



## 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>Feb 12, 2026</b>                                                                 | <b>Time:</b>          | <b>10:00AM - 11:30AM</b>                    |
| <b>Minutes Prepared By:</b> | <b>Sharon Creasy</b>                                                                | <b>Hybrid Meeting</b> | <b>521 Mack Ave<br/>Salisbury, MD 21801</b> |

#### 1. Attendees:

Carey Kelley (Somerset DSS), Loré Chambers (Zion House), Bridgette Tingle (SCHD), Jessica Pastusak (SCHD), Leslie Leether (SCHD), Linda Copeland (Zion House) Shannon Frey (SCHD), Christine Chestnutt (City of Salisbury), Gregory Bisset (VA), Tasha Jamison (Wic.HD), YoVanda Brown (Labor), Cristi Richardson (Wic. Library), Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD), Richard Gooding (Salisbury fire), Deb Rossi (HOPE), Detra Kelly (Wor.DSS), Tory Stone (Diakonia), Zina Delancey (Wraparound), Larry Rooths (Fenix Youth Project), Sharon Creasy (SCHD), Shelly Daniels (Samaritan Shelter), Anthony Dickerson (Christian Shelter), Amber Green (DHCD), Demettris Dryden (SCHD), Desire Daniel (Zion house), Ken Argot (Diakonia), Jessica Chase (Tidalhealth), Christine Miller (Tidalhealth), Ivy McKenzie (St. James), Leliya Lindsay (Salisbury PD), Ray Lockamy (SCHD), Denise White (SHORE-UP!), Amy Kelly (WCDSS), Maggie Moore (WCHD), Jerrisha Hood (SCPS), Michelle Hardy (Wic.HD), Steven Bradford (Wraparound), Kathy Cannon (Compass Health), Knita Cartwright (MYWCPS), Morgan Flanagan (Salisbury PD), Cherie Meienchein (SC REcovery Court), Carly Nascimbeni (ShoreLegal), Angel Sampson (HALO), Tina Thomas (WICHHD), Keyshia Wigenton (Crisfield H.A.), Greg Carlson (HH&H), Mackenzie Barger (Life Crisis), Kristi Bradford (WrapAround), Paula Beachley (Village of Hape), Rick Hamilton (Diakonia), Latoya Ward (PUSH),

#### 2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcome</b>             | Tory Stone called the meeting to order and 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><br>The majority, if not all, of organizations present follow HIPAA guidelines.<br>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 Minutes</b> | January meeting minutes were approved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Presentation:  
Maryland BoS CoC -  
Ending Homelessness  
in Maryland -  
Together**

**presented by DHCD  
representatives  
Carolyn Curry &  
Danielle Meister**

What will change:

- Name will change from HALS COC (Homeless Alliance for the Lower Shore Continuum of Care) to LHC (Local Homeless Coalition)
- PSH placement will follow BoS prioritization method
- Who handles the HMIS Data reporting and collection?
  - local processes will stay somewhat the same, but ICA will provide HMIS support and training
  - BoS will cover cost of WellSky (HMIS) software through HSP funding
    - HSP funding is budgeted to BoS first to cover HMIS, staff, etc.
  - we will be in full compliance with HUD requirements
- the BoS will do NOFO collaborative application, local project applications will still be completed by individual providers
- General CoC Policies and Procedures supplied by BoS
- PIT count policies supplied by BoS
- We will no longer be able to modify the coordinated assessment tools and will have to use their forms
  - Coordinated entry written standards have recently been finalized

HALS CoC will have to pick 2-3 members to be responsible for the planning and executing HUD requirements and attending BoS meetings, that consist of CoC/LHC members plus members from 7 state agencies

At least 1 representative from each county will also be needed to sit on BoS committees.

What stays the same:

- Maintain a functioning and active LHC, engage in local planning with diverse group of stakeholders
- Facilitate the local annual point-in-time homeless count to collect information on bed inventory and homeless persons
- Operate the local Coordinated Entry System
- Ensure regular review of HMIS data quality reports for the region and outreach to providers with poor data quality
- Provide project and system level information for the annual CoC competition & obtain Certificates of Consistency with relevant consolidated plans
- Collaborate with local agencies to identify and serve special populations: youth, vets, families, health care, criminal justice, public benefits
- HALS will still need to identify local funding opportunities to financially support programs

Benefits

- Additional staffing capacity from DHCD & ICA

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater state agency involvement/coordination in meeting HUD/CoC goals</li> <li>• Data quality &amp; system performance improvement = more NOFO points</li> <li>• Full compliance with HUD requirements</li> <li>• More time to deliver services</li> <li>• no duplication of costs for HMIS</li> <li>• one HMIS system for all communities that are part of BoS (better data sources for NOFO application)</li> <li>• less likely to experience HUD funding cuts - related to Tier II projects in NOFO</li> <li>• possible additional opportunities for bonus projects to be funded</li> <li>• additional training opportunities from DHCD</li> <li>• advocacy to general assembly of state for more funding</li> </ul> <p>The merger will take between a year and year and a half to complete.</p> <p>Joining the BoS will not change funding overnight but will begin a process of more support that is intended to increase funding.</p> |
| <b>Vote on merger from COC to BOS-LHC</b> | Everyone in attendance both in-person and virtually was in agreement to merge with BoS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Agency Updates</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amber Green</b> (DHCD)- There is a local translator by the name Natalie Saint- Phard available for Haitian Creole. Her # is 443-745-3118</li> <li>• <b>Denise White</b> (Shore Up!) - Free Tax Prep: please see flyer and call 410-749-1142</li> <li>• <b>Lore' Chambers</b> (St. James) will be hosting a "STAND DOWN" for Veterans on April 26th 2026.</li> <li>• <b>SCHD</b> will be hosting a reentry simulation sometime in March. When a date is picked, they will share that information..</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Old Business/<br/>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Closing Remarks</b>                    | <p>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>YoVanda Brown <a href="mailto:yovanda.brown1@maryland.gov">yovanda.brown1@maryland.gov</a></p> <p>Tory Stone: <a href="mailto:vstone@diakonia.org">vstone@diakonia.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>New Members</b>                        | Email Sharon Creasy at <a href="mailto:Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov">Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov</a> to be added to the CoC email group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Next CoC Meeting</b>                   | <b>Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |