



# SOUTH CAROLINA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

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**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, May 11, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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|------|--|------------------------|------|
| I.   | Welcome and Roll Call  | E. Ann Gowdy<br>ECHO   | (5)  |
| II.  | Approval of March Meeting Minutes (Action Item)  | Bruce Forbes<br>SHARE  | (5)  |
| III. | Financial Report (Action Item)<br>a. Director & Officers Policy Renewal  | Bruce Forbes           | (5)  |
| IV.  | Youth Experiencing Homelessness Taskforce (Action Item)<br>a. SC Department of Social Services Planning Grant  | E. Ann Gowdy           | (15) |
| V.   | Continuum of Care Updates<br>a. Lowcountry Continuum of Care<br>b. Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH)<br>c. Total Care for the Homeless Coalition (TCHC)<br>d. Upstate Continuum of Care | CoC Representatives    | (25) |
| VI.  | State Agency and Statewide Organization Updates  | Agency Representatives | (20) |
| VII. | SCDHEC Funding for Various Response Activities   | Katie Waites<br>SCDHEC | (15) |



# SOUTH CAROLINA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

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## Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

### Microsoft Teams Meeting

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**Board Members in Attendance:** E. Ann Gowdy, Bruce Forbes, Birley Wright, Chris Rubio, Heather Carver, Julie Ann Avin, Julie Plane, Joey Smoak, Lorain Crawl, Melanie Hendricks, Michele Murff, Monty Robertson, Nora Rogers, Shannon Nix, Spencer Thomas, Suzanne Sanders, Terre Marshall

**Other Attendees:** Alexis Martin, Christina Roberts, Erin Brown-Epperson, Janeasha Nance, Katie Waites, Natalie Rivera, Robert Cottingham, Russell Rich, Shawntelle Johnson, Steven Ferrufino

#### I. Welcome and Roll Call

E. Ann Gowdy, SCICH chair, called the meeting to order at 10:33am and welcomed the group. The meeting was held by Microsoft Teams. E. Ann Gowdy took a roll call.

#### II. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Suzanne Sanders to approve the March board meeting minutes. Lorain Crawl seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed.

#### III. Financial Report

Bruce Forbes provided the financial report. To date, the council has \$6178.28 in the account. No expenditures since last meeting.

The Board is renewing its Directors and Officers Insurance Policy. The policy will cover May 2023 to May 2024, and the charge will be \$1569. Shannon Nix motioned to approve the invoice. Julie Ann Avin seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

#### IV. Youth Experiencing Homelessness Taskforce

On behalf of the taskforce, E. Ann Gowdy provided updates. South Carolina Senate Bill 342 was amended by the House Committee on Judiciary. The bill would amend the South Carolina Code of Laws' definition of youth homelessness. The House amendment raised the age of "youth" from 21 to 24 years old. The next step for Senate Bill 342 is transferring to the governor for signature of approval. Ann will provide any updates as they come.

The taskforce received a draft Planning Grant from the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS). The grant would provide \$150,000 over a 12-month period for planning a statewide homeless youth count. The draft was shared with all SCICH board members. Steven Ferrufino with SCDSS attended to answer any questions and provide further information.

Birley Wright motioned to approve the Planning Grant. Bruce Forbes seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

## **V. Continuum of Care COVID-19 Response and Updates**

### **a. Lowcountry Continuum of Care (LCC) –**

Heather Carver provided updates. LCC is implementing a new process with their Housing Crisis Line. Staff will be completing follow-ups with callers at set intervals to check in on their housing status.

LCC is also working with three new Street Outreach grants. They will be hiring four Street Outreach staff to cover Colleton County and the City of Charleston. In the near future, LCC will be holding more training opportunities on Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs, specifically with case workers at hospitals and jails.

### **b. Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) –**

Julie Plane provided updates. MACH's Advocacy Committee will start publishing a newsletter with community-wide information and resources, going out on a monthly or quarterly basis. The newsletter will also include announcements about available trainings. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, MACH's Membership Committee will be holding a panel discussion on cultural competence and inclusion.

Julie also added that MACH has been doing well with their Performance Monitoring visits.

### **c. Total Care for the Homeless Coalition (TCHC) –**

Joey Smoak provided updates. 12 additional TCHC members have completed their training to be Certified Peer Support Specialists.

TCHC has been working on providing CoC endorsements for agencies applying for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding—Joey asked for feedback on how other CoCs are deciding to endorse.

E. Ann Gowdy shared that TCHC is in the planning stage for their Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) award. They received \$3.1 million from YHDP. TCHC is currently collecting feedback from the community, persons with lived experience, non-profits, and other sources about utilizing this grant. They have drafted a community plan and will share it with the board when finalized.

**d. Upstate Continuum of Care (UCC) –**

Lorain Crowl provided updates. UCC will hold its bi-annual Spring Training Event on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The morning session will be CoC 101, featuring Angie Hall from the Community Planning and Development office. The afternoon will cover the USICH 2022 All-In Plan.

UCC has been working on developing a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. The committee has created a survey to share with the CoC to collect information on participation barriers and to start up conversation about addressing barriers. UCC has also completed a [Greenville County State of Homelessness Report](#).

Lorain added that United Housing Connections will be opening a Human Resource Center in downtown Greenville before the end of May.

**VI. State Agency and Statewide Organization Updates**

Janeasha Nance provided updates on behalf of the University of South Carolina Core for Applied Research and Evaluation. They have been working with a group of homeless service providers since 2019 to develop a statewide strategy of addressing community need, focusing on food and housing. Reach out to Janeasha for any further details ([janeasha.stanley@dss.sc.gov](mailto:janeasha.stanley@dss.sc.gov))

Monty Robertson provided updates on behalf of Alliance for a Healthier SC. They are transitioning into an independent non-profit but retaining their original mission. Monty will remain the Executive Director. The Alliance is working on developing a statewide health assessment and improvement plan, alongside the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Alliance also received funding from the Duke Endowment to provide education on results-based accountability.

Russell Rich provided updates on behalf of the Adult Advocacy Division of the South Carolina Department of Social Services. They have been working on rewriting their policies and procedures to better assist clients experiencing homelessness.

Shannon Nix provided updates on behalf of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. They will hold a training tomorrow, titled [The Critical Intersections of Sex Trafficking and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives](#).

Robert Cottingham provided updates on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. They have hired a new case manager to better assist clients experiencing homelessness.

Terre Marshall provided updates on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Corrections. They are conducting interviews to hire a new SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) counselor.

Michele Murff with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health added further information about SOAR: South Carolina SOAR counselors have been focusing on persons with serious mental illness. The statewide decision time is around 90 days, and the current approval rate is around 65%.

## **VII. SCDHEC Funding for Various Response Activities**

Katie Waites shared that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has funding available to homeless service sites. The purpose of the funding is to detect and mitigate COVID-19. Eligible activities include COVID-19 screening and testing and establishing partnerships with DHEC. Katie will share the list of eligible activities with the board. Reach out to Katie for further information ([waitesks@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:waitesks@dhec.sc.gov)).

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:28PM.**

*Next SCICH Board Meeting: July 13, 2023*