



**LEXINGTON**  
*Homelessness Prevention  
& Intervention*



**Homelessness Prevention & Intervention Board  
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government**

**Lexington-Fayette Continuum of Care Board**

***Mission:*** To ensure everyone in Lexington has access to housing by building a coordinated strategy that brings hope and stability to all.

***Vision:*** Everyone in Lexington has a safe, stable home and the support they need to thrive.

January 12, 2022

1:30pm – 3:30pm

**Agenda**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81770296106?pwd=L243WkxWZVZOWGhOZDhKellFDTVpJdz09>

Passcode: 910031

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - a. November 10, 2021\*
- IV. HMIS & Common Assessment Committee Report – **Renee Shepard, Chair**
  - a. 2022 LexCount Methodology\*
- V. Program Performance & Evaluation Committee Report – **Liz Sheehan, Chair**
- VI. Advocacy, Issues, and Programs Committee Report - **Adrian Wallace, Chair**
- VII. Encampment SOPs and Review Report – **Polly Ruddick**
- VIII. OHPI Director's Report – **Polly Ruddick**
  - a. Volunteers of America Mid-States Letter of Support from Continuum of Care\*\*
  - b. 2022 LexCount Changes\*\*
  - c. Meeting in person
- IX. Next Regular Meeting
  - a. March 9, 2022 at 1:30pm via Zoom
- X. Other Issues and Public Sharing
- XI. Adjourn



**Homelessness Prevention & Intervention Board  
Lexington-Fayette County Continuum of Care Board  
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government**

**November 10, 2021**

1:30-3:30pm

- Held via Tele-Conference
- Call to Order - 1:31 pm
- **Roll Call** - C. Clark, B. Davis, J. James, J. Parker, K. Plomin, B. Revlett, L. Sheehan, R. Shepard absent, D. Thomas, A. Wallace, M. Woods absent excused, G. Bartilow.
- **Approval of Minutes** - September 8, 2021\*
  - Motion by L. Sheehan
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Plomin
  - No Discussion
  - Passed: None Opposed
- **Bluegrass Community and Technical College Work Program - Gayle Bartilow**

Gayle Bartilow with Bluegrass Community and Technical College spoke about the WERK Program that Bluegrass Community and Technical College put together this year. It's a program to put people that are experiencing homelessness or at-risk into short term certificate training which leads to high demand jobs and then into job placement. The name of the program is WERK-Weekend Employment Readiness for Kentucky. After training the idea is that people will be ready to be placed into high demand jobs with sustainable incomes. They promote four programs that are short term. The four programs are; basic carpentry, construction, data entry, computers and IT, and gas welding. Two cohorts that have finished this past summer, one was in gas welding and the other one was in data entry operator. Successful students were placed into jobs. The students were very encouraged. This program also builds confidence and gives them a sense of accomplishment. Funding for the program is from federal funding so they have to fill out the FASFA and Pell Grant applications.

G. Bartilow said that she feels very strongly about them not taking out student loans and being in debt. G. Bartilow stated they are always looking for people willing to donate to this program. This program has wrap around services to the best of their



ability since this is a college and they don't have anything like case management, they do offer laptops to loan them as well as Wi-Fi hotspots as needed. This program offers counseling services through the college, transportation in the form of free bus passes, job skills training, a food pantry on site at Leestown Campus, and job placement services. They are also connected to the apprenticeship programs.

P. Ruddick asked what the most common reason they don't complete the program. G. Bartilow answered that it happens when students don't have support systems in place. The ones she saw complete the program were in transitional housing, they were involved in agencies that offered case management, work ready skills, and job training. Students that were not successful they were in emergency shelter and did not have supportive services available to them.

P. Ruddick asked about childcare for participants in the program with children.

G. Bartilow said that childcare was put on hold during pandemic and also said that the program has a partnership with Community Action Council for childcare and she also stated they haven't had the need for childcare yet but if the need for childcare comes up they can provide services. G. Bartilow also stated that this program follows the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless and not the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development definition of homeless.

