

**Attendance:** Andrea Carey, Susan Friedman, Rex Mercer, Harrison Pierce, Nicole Purdy, Corey Root, Debra Vestal

#### Agency updates

- IFC Council for Social Service (IFC)
  - HomeStart and IFC Community House hired new case managers
  - The new IFC Main St office had an official groundbreaking on 5/16 and is scheduled to open in 2020
  - The Homeless Hotline was transferred back to IFC HomeStart from 12-6 every night
- Compass Center for Women and Families
  - Not currently accepting more applications for housing program. Waiting to see if all of the funds are spent before opening applications again. Secured funding for the second year of the program which will begin on October 1. Aiming to open up applications again in July, but waiting to make sure everyone can spend their money and get into housing
  - Currently have 8 families in housing right now and planning to assist another 24 families
  - Started e-filing of DV protective orders, clients seeking assistance doubled in April after this implementation
  - Applications are now open for the mental health program which pays for therapists in the area for survivors and their children. Contracting with independent therapists and agencies around Orange County and can pay for up to 16 sessions along with transportation. This program is mainly for people that have experienced intimate partner violence within the last 18 months
- Host home program started by LGBTQ Center of Durham; expanding program to Orange County will be added to update of Orange County Homeless Systems Gaps Analysis

#### OCPEH updates

- Events
  - Self-Care sessions scheduled through June - [ocpehnc.com/self-care](http://ocpehnc.com/self-care)
  - State Homeless Conference, May 21-22 in Raleigh
  - Charity & Justice Community Workshop, Wed. June 12, 10-11:30 a.m., Southern Human Services Center: [online registration](#)
  - 2019 Homeless Data Review, Mon. 6/24, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Chapel Hill Public Library: [online registration](#)
  - National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, July 22-24
  - All day training – Monday July 15, 8:30-4:30 p.m. (no HMIS Users or Data & Grants meeting this day)
    - 8:30-9:00 am. Registration
    - 9:00-11:00 a.m. LGBTQ Sensitivity & the HUD Equal Access Rule
    - 11:00-12:30 p.m. Fair Housing
    - 1:30-4:30 p.m. OC Connect Users Meeting: [online registration](#)

**NCCEH Data Center Staff Update**

- Nicole Purdy moving but remaining on staff, will start working remotely by the end of June
- Transition to HMIS @ NCCEH system – moving forward!
  - Planning to send out an email by the end of May to give two weeks’ notice to service providers about the transition to new system
  - Expecting an end of June launch at latest with downtime on June 7-11. Paper data collection will happen on those days

**2019 PIT Update**

- OCEPH staff submitted [2019 PIT Count data](#) to HUD on April 30. The total numbers this year are 113 households and 131 total people, which is a decrease from 2018, where there were 129 households and 152 people.
- Of 131 people experiencing homelessness, 102 were in Shelter/Transitional Housing at either IFC HomeStart or IFC Community House and 29 people were sleeping unsheltered, down from 39 people sleeping unsheltered in 2018. IFC Permanent Supportive Housing program has housed several people who were formerly living unsheltered, which could help to account for this decrease.
- 78% of the system are adult-only households and 22% are families.
- The number of veterans experiencing homelessness is relatively stable over the years. The veterans group has been revamped to better assist this population
- There is an uptick in folks experiencing chronic homelessness, but still a 37% decrease in chronic homelessness since 2010.

**TEMPERATURES ON THE DAY OF COUNT (F)**

|                | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>AVERAGE</b> | 28.5 | 43   | 37.3 | 52.6 | 33   | 32   |
| <b>HIGH</b>    | 41   | 59   | 52   | 73   | 47   | 43   |
| <b>LOW</b>     | 17.1 | 30   | 26.1 | 34   | 19   | 21   |

- It was cold the night of the 2019 PIT count, staff heard of several people who normally sleep unsheltered who were inside that night. The actual temperature does not tell this story, but the media hype about the cold weather on the PIT Count night seems to affect the unsheltered count.

- OCEPH staff feel confident that the PIT count numbers accurately represent the number of people experiencing homelessness on the night of January 30, 2109, but less confident that this is an accurate number of people experiencing homelessness on any given night. Count methodology continues to improve each year. For the first time in 2019, OCEPH staff de-duplicated the unsheltered count with the entire sheltered count, not just the cold weather cots.



## Data & Grants Workgroup – Meeting Minutes

Mon. May 20, 2019, 3-4:30 pm

Southern Human Services Center, Room D, Chapel Hill

- The 2019 unsheltered count was unusual in that the number of surveys collected in the street count was very low, compared with many collected in the service count.
- Once we have System Performance Measures (to be submitted to HUD by May 30) to look at alongside PIT data, we can better understand bigger picture of homelessness in Orange County
- Regardless, we cannot expect significant improvements in outcomes, as measured by PIT and System Performance Measure data without filling the homeless service system gaps including a best practice, fully funded Rapid Rehousing Program and a low barrier, housing focused shelter for men.

| Surveys Collected<br>Unsheltered PIT Count |         |       |        |
|--|---------|-------|--------|
| Year                                       | Type    | Total | # Used |
| 2017                                       | Street  | 29    | 24     |
| 2017                                       | Service | 14    | 13     |
| 2018                                       | Street  | 44    | 21     |
| 2018                                       | Service | 34    | 18     |
| 2019                                       | Street  | 8     | 6      |
| 2019                                       | Service | 69    | 26     |

### Written Standards Updates

- HUD requires communities to publish Written Standards to clarify how people in housing crisis can access services and how programs prioritize participants. The OCEPH Leadership Team pass the current version of Written Standards in January 2018.
- Data & Grants group members gave detailed feedback on the current version, to be incorporated into a revised draft.
- HUD and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) require all communities to incorporate an emergency transfer plan for people fleeing domestic violence into Written Standards. Corey will work with Compass staff to satisfy this requirement in the revised version.
- OCEPH staff would like for the document to be easily readable and understandable, not in legalese – group members suggested using readability analyses available through [hemmingwayapp.com](http://hemmingwayapp.com) or Microsoft Word.