

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:	Jun 11, 2026		Time:	10:00AM - 11:30AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Sharon Creasy		In-person Meeting	521 Mack Ave Salisbury, MD 21801
1. Attendees:				
Ivonne Lomax (WoCHD), Ray Lockamy (SCHD), Leslie Leether (SCHD), Sharon Creasy (SCHD), Jerrisha Hood (SCPS), Jessica Pastusak (SCHD), Demettris Dryden (SCHD), Teresa Shatney (TidalHealth), Latoya Ward (Push & Purpose), YoVanda Brown (Labor), Maggie Moore (WCHD) Loré Chambers (St. James), Virginia Peckham (Joseph House), Linda Copeland (Zion House), Bridgette Tingle (SCHD), Tasha Jamison (Wic_HD), Morgan Flanagan (SPD), Detra Kelly (Wor.DSS), Cristi Richardson (Wic. Library), Daniel Desire (Zion house), Jaime Martin (Jubilant Encounter), Knita Cartwright (MYWCPS), Larry Rooths (Fenix Youth Project), Jessica Orem (Fenix Youth Project), Emily Moore (SCHD), Marshall Shord (Shore Legal Access), Anastasia Mercado (Healthport), Vanessa Kidd (Healthport), Virginia Peckham (Joseph House), Rick Hamilton (Diakonia), Christina Chestnut (City of Salisbury), Shelly Wise (Samaritan Shelter), Alyce Marzola (Tidalhealth), Ginny Poorman (City of Salisbury),				
2. Agenda/Topic/Discussion/Follow-Up:				
Welcome	Co-chair Jenn Trager 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	May minutes were approved by Jessica Pastusak and 2nd by Bridgette Tingle			

Data Subcommittee	Attended Members: Leslie Leether, Emily Moore, Marshall Shord, Larry Rooths, Jessica Orem, Detra Kelly 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 Report Out ● Since we are in-between the CoC and the BOS we want to focus on these two topics for now ○ Youth Data for placement ■ through May-Sept there seems to be a lot of parents that are arrested and the children are left with nowhere to go (Foster,Group home ect...) ■ Rental assistance would like to get more information out when agencies are out of funds, so everyone not calling all over the place trying to obtain help
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	Attended Members: Jennnifer Trager, Tasha Jamison, Maggie Moore, Cristi Richardson, Bridgette Tingle, Jessica Pastusak, Ray Lockamy, Teresa Shatney, Ivonne Lomax, Anastasia Mercado, Vanessa Kidd, Morgan Flanagan, Virginia Peckham, Rick Hamilton, Christina Chestnut, Shelly Wise, Alyce Marzola, Ginny Poorman, 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: ● Working on a questionnaire for clients, and/or people they help, asking how the CoC can better serve them, what are they in need of to better support them. Ideas on what the subcommittee works on to support them. asking them to come to the meetings and if not to help by filling out the questionnaire. ● Starting on June 22nd Wicomico County Library is doing a Kids Summer Lunch

	Program- Monday thru Friday starting at 12 noon for ages 18 and under.
Homeless Youth	Attended Members: Demettris Dryden, Sharon Creasy, YoVanda Brown, Latoya Ward, Jerrisha Hood, Knita Cartwright 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: - spoke about PUSH partnering with The Judy Center after noticing the fathers of so many immigrant families were leaving and the women and children are in need of resources, that began a partnership with the Judy Center and able to help them with receiving carseats, strollers and other items. Also spoke about a program at Somerset County Health Dept. called Thrive by Three program that could help residents in Somerset County, - Spoke about Summer Schools and who will be having them - Wicomico is offering Elementary students from 2nd grade - 5th grade., Both the middle schools and High school are only doing it if it is needed for passing the course.
Veterans Workgroup	Attended Members: Daniel Desire, Linda Copeland, Jaime Martin 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: - spoke on the recent spike in evictions for Veterans and their lack of understanding what is happening. - Jaime Martin with Jubilant Encounter stated she has a home that is used for Room Rentals for Vets. at Cedar Crossing in Salisbury. For a private room it is \$875.00 and shared is \$665.00 She also has weekly rates.
Agency Updates	Christine Chestnutt (City of Salisbury)- Office is moving a block and half down the road right next to St. Peters Church. Working on making a meeting room for clients, a desk and chair has already been donated. Jessica Pastusak- (SCHD) Our training for Re-Entry was a success. we also had a Gun safety and suicide awareness event on Saturday the 6th and that was also great.

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, July 09, 2026 @ St James AME Zion Church of Salisbury, MD @ 521 Mack Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801