



## Semi-Annual Membership Meeting February 10. 2022

United Way of the  
Chattahoochee Valley



# SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Welcome

Louie Robinson, CoC Board Vice Chair

2021 Housing Enrollments in Review

Denise McWhorter, Home For Good

Housing Quality Standards

Angela Suggs, Senior Section 8 Inspector  
Housing Authority of Columbus, GA

Violence Against Women Act

Lindsey Reis, Executive Director, Hope Harbour

Project Set up HIC/PIT

Wally Lugo, HMIS Administrator, Eccovia Solutions

Equal Access Yearly Training

Terry Gallups, Home For Good

Point In Time Count

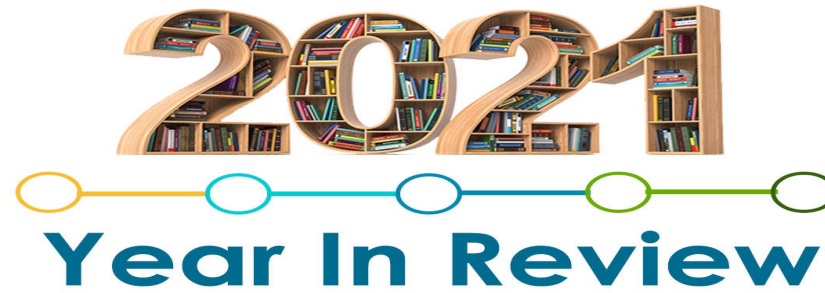
Denise McWhorter, Home For Good

CoC Membership and Committees

Denise McWhorter, Home For Good

Other Business

Louie Robinson, CoC Board Vice Chair



The graphic features the year '2021' in large, 3D wooden letters filled with colorful books. Below the year is a horizontal line with five colored circles (yellow, cyan, blue, green, and light green) connected by a thin line. Underneath this is the text 'Year In Review' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

# 2021 Year In Review

Total Enrolled in RRH & PSH	291	
Moved In	94	32%
Adults Only	225	77%
Adults with Children	66	23%
Veterans	15	5%
Chronically Homeless	113	39%
Enrolled in Coordinated Entry	230	79%
Referral to Enrollment in Days	43	15%
Enrollment to Move In	48	16%
Referral to Move In	111	38%

**Angela Suggs, Senior Section 8 Inspector,  
The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia**

## Steps to Add Property Under Section 8

- Complete a Request for Tenancy Approval Form
- Review “Happy Sheet” sent by Caseworker
- Schedule Inspection for Unit Chosen
- 2-4 Week Waiting Period for First Payment

# The Violence Against Women Act

Lindsey Reis, Executive Director, Hope Harbour

**STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN**



# Project Set-up for Housing Inventory and Point in Time Count

Wally Lugo, HMIS Administrator  
ECCOVIA Solutions



TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

United Way of the  
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# Putting Inclusive Polices into Practice

Terry Gallups, Home For Good



# The Issue and Statistics

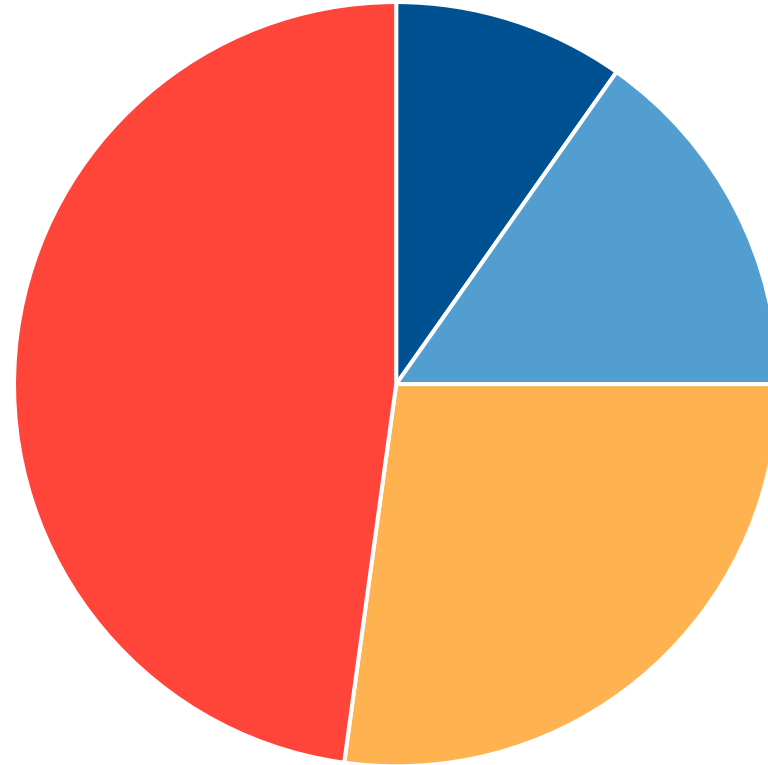
## Research Shows.....



