



Wake County

301 South McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, June 10, 2024

2:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

Work Session

Meeting Called to Order: Vice-Chair Susan Evans

Vice-Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

She shared Chair Thomas had an excused absence from today's work session as she was out of town with work for National Association of Counties (NACo).

She shared today was Commissioner Tara Waters birthday.

Commissioners Present: Vice-Chair Susan Evans, Commissioner Matt Calabria, Commissioner Don Mial, Commissioner Vickie Adamson, Commissioner Tara Waters and Commissioner Cheryl Stallings.

Excused Absence: Chair Shinica Thomas.

Staff Present: David Ellis, County Manager; Scott Warren, County Attorney; Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager; Ashley Jacobs, Deputy County Manager; Denise Foreman, Assistant County Manager; Lisa Provencher, Senior Executive Assistant; Yvonne Gilyard, Clerk to the Board; Toni Womack, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Michael James, Assistant County Manager; Jose Cabanas, Chief Medical Officer/Deputy County Manager; Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager; Ashley Jacobs, Deputy County Manager; Dara Demi, Chief Communications Officer; Ellen Meder, Communications Consultant; Stephanie Mintz, Communications Consultant; Portia Johnson, Senior Executive Assistant; Tanika Cooper, Senior Executive Assistant; Alicia Arnold, Deputy Director of Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization and Benjamin Burrough-Murray, Legal Associate.

Others Present: Dr. Tonya Minggia, Health Services Administrator, Wake County Detention Center; Dr. Obi Umesi, Physician, Sheriff's Department; Gene Dail Butler, Detention Services Director, Wake County Detention Center; Charles Lattuca, President and CEO, GoTriangle; Eric Curry, Chief Communications Officer, GoTriangle; Willie Rowe, Sheriff; Het Patel,

Transit Planning Supervisor, City of Raleigh; David Eatman, Assistant Transportation Director-Transit, City of Raleigh; Chris Lukasina, Executive Director, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO); Shelby Powell, Deputy Director, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO); Stephen Gruver, (Chair of the CoC Board) / Director of Social Services at the Salvation Army, Raleigh's Center for Hope and Nicole Stewart, (Vice Chair of the CoC Board) / Director of Engagement at A.J. Fletcher Foundation.

1. Agenda

Attachments: [6-10-24 Work Session Agenda.pdf](#)

Vice-Chair Evans shared today's agenda:

- Wake Transit Update
- Jail Health Plan
- Continuum of Care (CoC) - Preview of New Potential Roles

She shared for persons in audience, please use microphone to assist with audio for streaming.

2. Wake Transit Update

Attachments: [Wake BOC WT Presentation Final.pdf](#)
[Wake Transit State of the Plan Report.pdf](#)

Mr. Michael James, Assistant County Manager, shared Wake County Board of Commissioners Transit Plan. He shared a reminder that last week was the 8th anniversary of the Board of Commissioners adopting the Transit Plan and Referendum authorizing the sales tax, which has been the primary funding source for the transit plan.

He shared the pandemic impacted commuting and other travel patterns and changes in labor market that resulted in bus driver shortages. He shared an update to the Transit Plan was done in 2021. He shared CAMPO staff is present and will share updates on FY25 Proposed Transit Work Plan and Rail. He shared representatives from GoTriangle and City of Raleigh are present to answer questions if needed.

He shared this information is being brought to Commissioners as a deeper dive into Transit and recent transit report that was released. He shared remarks will be given regarding planned engagement that has been done. He shared this is the Board's opportunity to have discussions as a full board. He shared this is not the final opportunity for input but a good point to have discussions.