- **Common Assessment Committee - presented by J. Herron on behalf of R. Shepard**

J. Herron stated that the HMIS/Coordinated Entry Committee had reviewed the coordinated entry policy and procedures. The Committee added a policy that housing providers would work with survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and other forms of abuse and trauma to help them develop safety plans while also considering that safety plan in the housing placement process. Providers may have already been doing this action but the CoC noted that it wasn't explicitly represented in our policies and wanted to make that a more explicit policy within coordinated entry.

Motion by J. James-to approve this revision document

2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Plomin

No further discussion

Passed - None opposed

- **Program performance & Evaluation Committee-Liz Sheehan**

L. Sheehan stated the Committee meet on October 20<sup>th</sup> with the primary agenda item being presentation and discussion of the FY2021 Continuum of Care Grant project application ranking and funding. All the projects were presented, whether or not they met the competition threshold and project scores. Scores included items such as effectiveness, serving high need population, and equity factors. The scores and projects were then ranked. Funding recommendations were provided in three sections; Tier 1, Tier 2 and CoC Planning. After some discussion our committee approved and



recommended the full package as presented with allowances for the Office of Homelessness to possibly negotiate additional DV Bonus funds for the Lexington Housing Authority if available and to move funds over from Tier 1 to Tier 2. The Committee motioned to bring the recommendation to the full board for consideration. Summary of that information was provided in the Board packet. L. Sheehan made a motion from the Committee for adoption of the funding recommendations for the FY2021 CoC Grant Competition.

No Further Discussion

Passed - None opposed, D. Thomas recused

- **Advocacy Issues & Programs Committee - P. Ruddick on behalf of A. Wallace**

P. Ruddick stated that the first item the Committee voted to move to the full board for adoption is the CoC's Anti-Discrimination Policy. P. Ruddick stated the policy does not go above and beyond federal, state or local laws that agencies have to abide by; it is just condensing them into one document for our continuum of care partners.

Motion by J. Parker- to Approve Nondiscrimination Policy

2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Plomin

No further discussion

Passed - None opposed

P. Ruddick stated that based on the recommendation of A. Wallace, the Office of Homelessness has drafted and is ready to release a RFP for a consultant to help us dig deeper to analyze our system to find out where inequities are happening and why and what system barriers exist so that we can then address them.

Motion by A. Wallace

2<sup>nd</sup> by J. James

No further discussion

Passed – None opposed

P. Ruddick stated that the Hope Center is applying for a federal grant in response to COVID-19 and social distancing issues. This grant will help create accommodations for Veterans so that they will have single units with private bathrooms. This capital project will be completely funded by the VA. New units for a total of 20 units.

Chris Clark asked where these additional units would be located.

J. James stated they will be at the shelter on the new 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Motion by Committee

No further discussion

Passed – None opposed, J. James accused

- **Directors Report-P. Ruddick**



Ruddick stated that the full FY2021 CoC Competition application was included in the Board packet for the meeting. P. Ruddick ask if any questions, there were none.

Motion by K. Plomin to accept full application as presented.

2<sup>nd</sup> L. Sheehan

No further discussion

Passed – None opposed

P. Ruddick reminded the Board that updated budgets for LFUCG funds and ARPA funds were included in the packet and no action needed to be taken. More discussion on funding allocations will happen in December at Advocacy Committee meeting.

P. Ruddick reviewed the 2022 meeting schedule of the Board and Committees

Motion to approve-L. Sheehan

2<sup>nd</sup> J. James

No further discussion

Passed - None opposed

- Next meeting will be January 12, 2022 at 1:30 via Zoom.

- **Other Issues and Public Sharing**

P. Ruddick stated the HUD has not released guidance for the 2022 LexCount. As soon as we get that we will let the group know.

J. James stated that the Hope Center will be opening their warming shelter on Dec 1, 2021.

- **Adjourn**

Motion by K. Plomin

2<sup>nd</sup> by J. James

No further discussion

Passed - None opposed



## Lexington-Fayette County Continuum of Care

### 2022 LexCount Methodology

*The date of the Lexington-Fayette County Continuum of Care's LexCount and Housing Inventory County (HIC) will be **Wednesday, January 26, 2022.***

Each year, the Lexington-Fayette Continuum of Care (CoC) counts all persons currently experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, known as the LexCount. This count is traditionally referred to as a "point-in-time count" and it acts as Lexington's yearly snapshot of those experiencing homelessness.

