



May 24, 2018 Minutes

Present: Terry Allebaugh, Archie Barrow, Paul Berry, Michael Bishop, Blake Bourne, Victor Bruno, Emily Carmody, Joel Cartwright, Jennifer Chauncey, Meredith Comer, Joseph Davis, Lillian Davis, Paul Dillon, Jeff Doyle, Mark Edmonds, Linda Exner, Li Fang, Ph.D., Ana Fitzner, Moses Gloria, Victor Glover, Metisa Graham, Michael Graham, Chris Hailey, Kim Harrell, Troy Hershberger, Gary Hooker, Jr., Kelly Jackson, Gordon Jeans, Teresa Johnson, Kody Kinsley, Phil Landis, Becky Lane, Ph.D., Pat Lloyd, Courtney Maat, Jerome Malloy, Ray Martin, Laura McCarthy, Anthony McLeod, Brenda Monforti, Jessica Morgan Jeff Netznik, Denise Neunaber, Larry Peterson, Ph.D., Toni Pinkston, Chanda Plair, Maurice Pressley, Jim Prosser, Brandon Rollings, Shawn Ross, Ken Schuesselin, Jeff Smith, Jeff Smith, Wayne Smith, Richard Spyrison, Doug Taggart, Kelly Tornow, Ashley Towe, Leah Turner, John Turner, Rogelio Valencia, Brian Ward, Alex Watkins, Susan Watkins, Steve Wilkins, Ben Winter, and Martin Woodard

After Mr Prosser welcomed everyone, each of the Vice Chairs provided an update of their agency's initiatives and upcoming events.

Mr. Edmonds spoke of Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVER) being integrated with local area business services teams. He also announced upcoming NC4ME (North Carolina for Military Employment) events and how DOC supports the USDOL HIRE Vets Medallion Program and the Volunteers of America Veterans Transitional Housing Program. Mr. Ward discussed outreach events in which the VBA is involved—the June 10 Saluting Women Veterans event in Winston-Salem; the June 21 event targeting faith-based and community leaders with Goodwill Industries in Winston-Salem; and two upcoming Veterans Experience Action Centers in Dunn on July 25-27 and in Cary on September 13-15. Mr. Prosser said that DMVA has submitted their budget and that June 6 is Legislative Day. Ms. Exner reported that the VA is testing best practices and submitting two of them to the Secretary for an award. One is the patient use of music during surgery which addresses pain and the over use of opioids. The other was a pilot program for total knee arthroscopy. Mr. Kinsley said that during year 2 of CURES funding, DHHS is partnering to complement the work of other agencies.

Mr. Smith said that DHHS is continuing to develop collaborative relationships in the community. He noted DHHS funding of the Mental Health Minute on UNC-TV's Situation Report. At the recent SAMHSA SMVF TAC conference on Workplace Suicide Reduction, representatives from DHHS and the NC Department of Public Safety attended. Charlotte recently signed on to the Mecklenburg Community Challenge to Reduce Veteran Suicide. DHHS is providing funding for NCServes through Vaya LME/MCO, which currently provides services to 45 counties. NC DHHS is also providing funding through MHBG for the Stephen A. Cohen Center for Veterans Mental Health.

Mr. Bishop, a former Marine, was involved in 5T truck accident during his service. He was thrown out of the truck; three others died. The accident resulted in knee surgeries. Unemployment led to homelessness, which eventually led to living in a Raleigh shelter where he lived with 300 other guys.



During his stay at the shelter, he received additional surgery and rehabilitation. Eventually, he moved into low-income supportive housing with on-site case manager. At that time, there were very few programs unlike today where there are HUD-VASH vouchers and SSVF and GPD programs. He now works at the VA and helps Veterans find employment. His priority is to educate employers who will offer support. He felt that more housing complexes are needed with more engagement of landlords.

Mr. Doyle emphasized that Operation Home—the VA, the NC Coalition to End Homelessness, the NC Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, the NC DHHS, HUD, and the Governor's Institute—was formed as a way to discuss the issues. Operation Home is aligned with the Opening Doors policy of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). In 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama announced the Mayors' Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness trends over time. The counties of Cumberland and Guilford have effectively ended Veteran homelessness while Winston Salem/Forsyth County, Greensboro/High Point, and Charlotte/Mecklenburg County were selected as Zero: 2016 communities. Operation Home is working toward a daily binding list and providing housing immediately. The Housing First philosophy is to end homelessness by putting them into housing as quickly as possible and providing them with the supports that they need. Homelessness would be viewed as rare, brief, and one-time only.

Mr. Allebaugh stated that the number of homeless Veterans has decreased by 20% over time. He noted that 931 Veterans experienced homelessness as of January 2017; they should have 2018 data by next month. NC has 12 Continuums of Care (CoC), including the Balance of State (BoS) CoC, which has 13 regional planning areas that covers 79 counties.

Ms. Neunaber reviewed definitions shared by the VA and HUD and progress that the State has made—increased coordination, increased housing options, alignment of priorities, and meeting of USICH benchmarks in November 2015. While Winston-Salem and Fayetteville have eliminated homelessness, Durham has eliminated chronic homelessness among Veterans. She pointed out that the State continues to work on the issue through the Task Force to End Veteran Homelessness (or Operation Home) and the annual Grant and Per Diem Summit. Rural homelessness continues to be a priority.