

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:	Jan 8, 2026		Time: 10:00AM - 11:30AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Sharon Creasy		In-person Meeting 521 Ave Salisbury, MD 21801Mack
1. Attendees:			
<p>Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD), Ray Lockamy (SCHD), Leslie Leether (SCHD), Rachel Mitchell (Wor. Youth & Family), Tory Stone (Diakonia), Shelly McCrae (VA), Sharon Creasy (SCHD), Erin Leffew (Life Crisis), Jerrisha Hood (SCPS), Jessica Pastusak (SCHD), Demettris Dryden (SCHD), Denise White (SHORE-UP!), Amy Kelly (DHS-Wic.County), Teresa Shatney (TidalHealth), Latoya Ward (Push & Purpose), YoVanda Brown (Labor), Maggie Moore (WCHD), Carly Nascimbeni (ShoreLegal), Diane Palmer (Sante Group), Loré Chambers (St. James), Virginia Peckham (Joseph House), Linda Copeland (Zion House), Shannon Frey (SCHD), Tim Gebhardt (Worcester Public Schools), Bridgette Tingle (SCHD), Jody Hurley (LifeCrisis), Tasha Jamison (Wic_HD), Carey Kelley (Somerset DSS), Morgan Flanagan (SPD), Detra Kelly (Wor.DSS), Richard Gooding (Salisbury Fire), Leah Argot (Life Crisis), Grace Muse (Wic.DSS)</p>			
2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:			
Welcome	Co-chair Tory Stone called the meeting to order and warmly welcomed everyone.		
CoC Reminders	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p>		
Approval of December's Minutes	December's minutes were approved by Ivonne Lomax, and 2nd by Carey Kelly		
NOFO Update	<p>There has been an update of the court findings: HUD is to honor NOFO for FY 24-25 but with stipulations that have not been made clear yet on how we are to receive the funding. Even though this helps the programs for this year it does not help after that time. The clients in programs that have already closed will still need to be rehoused to either low income or senior living apartments due to the fact that we are only able to pay til April without obtaining the funding from HUD . It does still look like transitional housing will</p>		

	<p>be the new funding moving forward, so Shannon have reached out to the local mental health providers to see if they can assist on this as they used to have this type of housing.</p>
<p>Data Subcommittee</p>	<p>Members: Leslie Leether, Emily Moore, Rachel Mitchell, Carey Kelley, Brooke Bartrom, Detra Kelly, Amy Kelly, Grace Muse</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 have three new members, Detra Kelly, Grace Muse and Amy Kelly ● Working on creating Dashboards for public awareness of homelessness
<p>Equity Subcommittee</p>	<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>

<p>Homeless Advisory</p>	<p>Members: Jennifer Trager, Tasha Jamison, Maggie Moore, Cristi Richardson, Bridgette Tingle, Jessica Pastusak, Ray Lockamy, Teresa Shatney, Michelle Smith, Denzell Bledsoe, Kathryn Lewis, Ivonne Lomax, Dale Simms, Robert Audet, Denise White</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"> ● Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Outreach is still happening on Jan.29th,. ● Wicomico has body warmers (HotHands for stomach and back area) for distribution with the outreach teams ● need contacts for pets when they can not go with the owners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Humane Society used to - need to recheck ○ There is a pet daycare near Route 50 before getting into Ocean City that has worked with providers before however will need to recheck. ○ Most landlords only take service animals if they have the approval of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). which states the dog has had training for the service dog requirements. ESA (emotional support animals) are not qualified for ADA approval ● Community Resource Fair is Feb. 6th from 1-4 at Ocean Pines Library ● The Temporary Protection Status for Haitians will end on Feb 3rd. We may see a spike in homelessness
<p>Homeless Youth</p>	<p>Members: Victoria Stone-Chair, Amber Green, Shannon Frey, Jackie Deal, Tim Gebhardt, Maxine Hillard, Joan Harris, Demettris Dryden, Sharon Creasy, Erin Leffew, YoVanda Brown</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"> ● reporting an up-tick in house fires in the Worcester area, without much help for the families. ● Worcester Gold is no longer open, and the major impact this has on the community ● High levels of drug use in our youth in the Crisfield area especially at the housing authority

Veterans Workgroup	<p>Members: Michelle Hardy, Cherice Johnson, Chris Willliams, Lore Chambers, Shelly McCrae, Danielle 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"> ● They have a new member from Wicomico DSS ● Spoke about a Veteran outreach specialist and what they can do.
Agency Updates	
Old Business/ New Business	<p>New business: we have taken a vote and we will not be having an un-sheltered PIT done this year, though the Shelter PIT will be done as it is required every year.</p> <p>Old business: none</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: Jennifer Trager: jtrager@ccwilm.org Tory Stone: vstone@diakonia.org YoVanda Brown: yoVanda.brown1@maryland.gov</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, February 12, 2026 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801</p>