Ms. Shelby Powell, Deputy Director, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning

Organization (CAMPO) shared Wake Transit Update agenda:

1. Overview of the State of Wake Transit Plan Report
2. Wake Transit Plan Update Public Engagement
3. Major projects funded in recommended FY 2025
4. Next Steps on Rail

She shared #1 - State of Wake Transit Plan Report:

- State of the Transit Plan Winter = Winter-Spring 2024
- Goals, Priorities & Strategic Direction = Summer 2024
- Financial Capacity & Scenario Development = Fall 2024
- 2035 Wake Transit Plan Update = Winter 2025

She shared Wake Transit Plan is a revenue stream for public transportation investment:

- Approved in 2016
- Started collecting taxes and fees in 2017
- Funding new transit service in August 2017

She shared Wake Transit Plan investments are organized around four big moves:

- Connect regionally
- Connect all Wake County communities
- Create frequent, reliable, urban mobility
- Enhance access to transit

She shared Long Range Transit Planning:

- Wake Bus Plan (5 years)
- Wake Transit Plan (10 years)
- MTP (25+ years)
- CTP (40+ years)

She shared Wake Transit Plan:

- Updated every 4 years
- Established priorities and investment direction for 10-year period
- Built on community and stakeholder input
- Includes financial and technical data about performance outcomes

She shared Wake Transit Plan 2016-2027:

- Developed with significant engagement and participation
- Achieve Four Big moves built with strategies and recommendations

She shared Wake Transit Plan 2021-2030:

- Minor update
- Found items of things were expansible and would take a little longer

She shared Existing Funding Prioritization:

- Community Funding Areas Program
- Capital Projects with Design or Land Acquisition
- Facilities/Infrastructure/Resources Needed to support future expansion
- Project with time sensitive external grant sources
- Bus Rapid Transit Projects
- Commuter Rail Project Design
- Existing system wide bus stop improvements
- Fixed Route Bus Stop improvements and infrastructure to support bus service improvements and expansion

She shared Understanding Trade-Offs - Wake Transit Plan is ambitious and is taking on several major projects at the same time:

- Commuter rail
- Bus rapid transit
- New vehicles and clean fuel technology
- Operating and maintenance facilities
- Transit centers
- Bus stops, sidewalks, bike paths
- Regional fare systems
- New technology

She shared Changing transit demand in a growing region map for 2020 and 2040.

She shared Wake Transit Plan - State of the Plan is available:

- Revenues have been consistently strong
- Expected to raise \$700 million to \$1 billion over next ten years
- Now asking the community: what are your transit priorities for the next ten years

She shared What is the State of the Plan (\$200 million invested since 2017):

- More transit service = \$67.7m
- New cleaner fuel buses = \$52.9m
- New rapid transit corridors = \$34.7m
- Capacity building and administration = \$21.2m
- Bus stops and stations = \$14.3m
- Local funding programs = \$3.1m

She shared Wake Transit Plan - Scheduled to spend \$350 million in next 2-3 years. Major projects included:

- Build New Bern Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- Design and build Southern BRT
- Design Western BRT
- GoRaleigh/GoWake Access ADA Maintenance Facility and Call Center
- Cary Multimodal Center

-Raleigh Union Station (RUS) Bus

She shared Wake Transit Plan - Strengths and Success: Bigger, More convenient bus networks:

- More weekend service
- More evening service
- More frequent routes
- New bus routes
- New transit service models

She shared Strengths and Success: Leveraging Federal Funds:

- Transit agencies and municipalities have earned nearly \$182m in federal funds

She shared Connect Regionally:

- Commuter Rail (connect Durham, RTP, Cary, Raleigh and Garner)
- Bus Rapid Transit: advancing over 20 miles of corridor service

She shared Connect all Wake County Communities:

- New/Expand Bus Service completed in 2020
- Established Community Funding Area Program

She shared Community Funding Area Program:

- Program Successes
- Program Management Plan Updates

She shared Create Frequent, Reliable Urban Mobility:

- Advance Bus Rapid Transit
- Investments in frequent service
- Adding evening and weekend service
- Purchased more buses
- Invested in maintenance facilities to accommodate larger and cleaner fuel fleet

She shared Enhance Access to Transit:

- Improving Bus stops, building transfer points and transit centers
- Expanded bus network is bringing more people closer to transit

She shared #2 - Wake Transit Plan Update Public Engagement.

She shared Wake Transit Plan Opportunities:

- Connect Regionally
- Connect all Wake County Communities
- Create Frequent, Reliable Urban Mobility
- Enhance Access to Transit

She shared Public Meeting & Pop-Up Events:

-Use: provides an opportunity to meet with the project team in person and discuss similar themes as the online survey

She shared Materials:

-Use: provides more detailed information for specific event or engagement activity

She shared Social Media Posts:

-Use: Boost engagement for meetings, surveys or other project related information

She shared Interactive Survey Goals:

- Gauge awareness/understanding of the Wake Transit Plan
- Understand attitudes about existing Wake Transit Plans
- Explore priorities for future transit investments
- Identify differences in priorities based on key demographics

She shared Wake Transit Plan Website

(www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035) and tool kit:

-One stop shop for background materials, access to the survey and engagement materials

She shared photos from events - stakeholder events.

She shared Upcoming Engagement Opportunities:

- June 14th: Zebulon Juneteenth Kickoff Concert
- June 15th: Knightdale African American Festival
- June 19th: Rolesville Freedom in the Park Juneteenth Celebration
- June 20th: Holly Springs Community Library Pop-Up

She shared Survey Response (as of June 3):

- 670 participants
- 2,009 website views

She shared What we are hearing - top three transit priorities:

1. Investment
2. Connections to Raleigh and town to town connections (20% of survey respondents)
3. Commuter or regional rail - 16% of survey respondents

She shared stakeholder feedback (from 5/22 meeting) the biggest challenges:

- Connections
- Inflation
- Marketing

- Meeting
- Zoning
- Implementation use
- Space
- Priorities
- Timing
- Funding
- Ridership

She shared Future Board of Commissioners Engagement:

- Fall 2024 - Phase I Engagement recap and investment scenarios (Phase II)
- Winter 2025 - Phase II Engagement recap & overview of Draft Wake Transit Plan (Phase III)
- Spring 2025 - Phase III Engagement Recap & Overview of Wake Transit Plan (Adoption Version)

Commissioner Calabria asked about town specific programs and how proactive is CAMPO for seeing what works well in one town, and if model could be replicated broadly.

Ms. Powell shared yes, that is something that CAMPO is paying attention to replication of programs in other towns. She shared ideas are being shared across the county. She shared there are limited funds in community funding area program and trying to move programs into larger Wake Transit Plan.

Commissioner Waters asked if Ms. Powell could explain what capacity building includes.

Ms. Powell shared with new programs, staff are required to deliver. She shared a Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) administrator position was created to monitor process. She shared three additional positions were created as well. She shared GoTriangle also serves as lead administrator and positions were created to monitor that.

Commissioner Mial asked about the smart program in Zebulon and if expansion program is continuing.

Ms. Powell shared yes, the MicroTransit Smart Shuttle program came as a pilot program and is now being recommended for funding in FY25. This program serves Knightdale, Zebulon and Rolesville and all are moving forward.

Vice-Chair Evans shared she and Commissioner Calabria serve as CAMPO representatives and other stakeholders are Raleigh Wake Home

Builders Association, WakeMed and Wake Tech. She shared other municipalities have representation as well.

Ms. Powell shared #3 - Recommended FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan.

She shared Key Dates (Action and Date).

She shared Revisions from draft work plan:

-Operations Budget:

*Draft Work Plan: \$45,591,851

*Recommended Work Plan: \$49,008,005

-Capital Budget:

*Draft Work Plan: \$196,780,083

*Recommended Work Plan: \$203,147,110

She shared Financial Assumptions - Revenues: Recommended Budget - VRT Revenue (included):

-1/2 cent sales tax = \$140m

-\$7.00 Vehicle registration fee = \$7,075m

-\$3.00 Vehicle registration fee = \$3.025m

-Vehicle Rental Tax: \$5.056m

-Federal Funds: \$86.554m

-Fund Balance Transfer: \$10.3m

She shared Commuter Rail Placeholder Scenario chart.

She shared Operating Highlights for FY25 (\$49 million going towards operating budget and of that \$38.6 million would be designed for the continuation of services that were funded in previous years.

She shared Operating Highlights:

-Add a new East Cary Route (11)

-Convert Apex-Cary Express Route from ACX to Route 12

-Provide funds to GoWake Access to initiate youth pass program for the SmartRide NE service

-Improvements to GoTriangle Routes 305 and 300

-Continue Wake Transit Community Funding program contributions to Apex Route 1, Morrisville Smart Shuttle and the Wake Forest circulator

-Allocate Community Funding Area Program (CFAP) funds to continue GoWake Access SmartRide NE Microtransit service serving Wendell, Knightdale, Zebulon and Wake County

She shared Capital Highlights Overview:

-Draft FY25 Work Plan allocates \$203.1 million to the Wake Capital

Budget. \$85.9 million of the total comes from federal funding allocated for

the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor, and up to \$10m may be allocated from the Wake Capital Fund balance.

She shared #4 - Next Steps on Rail:

Triangle Strategic Rail Infrastructure Investments Study (Joint MPO Study):

- Conduct a regional visioning discussion
- Assess funded and non-funded projects
- Develop a logical project implementation strategy
- Recommend a decision-making framework to advance the regions strategic rail program
- Identify and recommend additional planning studies to refine recommendations or advance projects
- Develop mapping/visualization to explain recommended implementation strategy

Commissioner Stallings asked who is responsible for maintenance and removal of litter at bus stops.

Ms. Powell shared that would be the service providers:

- GoRaleigh manages Raleigh bus stops
- GoCary manages Cary bus stops
- This is not a responsibility of CAMPO

Commissioner Stallings shared better maintained locations helps with encouragement of ridership.

Commissioner Stallings asked if funding is given to CAMPO from the State.

Ms. Powell shared there has been funding shortfalls due to increased project costs. She shared there was a Bus Rapid Transit extension that successfully secured funding, but when State reshuffled transportation funding in response to downturn for funding a large, BRT fell out of that request. She thinks funding will be added back to the BRT project.

Commissioner Stallings asked about low income fare project work.

Mr. David Eatman with City of Raleigh transportation, shared the low income pass is a process with applications and with Continuum of Care members to help qualified clients get into the system. He shared application is easy to apply and get certified. He shared goal is to ensure checks and balances and access is granted to everyone. Staff outreach is being done to ensure public is aware of program and how to navigate the process. He shared someone can access system in 2 ways: use of a smart phone to access via QR code with application to get ride; or a smart code is provided for boarding bus riders and tap card once boarding bus.

He shared application will certify individuals for one year.

Commissioner Mial asked about shelters at bus stops as he noticed the bus still runs at bus stop on New Bern Avenue (by library), but shelter is not there. He asked who is responsible for maintaining the shelters.

Mr. Eatman shared the main objective is to add stops throughout the system. There are 100 sites in design and sometimes working with surrounding communities, the infrastructure is old and for New Bern Avenue and Raleigh Blvd, this whole area will be improved. He does not have a timeline for the short-term projects. He shared there have been a few instances where structures were removed. He will provide data to Commissioners as he didn't have that with him at this time.

Commissioner Calabria asked questions regarding making bus shelters more appealing from an art perspective.

Mr. Eatman shared for BRT, there are 3 main art elements that will be integrated and they are having interactions with the community for input. He shared example of what the basic infrastructure for regular bus stops looks like. He shared developers can make stops their own as long as they maintain core design structure required by GoTriangle. He shared there are main classic designs, the GoRaleigh shelters, and the Enhanced Shelters (meant for locations that have multiple buses stopping with transfers).

Ms. Powell shared response regarding S-Line and use of transit plan funds and how they are interested in hearing from community with information.