- LGBTQ youth ages 13-24 experience higher rates of homelessness and housing instability than their straight and cisgender peers
- LGBTQ young people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ young adults
- Racial disparities among LGBTQ youth, particularly black LGBTQ youth
  - 1 in 4 LGBTQ black men ages 18-25 reported experiencing homelessness in the past year
  - Black LGBTQ youth are 2xs more likely to experience homelessness than white LGBTQ youth, 2.2x more likely than black LGBTQ youth and 4xs more likely than white non-LGBQT youth



## Reported Experiences



- 9% Were thrown out after shelter staff learned they were transgender
- 14% Reported the shelter made them dress/present as the wrong gender
- 25% Decided to dress/present as the wrong gender to feel safe
- 44% Left shelters because of the poor treatment or unsafe conditions they experienced

- 25% of transgender adults who have experienced homelessness in the past avoided staying in shelters because they feared they would be mistreated.
- 58% experienced one or more of the instances listed

## POSTED POLICIES

Policies exist to protect both the clients and the staff. The Equal Access Rule ensures that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, have equal access to programs, shelters, other buildings and facilities, benefits, services, and accommodations provided to the public.

The Equal Access Rule posters should be prominently displayed at

- \* All Coordinated Entry access points
- \* In all system drop-in centers
- \* On all websites or online portals

**se** **r** **v** **e** **s**  
**all, proudly.**

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# Agency Paperwork and Intake Forms

- Paperwork should always reflect the correct gender pronouns and name of the client
- During the initial assessment, all clients should be asked their chosen name and pronouns
  - This can be modeled by the staff person offering his/her own name and pronoun



# System Level Assessment Tools

- Assessment tools should be streamlined and consistent in order to ensure our systems include serving marginalized communities
- Equally important is making sure questions and assessments mirror the experiences of the individuals we serve
  - Would you ask a 16-year-old if he/she were a veteran?



# Agreements and Contracts

Contracts and agreements should reflect non-discriminatory policies to show the importance of LGBTQ inclusion

- \* Simply stating that your agency's policies are non-discriminatory in accordance with state and federal law does not always protect the rights of LGBTQ
- \* Inclusion policies must recognize gender identity

**Notice on Equal Access Regardless of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Marital Status for HUD's Community Planning and Development Programs**

Home for Good receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Department's (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) and MUST comply with the following REQUIREMENTS:

- Determine your eligibility for housing regardless of your sexual orientation, gender | identity, or marital status, and must not discriminate against you because you do not conform to gender or sex stereotypes (i.e., because of your gender identity);
- Grant you equal access to CPD programs or facilities consistent with your gender identity, and provide your family with equal access;
- MUST NOT ask you to provide anatomical information or documentary (like your ID), physical, or medical evidence of your gender identity; and
- Take non-discriminatory steps when necessary and appropriate to address privacy concerns raised by any residents or occupants, including you.

If you think this program has violated any of these requirements, including any denial of services or benefits, **contact your local HUD office for assistance with alleged violations of HUD program regulations. Local offices can be found at:**  
[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/field\\_policy\\_mgt/localoffices](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/field_policy_mgt/localoffices)

If you believe you have experienced housing discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or sex, including discrimination because of gender identity, contact 1-800-669-9777 or file a written complaint with HUD at: [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) "file a discrimination complaint". Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech impairments may file a complaint via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To better understand HUD's requirements, the following definitions apply:

- *Sexual orientation* means one's emotional or physical attraction to the same and/or opposite sex (e.g. homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality).
- *Gender identity* means the gender with which a person identifies, regardless of the sex assigned to that person at birth and regardless of the person's perceived gender identity.
- *Perceived gender identity* means the gender with which a person is perceived to identify based on that person's appearance, behavior, expression, other gender related characteristics, or sex assigned to the individual at birth or identified in documents.

# Point in Time Count 2022

## Sheltered Count

- Tuesday Evening, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 5:30 p.m.

## Unsheltered Count

- Wednesday Morning, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 5:30 a.m.

