



Public Health
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Somerset County
Health Department

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:	Mar 12, 2026	Time:		10:00AM - 11:30AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Sharon Creasy	Hybrid Meeting		521 Mack Ave Salisbury, MD 21801
1. Attendees:				
Carey Kelley (Somerset DSS), Loré Chambers (Zion House), Bridgette Tingle (SCHD), Jessica Pastusak (SCHD), Leslie Leether (SCHD), Linda Copeland (Zion House) Christine Chestnut (City of Salisbury), 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), Anthony Dickerson (Christian Shelter), Demettris Dryden (SCHD), Leliya Lindsay (Salisbury PD), Ray Lockamy (SCHD), Maggie Moore (WCHD), Jerrisha Hood (SCPS), Knita Cartwright (MYWCPS), Morgan Flanagan (Salisbury PD), Joseph Canner (ShoreLegal), Bibi Barnes (ShoreLegal), Mackenzie Barger (Life Crisis), Kristi Bradford (WrapAround), Annette Johnson (Village of Hope), Latoya Ward (PUSH), , Jennifer Trigger (Seton Center), Ginny Poorman (City of Salisbury), Desire Daniels (Zion House), Shelly McCrae (VA), Emily Moore (SCHD), Diane Palmer (Sante Group), Virginia Peckham (Joseph House), Teresa Shatney (TidalHealth), Tim Gebhardt (Wor. Public School), Joan Harris (Somerset Public School), Romanda Hutt (Village of Hope)				
2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:				
Welcome	Tory Stone called the meeting to order and 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 Minutes	February meeting minutes were approved.			

**Presentation:
Shore Legal , -
Joseph Canner
and Bibi Barne**

Shore Legal Access is a nonprofit organization providing free and low-cost civil legal services across Maryland's Eastern Shore, supported by a dedicated staff and a network of volunteer attorneys who serve individuals and families in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

What level of service is provided?

Shore Legal Access has attorneys at every rent court docket on the Eastern Shore available to provide legal counseling and representation to tenants facing eviction. Tenants can simply show up and request assistance; no advance notice is required (although it is preferred).

There are many laws to protect you and here are some topics that can be helped. :

- Rental Applications
 - No more than \$25.00 application Fee if landlord owns 5+ properties
 - If the tenant obtains a credit report there should be no application fee
- Lease
 - No written lease: one-year term
- Termination
 - 60-90 notice by landlord
 - 30-90 notice by tenant
 - Domestic violence exception
 - Automatic renewal to month-to-month unless lease says otherwise.
- Rent
 - Lease will say when rent is due and when a late fee will be charged - late fee can not be more than 5%
 - Rent increases only when the lease renews with a 90 day notice.
 - Get copies of utility bills paid by the landlord, and receipts for rent.
- Security Deposit
 - Usually can not be more than 1 month rent
 - Tenant needs to provide new address 15 days before moving
 - Landlord must provide accounting within 45 days if not tenant can sue for 3x damages
- Property Conditions
 - No Serious and substantial threats to life, health or safety
 - Fire, Heat, Light, Electricity, Sewage Disposal
 - Notify the landlord immediately
 - If problem not fixed within a reasonable time can without rent, sue in district court and file for rent escrow case and pay court the rent
- Evictions
 - for failure to pay and the other reason evictions can happen
- Shielding

	○ Records of evictions are hidden from landlords and employers. Two biggest take aways: ● If facing evictions, clients need to show up to court you can not win if you are not there to fight. ● Landlords can not change your locks until court order needs to be in place before locks are changed. Questions : Is the income requirement of 3 times the rent legal? - States they can set the amount however they want as long as its not Section 8 housing Who pays for the mold inspections? The landlord Who covers the pest control technician? For rodents it needs to be in the lease and to have at least 2 tenants with the same rodent problem before a landlord is responsible to pay for it.
Presentation: Village of Hope- Annette Johnson	A New Beginning. A Fresh Start. Steps to Success Transitional Living Program provides women and their children with the stability, support, and resources they need to move toward independence and long-term self-sufficiency. ● Program participants reside in one of 15 fully furnished apartments within the Village of Hope Residential Building. ● Eligibility & Referrals ○ Women ages 18–62 ○ Single, divorced, or legally separated ○ Up to three children ages 14 or under ○ Drug-free for at least one year ○ Demonstrated commitment to making positive changes and working toward personal goals They are unable to accept anyone with a felony on their record. Take aways: ● Be honest from the beginning ● you do not have to have children to be accepted. ● They do random drug testing throughout the 2 years program ● They do have one opening available. ● program does involve participation and engagement with activities

Agency Updates	● Christine Chesnutt (City of Salisbury)-was able to move one out into housing with someone interviewing tomorrow for that spot. Just Hired Jeanieat Ann St. she will be there everyday., Christine is moving to the old City Hall building. finally received funding to continue housing the 7 people. that was in jeopardy of losing the housing at Ann St. ● Cristi Richardson (Wic. Library)- DCHD will be here on April 10th to help with applications for their waitlist, this will be at the Downtown Wicomico Library. Cambridge DHCD states there is still a 2-3 year wait for their vouchers. ● Jessica Pastusak -will be hosting a reentry simulation on June 1 2026 from 10-2 and we are hosting a Suide event with a presenter. on June 6th ● Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD)- 2nd community event coming soon for April 14th. Will send a flyer once its available. ● Anthony Dickerson (Christian Shelter)- will be moving to a transital housing ● Tasha Jamison (Wic.HD)- 4th Annual Color Run Festival to be held on Saturday, April 25th, 2026, at Kylan Barn in Delmar, Maryland. ● Annette Johnson (Village of Hope) The "Over the Edge for ALICE" fundraiser is scheduled for May 8, 2026, in Salisbury, Maryland, where participants will rappel 14 stories down The Ross building to raise funds for the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore (UWLES).
Old Business/ New Business	Old business: ● none New business: ● none
Closing Remarks	If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for the agenda please reach out to our co-chairs: Jennifer Trager: jtrager@ccwilm.org YoVanda Brown yovanda.brown1@maryland.gov Tory Stone: vstone@diakonia.org
New Members	Email Sharon Creasy at Sharonr.creasy@maryland.gov to be added to the CoC email group.
Next CoC Meeting	Thursday, April 09, 2026 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801