Commissioner Calabria shared first planning meeting was really good and the 2016 process leading to referendum was good and robust. He shared comments about S-Line and conversations focus on fixed rail transit is more difficult and expensive and the S-Line is not within the conversation. He asked what local costs are anticipated for support of S-Line. Commissioner Calabria provided background on S-Line project.

Ms. Powell shared S-Line is not included in Wake Transit Plan and what is included is the Commuter Rail Project. She shared hoping the MPO study will look at critical path to make integrated efforts to use transit plan funds and how to leverage dollars to make decision. Current rule is that if project is not in Wake Transit Plan, no funds can be spent on project.

Commissioner Stallings asked about ridership numbers.

Ms. Powell shared ridership numbers have gone up and down due to COVID, but to her understanding, numbers are getting back to

pre-pandemic numbers as regions are doing better.

Mr. Lattuca shared compared to 2019, numbers are 100%.

3. Jail Health Plan

Attachments: [Jail Medical BOC Presentation_061024.pdf](#)
[Wake County Detention Facility Resident Healthcare Plan.docx](#)

Dr. Jose Cabanas and Dr. Tonya Minggia shared Wake County Sheriff's office Jail Health Services.

Dr. Cabanas shared the Wake County Sheriff's Office has been working with the Public Health Team on an update to refresh the Jail Health Services plan. He shared kudos to Sheriff Rowe and his team for this project over the past year. He shared this information is a follow up to public safety presentation.

Dr. Minggia shared Introduction to Jail Health Services:

- Wake County Detention Center has 1094 beds
- John H. Baker Public Safety Center has 480 beds
- Medical staff consist of:
 - *Medical Director
 - *Health Services Administrator
 - *Director of Nursing
 - *Psychiatrists
 - *Dentist(s)
 - *Physician Assistants
 - *Registered Nurses
 - *Behavioral Health Services
 - *Locum Tenens

She shared Introduction to Jail Health Services:

- Medical Observation = 22 beds
- Mental Health = 56 beds
- Detox = 40 beds
- Medication Assisted Treatment = 56 beds
- Medical Overflow
- General Population

She shared NC Law: Jail Health Plans:

- General Statutes §153A-221
- 10A NC Administrative Code 14J.1001 (Updated 2020)

She shared Required contents of Jail Health Plan:

- 10A NC Administrative Code 14J.1001 (Updated 2020)

She shared National Commission on Correctional Health Care - Sections of the Jail Health Plan includes 59 national standards of care.

She shared Jail Health Plan Collaborative Annual Review Team. The Review Team is a joint effort that consists of:

- Chief Medical Officer
- HHS Health Director
- HHS Pharmacy Director
- HHS Physician/PA/NP
- WCSO Medical Director
- WCSO Health Services Admin
- WCSO Director of Nursing

She shared Jail Health Plan collaborative Annual Review-CGL. The CGL Consultant team consists of experts providing guidance in the following areas:

- Correctional Medical
- Mental Health
- Dental Care
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Telemedicine
- Health Records
- Accreditation
- Policy Development

She shared Jail Health Plan Review:

-Updated and created: Resident Healthcare Plan and Policies and Procedures

-Outcomes:

*Development of a well-organized and clinically appropriate resident healthcare plan that meets current national and community health standards

*Comprehensive revision of policies and procedures that detail the operational and clinical practices, aligned with the Electronic Health Record

She shared Jail Health Plan to review to completion:

- Medical Review Complete
- Legal Review Complete
- Alliance Review Complete
- Medical Society Consultation Complete
- Adoption by the Board of Commissioners

She shared Next Steps:

-Wake County Sheriff's office requests that the updated healthcare plan be included in the consent agenda at the July 8 Board of Commissioner's

regular meeting for final adoption.

Commissioner Waters asked what is the process for intake.

Dr. Minggia shared an intake registered nurse will provide evaluation upon everyone coming into facility prior to being housed.

Commissioner Adamson asked what percentage of inmates have unmet health care needs and how does medicaid expansion come into play. She asked about contracts with Rex hospital for services that can not be provided at jails, who makes decision on which patients are transferred to hospitals. She asked about policy and procedure for pregnant inmates.