Meet at Home For Good Office located at  
1100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901

# Continuum of Care Committees

Denise McWhorter, Home For Good





# Performance & Outcomes

- ▶ The Performance and Outcomes Committee will collaborate with the CoC Administrator, CoC-funded entities, and CoC Membership to:
  - ▶ Review PIT and HIC data, conduct a gaps analysis, and make recommendations for Board approval the priorities to be used in ranking requests for CoC funding;
  - ▶ Establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type in consultation with recipients and sub-recipients, then monitor recipient and sub-recipient performance, evaluate outcomes, and recommend to the Board actions to be taken against poor performers;
  - ▶ Develop performance measures to evaluate Muscogee / Russell County 's overall success in eliminating homelessness, using guidance available from HUD and making changes over time as necessary to incorporate new regulations or guidance available from state or local authorities;
  - ▶ Evaluate outcomes of projects funded under CoC Program, and provide outcome data to the Collaborative Applicant to report to HUD; and
  - ▶ Consult with state and local government agencies, homeless service providers, private funders, and other relevant entities and organizations to evaluate available resources and reach agreement about how those resources can be allocated most effectively to implement plans to eliminate homelessness.

# Continuum of Care Application

- ▶ The CoC Application Committee will:
  - ▶ Work with the Collaborative Applicant to design and implement a collaborative process for developing a consolidated application for Muscogee / Russell County programs and projects seeking CoC funding;
  - ▶ Review findings of the Performance and Outcomes Committee, the program priorities established by the Board, and the applications for new programs or projects, and make recommendations to the Board about which programs/projects to include in the annual CoC application, and rank projects for the application, suggest reallocation of monies from renewal projects; and
  - ▶ Develop and oversee operation of a grievance process for agencies whose applications for funding have not been selected by the CoC.

# Mainstream & Outreach

- ▶ The Mainstream and Outreach Committee will work with Service Providers to:
  - ▶ Develop strategies and programs to improve connections between persons experiencing homelessness and mainstream services, especially in the areas of vocational training, employment and supportive services,
  - ▶ Oversees education and outreach to the homeless population, as well as the general population through collaborative relationships and public education efforts; and
  - ▶ Updates the Board as to any areas of concern or gaps in services.

# HMIS/Data

- ▶ The HMIS Committee will work with the HMIS Lead to:
  - ▶ Develop, annually review, and, as necessary, revise for Board approval a privacy plan, security plan, and data quality plan for the HMIS, as well as any other HMIS policies and procedures required by HUD.
  - ▶ Develop for Board approval and implement a plan for monitoring the HMIS to ensure that:
    - ▶ Recipients and sub-recipients consistently participate in HMIS;
    - ▶ HMIS is satisfying the requirements of all regulations and notices issued by HUD;
    - ▶ The HMIS Lead is fulfilling the obligations outlined in its HMIS Governance Charter and Agreement with the CoC, including the obligation to enter into written participation agreements with each contributing HMIS organization.
- ▶ Oversee and monitor HMIS data collection and production of the following reports:
  - ▶ Sheltered point-in-time count;
  - ▶ Housing Inventory Chart;
  - ▶ Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR); and
  - ▶ Annual Performance Reports (APRs)

# Coordinated Entry

- ▶ The **Coordinated Entry Committee** group works to:
  - ▶ Establish, monitor and oversee the CoC Coordinated Entry System for consistent and uniform assessment and referral process to determine and secure the most appropriate response to each individual and family's immediate and long-term housing need
  - ▶ Develop and do ongoing review of Policies and Procedures that guide the operation of the Coordinated Entry System
  - ▶ Ensure that policies and procedures for determining prioritization for eligible individual and families are client focused and follow Housing First Principles

# Point in Time Count (PIT)

- ▶ **The Point in Time Count committee will work to:**
  - ▶ Oversee and conduct Point in Time Count focusing on the Street Count and the Shelter count of people experiencing homelessness

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# **Other Business**

## **Louie Robinson, CoC Board Vice Chair**

# References, Contacts, and Links

- Membership form Link:  
<http://www.homeforgoodcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Membership-Application-fillable.pdf>
- CES Policies and Procedures:  
<http://www.homeforgoodcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Coordinated-Entry-Policies-and-Procedures-1.19.18.pdf><http://www.homeforgoodcv.org/coordinated-entry/>:
- 211 Intake form;  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2wqHZY4gmYaFrZbD-XY92wPWFuS54TeLTcip8lanmjxtPxA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2wqHZY4gmYaFrZbD-XY92wPWFuS54TeLTcip8lanmjxtPxA/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Notice on Equal Access Regardless of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Marital Status for HUD's CPD Programs:  
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Notice-on-Equal-Access-Rights.pdf>
- True Colors United, Inc (2018). Inclusion Manual for Continuums of Care [Manual]. True Colors United
- <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>
- <https://fipolicing.com/>
- Angela Suggs, Housing Authority of Columbus, GA 706 571 2873 x 2833 [asuggs@columbushousing.org](mailto:asuggs@columbushousing.org)
- Lindsey Reis, Hope Harbour (706) 655-2278 [lreis@hopeharbour.org](mailto:lreis@hopeharbour.org)