

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:	Apr 9, 2026		Time:	10:00AM - 11:30AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Sharon Creasy		In-person Meeting	521 Ave Salisbury, MD 21801Mack
1. Attendees:				
Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD), Ray Lockamy (SCHD), 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), Loré Chambers (St. James), Virginia Peckham (Joseph House), Linda Copeland (Zion House), Shannon Frey (SCHD), Bridgette Tingle (SCHD), Carey Kelley (Somerset DSS), Morgan Flanagan (SPD), Detra Kelly (Wor.DSS), Richard Gooding (Salisbury Fire), Leah Argot (Life Crisis), Larry Rooths (Fenix Youth Project), Cristi Richardson (Wic. Library), Gregory Bisset (VA), Emily Moore (SCHD), Rick Hamilton (Diakonia), Jessica Orem (Fenix Youth Project), Mackensie Bargar (Life Crisis), Romona Wilson (Wic. Health Dept), Desire Daniel (Zion house)				
2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:				
Welcome	Co-chair YoVanda Brown called the meeting to order and warmly welcomed everyone.			
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 December's Minutes	March minutes were approved by Carey Kelly and 2nd by Ivonne Lomax			

Data Subcommittee	Members: Leslie Leether, Emily Moore, Rachel Mitchell, Carey Kelley, Brooke Bartrom, Detra Kelly, Amy Kelly, Grace Muse 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 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). 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. Report Out • Due to the merger from COC to Balance of State, so they are waiting on guidance on what reporting will be like since we are not reporting to HUDF anymore.
Equity Subcommittee	NEED MEMBERS 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.
Homeless Advisory	Members: Jennnifer 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 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. Report out: • Update on SCHD COC- Programs we received funding for the Project one and the

	Bonus projects for one more year though we do not have a date when the funds will be here.. We will not know about the others until closer to the end of that grant in September and October. So far no one has been put back on the street, The case managers have been working tirelessly on finding other housing for those clients already affected by this. No NOFO has come out for FY 27 yet. • all COLD Weather shelters are now closed for the year. • The opening of the waitlist with DHCD but reminded us this is not an immediate fix to the program. • Would like to research a better way to get the bed availability out to everyone. • Mentioned that they still need a representation of disparities in the meeting so please if you know of anyone that is outspoken, and would contribute to our meeting please bring them along we want to hear from them!
Homeless Youth	Members: Victoria Stone-Chair, Amber Green, Shannon Frey, Jackie Deal, Tim Gebhardt, Maxine Hillard, Joan Harris, Demettris Dryden, Sharon Creasy, Erin Leffew, YoVanda Brown Description of Group: The goal of the Homeless Youth Subcommittee is to identify, develop, and implement homeless youth services on the Lower Eastern shore. Report out: • The City of Salisbury is opening new Community Center • The recent decline in reported human trafficking cases is likely due to staff shortages rather than a genuine reduction in incidence.
Veterans Workgroup	Members: Michelle Hardy, Cherice Johnson, Chris Williams, Lore Chambers, Shelly McCrae, Danielle Anwana, Greg Bisset, Julie Willis, Linda Copeland, Gregory Short, Steve Silberman 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 * Report out: • We spoke about Habitat for Humanity in helping Veterans to become Veteran homeless to a Veteran home owner along with weatherization, and energy bills for their homes.. • There also looks like an opportunity down the road for habitat for Humanity to also help VA renters with supportive services.

Agency Updates	Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD), Relax, Refresh and Renew May 21st. from 10-3 at Ocean Pines Community Center Gregory Bisset (VA), VA StandDown April 25th from 10-2 At St. James AME Zion church. Jessica Pastusak (SCHD) Navigating Life After Incarceration it will be June 1st from 10-3 at SU. The Gun Safety and Suicide prevention event being held at UMES on June 6th from 11-2pm a flyer will soon be going out for this.
Old Business/ New Business	New business: none Old business: none
Closing Remarks	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
New Members	Email Sharon Creasy at Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov to be added to the CoC email group.
Next CoC Meeting	Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801