Dr. Minggia shared at least 60% of population had some sort of mental health needs and 8 of 10 residents who come in through intake have a need for some type of health care. Medical observation unit stays full and Detox unit provides treatment. Dr. Minggia shared for patients who are hospitalized, medicaid is billed. She shared correctional prisons are included in billing, but not jails. Dr. Minggia shared WCSO does not have a contract with Rex Hospital. For inmates that can not be treated at the jail, the Department of Adult Corrections, if safekeeping beds are available, will be transferred as safe keepers and receive medical care at Dept of Corrections. She shared pregnant inmates will continue to receive all required pre-natal care and if the inmate can not be treated at the jail, they will be transferred to the women's prison as a safe keeper. The pregnant inmate will remain at the Department of Adult corrections until delivery.

Commissioner Stallings asked about staffing capacity to meet health care needs.

Dr. Minggia shared nurses are in intake, clinics, medical observation, mental health dorm and detox dorm. They are short staffed for nursing services, but recruitment and applications were received.

Commissioner Calabria asked when handoff is done when someone leaves the jail (is there a connection with qualified healthcare provider for follow up care).

Dr. Minggia shared there are function health services for inmates transferred to other facilities, a packet of care needs is sent. She shared justice recovery partners also offer assistance.

Commissioner Calabria asked about when and if Medicaid stops once a person is jailed.

Dr. Minggia shared after 30 days, Medicaid services are suspended. If in

jail more than 30 days, medicaid services are terminated. She shared alliance jail coordinators do come into jail will provide assistance.

Commissioner Calabria asked about gaps when services couldn't be provided due to limited resources.

Dr. Minggia shared closing the gaps for residents who are discharged without medications. She shared some individuals come into the jail for short stays, and they are able to get access to their medications; however for longer term stays (especially with mental illness), having a way for inmates to get to medications or purchase medications can be challenging.

Commissioner Calabria shared how long does it take to apply for medicaid while in jail system.

Dr. Minggia shared she would get that information and provide it to Commissioners; but typically an inmate is starting over when it comes to getting medicaid benefits once in jail. She shared some prisoners do not have a known set date for when they will be discharged and that also presents a challenge. She shared one way they try to be proactive is to begin discharge planning on day 1 of an inmate's jail time.

Commissioner Calabria and Dr. Umesi held discussions regarding time frames for medicaid assistance for inmates.

Commissioner Calabria what can be done for conditions that may result in recidivism.

Dr. Umesi shared several patients have been discharged and Medicaid has been expired, he shared 7% need medical care when coming into jail cell system. He shared they are now starting treatment of inmates with hepatitis C.

Vice-Chair Evans asked about deficiency in system for people getting out and not having medical needs.

Mr. Holder shared federal legislation input is needed. He shared NACo has issued a toolkit and can provide Board with a copy of plan.

Commissioner Adamson shared if 87% have unmet health needs, that's striking. She asked how much per year is local county dollars used for jail care services.

Dr. Minggia shared she can provide it to the Board.

Commissioner Waters shared if someone has complex needs, is there an

equivalent for persons with mental health needs.

Dr. Minggia shared Safe Keeping is a program to assist men and women with mental health needs. All pregnant females are transferred to Safe Keeping.

Commissioner Waters asked about staffing shortages, particularly for nurses, and is the reason for shortages pay based.

Dr. Minggia shared pay is one of the reasons for nurses shortages, as this is a specialty field. She shared there has to be something engaging for nurses to want to apply for employment within the jail system. She shared offering educational opportunities and incentives do help.

Dr. Minggia shared correctional nursing is a specialty and there must be engagement (educational opportunities). She shared retention of staff is important. She shared there is a nationwide shortage of nurses.

Commissioners approved draft Resident Healthcare Plan.

