),</b>				
<b>2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:</b>				
<b>Welcome</b>	Co-chair Tory Stone 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 October's Minutes</b>	October minutes were approved by Ivonne Lomax, and 2nd by Brigette Tingle			

<b>Data Subcommittee</b>	<p><b>Members:</b>  <b>Leslie Leether, Emily Moore, Rachel 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 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><b>Report Out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They spoke about the Access maps with the known unhoused population and overlay with the old map to see if any outreach area has any gaps in coverage.</li> <li>• Once they have the area mapped out they will know where the outreach teams need to be at and to cover those areas. Tory states that the Outreach team may have one and will let them know.</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 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"> <li>• 28 bed already taken at the cold weather shelter</li> <li>• Ann St. almost Full</li> <li>• Save A Lot is having a Chicken give away on 11/25 from 2pm-6pm.</li> <li>• Spoke about SNAP and all the changes taken place</li> <li>• Shortage of food giveaways and place to go for food in some areas</li> </ul>
<b>Homeless Youth</b>	<p><b>Members:</b>  <b>Victoria Stone-Chair Amber Green, Shannon Frey Jackie Deal, Tim Gebhardt, Maxine Hillard, Joan Harris, Demettris Dryden, Sharon Creasy, Erin Leffew, Yolanda</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>• Will be doing the Youth PITcounts this coming January.</li> <li>• Youth will not need an adult to complete the survey for PIT counts</li> <li>• The survey will even have a voice caption for them to use</li> <li>• need to recruit volunteers to help with the count</li> <li>• No funding to give out incentives to participate in the count</li> <li>• Spoke about setting up a community event in central locations in each county to get more to participate in the count..</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>• would like to educate Vets to know to use their benefits and not just say I'm fine as now they can lose them if not.</li> <li>• to remind them of the need to bring all paperwork with them as the DD214 is no longer completed in detail of assignments and training that would jar some of the vets' memories of the injuries.</li> </ul>
<b>Agency Updates</b>	<p><b>Ivonne Lomax ( WoCHD)-</b> ?The OCMD Cold weather shelter will be opening on 12/1/2025 when weather drops below 25 degrees. Please email <a href="mailto:ocmddcoldweathershelter@gmail.com">ocmddcoldweathershelter@gmail.com</a>) if needing a spot to Jason or Patricia with DOB and name of client. This is not a Low Barrier shelter.</p> <p><b>Leliya Lindsay (Salisbury PD)</b> We will be doing Shop with a Cop this year at tSam's Club. WE are having a food giving away on the 25th with 500 boxes of food to give away,</p> <p><b>Christine Chestnutt (City of Salisbury)-</b> Ann St, is not closing! Ann St is almost full, with 2 spots being filled last week. Will be hiring a case manager to look for that job posting on Monday.</p> <p><b>Victoria Stone (Diakonia)-</b> The outreach team has been given 5 below as the store shut down and we were giving the entire store. We will be using this to do a Christmas shop for the kids to pick out that special something for their parents and loved ones.</p> <p><b>Rachel Mitchell ( Wor. Youth &amp; Family)</b> there is a food pantry box in the back of the shop on 124 N. Main St. Berlin Md. it is a 24/7 availability,</p>
<b>Old Business/ New Business</b>	<p><b>Old business:</b></p> <p><b>New business: Need to pick a PIT date for January 2026* keep a look out for this in your email.</b></p>
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<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: <a href="mailto:jtrager@ccwilm.org">jtrager@ccwilm.org</a></p> <p>Tory Stone: <a href="mailto:vstone@diakonia.org">vstone@diakonia.org</a></p> <p><b>YoVanda Brown:</b> <a href="mailto:yoVanda.brown1@maryland.gov">yoVanda.brown1@maryland.gov</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, December 11, 2025 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801</b></p>