Meeting went into Recess

Meeting Reconvened

4. Wake County Continuum of Care (CoC) - Preview of New Potential Roles

Attachments: [6-10-24 Work Session - CoC Presentation - Draft - REVISED.pdf](#)
[DRAFT CoC Lead Agency MOU NC 507.pdf](#)
[CoC letter of support-wake c_001.pdf](#)

Mr. Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager, provided update on the Continuum of Care (CoC).

He shared his perspective on this agenda item as a major move forward for the community in helping to stabilize the homeless crises response system. He shared for the Commissioners strategic plan, specifically goal #2, that by 2029, the Commissioners wanted to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring by reducing the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by 10% from 2024 levels. Today's proposed item is a tieback to strategic plan.

He shared the current Chair of the CoC Governance Board, Mr. Stephen Gruver, is present at today's meeting. Mr. Gruver is the Director of Social Services at the Salvation Army, Raleigh's Center for Hope and the Vice Chair of the CoC Governance Board, Ms. Nicole Stewart, who is the Director of Engagement at A.J. Fletcher Foundation. He reminded the Board that the Chair and Vice Chair roles are volunteer roles that Mr.

Gruver and Ms. Stewart are providing to the community.

He shared today's agenda:

- Review Continuum of Care Program and Wake County CoC
- Share County and Community's intention of stewardship
- Define three primary roles and associated responsibilities: Lead Agency, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Coordinated Entry entity
- Identify next steps

He shared CoC is the group organized to carry out responsibilities set out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a geographic area. He shared this area is defined as NC507 (Wake County's geographic area defined by HUD). He shared a CoC should be comprised of organizations such as non-profits, providers, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, mental health agencies, hospitals (basically any organization committed to helping homelessness) is eligible to be a member of the CoC.

He shared responsibilities of a CoC include carrying out duties defined by federal laws and regulations (planning and designing process for applying for program funds).

He shared History of Wake County CoC - NC 507:

- Required to adopt a 507 Governance Charter
- Negotiations between Wake County and CoC ebbed and flowed over the last year. On June 7, 2023, CoC Governance board made request for Wake County to assume functions being provided by the Raleigh Wake Partnership
- Over the last year, Haven House, Urban Ministries and Oak City Cares stepped up to fill the gaps in the community to assist with systems being able to provide stabilized services
- April 24, 2024: CoC Membership voted in favor of electing Wake County as Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead, and Coordinated Entry Entity;
- CoC Governing Body has notified HUD of intent to transfer grants to Wake county as Lead Agency

He shared County and Community's intention:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and CoC
- Designate an entity to fulfill duties (development of MOU is HUD requirement)
- Draft MOU remains in circulation to County Attorney's office
- CoC has routed draft MOU to HUD and awaiting feedback

He shared the County is committed to a shared goal. The shared goal of the County, Community and CoC is for the County to assume the lead role

until homelessness response system is stabilized and thriving. He shared a time frame has been designated and that is up to 5 years. He shared once the homelessness response system is stabilized, the community will identify an alternative community based organization to assume these functions. He shared all parties (County, Community and CoC) agree the homelessness response system would be best housed within a community and not within a governmental agency.

He shared 3 roles of HUD designated functions/roles in MOU:

#1: Collaborative Applicant:

- Entity responsible for submitting annual HUD application(s) for competitive funding
- Does not select recipients of awarded HUD funds, but provides staff support to CoC
- Provides administrative support for CoC Governance Board
- Assist by convening and facilitating system partners
- Current Agency: Haven House

#2: HMIS Lead:

- Local information technology system used to collect client level data and data on provision of housing and services to families at risk of and experiencing homelessness
- Maintain system is operable for utilization by partners
- Promoting utilization of the system throughout the homeless response system
- Current Agency: Urban Ministries

#3: Coordinated Entry Entity:

- Access the crisis response system in a streamlined way
- Have needs access
- Have people connected to services within the system, within the community
- Points of access to the system exist, accessible and yield outcomes for matching people to services
- Current Agency: Oak City Cares

He shared Next steps:

- Presented MOU to Commissioners
- Governing board has applied to HUD of their intent for Wake County to assume roles
- Grants being transferred from existing entity to new entity
- County staff have to finalize what a budget will look like and identify funding sources
- Some costs would be reimbursed by HUD
- Wake County and City of Raleigh have historically contributed to functions through grants

-This would represent a new Wake County department (not part of an existing department); originally thought about embedding it in Housing department. Wake County wants to be sensitive of any appearances of conflicts of interest as it pertains to funding. He shared work to be provided should be separate and would necessitate a separate operation and not co-mingled with Housing Department. Would require a Director level position and that person would be responsible for hiring leadership within those roles. This is a large undertaking and one that Wake County staff have not taken lightly.

Vice-Chair Evans shared importance of this work and the direction.

Commissioner Stallings shared appreciation to community partners and the work they have done. She asked where would funding come from for Director and staff.

Mr. Holder shared some funding could come from HUD and Wake County staff are in process of determining how much that would be. Prior Wake County subsidy was in the range of about \$300,000. There would be some local funding commitment required. This funding request was not included in FY25 Budget because it was too preliminary. A final draft and budget revisions will be shared with BoC in August.

Vice-Chair Evans asked if the City of Raleigh will be participating with funding.

Mr. Holder shared yes, they will seek funding from City of Raleigh.

Commissioner Adamson asked what is the transition period and what is the expectation for how the public will be engaged as it pertains to homelessness services.

Mr. Holder shared there would be pieces happening behind the scenes and elements that would directly affect the public. The coordinated entry will directly affect the public. He shared if there are areas to prioritize, this will be done. The plan for a roll-out will involve working with the community. Wake County staff are looking at timelines of grants from HUD. He shared initial engagement comes through the CoC, as there are members of the public who are part of the CoC. He shared having open communication, especially with CoC is important.

Vice-Chair Evans shared this would not be the same traditional department, but Wake County is coordinating and playing a leadership role, but the CoC partners are involved in the decisions that will get made and how it will happen. She reminded this is not a permanent plan, one that is for three-five years and the plan is to turn it back over to the

community.

Mr. Holder shared this was one of the concerns voiced by the CoC as this function is to be owned by the community; not the government. He shared that is why thoughts of not having it embedded within Housing Department made sense.

Commissioner Calabria shared in terms of physical housing of program, where will it be? And how does this impact staff and capital costs.

Mr. Holder shared evaluations will be made to determine whether it is more advantages for certain functions to be by county staff or contract. He shared decisions will need to be made for how the rollout of functions will be done; to one organization or multiple organizations. He shared there is no prescription for how functions will be provided. He shared for candidate coming into the program, they will know roles will be part of a community organization or a new organization.

Commissioner Calabria thanked Mr. Holder and stakeholders for stepping up and engaging in this work.

Commissioner Stallings asked how many partners/people in CoC.

Mr. Holder shared it is comprehensive list.

Mr. Gruver shared membership is about 53 agencies and 22 individual members.

Mr. Holder asked Mr. Steven to address gaps or deficiencies in membership, Mr. Steven shared membership is broad.

Mr. Gruver shared information how a person can join via CoC website: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>.

Vice Chair Evans shared example that getting more individuals to serve on CoC would be helpful.

Mr. Holder shared more information to be shared with Board of Commissioners in August.

Other Business

County Manager Ellis shared update and photos from Local Government Career Expo Job Fair held on June 2, 2024. He shared that 2,500 - 3,000

persons showed up to participate and look for employment within local government. Wake County and Central Pines organization did a great job (40+ different governmental agencies showed up and participated).

Vice-Chair Evans thanked County staff for pulling this event together.

Commissioner Adamson asked if County Manager Ellis could share what job fair application rate looked like and did that lead into individuals actually applying for government jobs.

County Manager Ellis shared that information will be shared. He shared his thoughts that NACo will model the Local Government Career Expo Job Fair.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Evans adjourned meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Antoinette H. Womack, NCCCC
Deputy Clerk
Wake County Board of Commissioners