On the same night as the LexCount, the CoC also takes stock of the available emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing options. This is known as the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). The HIC must be completed on the SAME DAY as the LexCount.

Collecting data on the numbers and characteristics of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as well as homeless services capacity can serve additional purposes over and beyond meeting HUD requirements. Accurate counts offer several benefits including:

- Provide support for local planning efforts by identifying unmet needs and trends in size and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness;
- Supply guidance for development of more effective programming and services;
- Raise awareness of homelessness;
- Enhance local homeless programs' volunteer base;
- Assist with allocation of resources around local priorities;
- Target interventions for certain sub-populations;
- Conduct outreach and engagement, identifying people experiencing homelessness;
- Help identify new community goals; and
- Assist in measuring progress toward homelessness reduction goals.

### Unsheltered LexCount

Volunteers will complete paper surveys for those clients residing in places not meant for human habitation on the night of the count. If someone refuses to complete the survey with the volunteer, then observation is an acceptable method of data collection.





**Enhanced Coverage Unsheltered Count:** For the 2022 LexCount, teams of volunteers will go to locations across Lexington where clients are known to frequent and where encampments have been found previously. These locations were identified as a result of information provided by homeless service providers, police, the sheriff's department, code enforcement, concerned community members, and a running list that the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (OHPI) maintains year-round.

For a more accurate and efficient count, street outreach will vet identified locations in advance. This process will help to inform which locations are known to currently be active as well as to provide volunteer teams with key information for identifying individuals and encampments at each location.

There are two surveys given to volunteers to complete, based on willingness of individuals to participate:

- Interview-Based Unsheltered Survey
- Observation-Based Unsheltered Survey

## Sheltered LexCount

### KYHMIS-Participating Agencies

Agencies that participate in the KYHMIS must use the KYHMIS to collect information on clients that are active in their emergency shelter or transitional housing projects on the night of Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

There is not a paper survey option given to the KYHMIS participating agencies. All data is collected within KYHMIS.

### Non-KYHMIS Agencies

There is only one (1) emergency overnight shelter that does not participate in the KYHMIS. That shelter will be given an Excel spreadsheet to complete using aggregate data that then will be added to the community's totals.

The CoC's local Victim Service Provide (VSP), GreenHouse17, uses a comparable KYHMIS database and will supply the CoC with their de-identifiable client-level data.

## Unsheltered LexCount Training

The OHPI Staff will conduct a training session via pre-recorded Zoom webinar. The webinar will be available on-demand the **week of January 17<sup>th</sup>**. Training is mandatory for first-time volunteers; other volunteers wishing to receive a refresher are welcome to participate.

Encampment Report for HPI Board  
1/12/2022

a. Location 1

- i. Notice of activity,
  - 9/2/2021 by Josh Fai with BGCLT
  - 10/21/2021 by LPD
  - 11/9/2021 by CM LeGris via Residents of Davis Park area
- ii. Engaged by SO, 9/3/2021
  - 2 camps located, no individuals present
  - Continued until 12/6/2021, all individuals relocated themselves
- iii. First Notice posted, 11/9/2021
- iv. Final Notice, 12/6/2021
- v. Clean and removed, 12/13/2021 cost of \$7,300



John Kuhn, Director SSVF

Supportive Services for Veterans and Families

4100 Chester Avenue, Suite 201

Philadelphia, PA 19104

January 4, 2022

The Continuum of Care is writing this letter in strong support of Volunteers of America Mid-States application for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families grant. The leadership and partnership offered by the staff at VOA Mid-States has been instrumental in creating a team of community providers who have a passion for ending Veteran homelessness. Providers which include; the Office of Homelessness and Prevention, Veteran Administration, local housing authority, emergency shelters, day centers, community mental health providers, and permanent housing providers, landlords and, a multitude of stakeholders.

VOA Mid-States SSVF staff have been leaders in the community, creating and maintaining a specific Veteran By-Name-List, holding twice monthly meetings to go through the By Name List, and scheduling provider meetings, including the Every Veteran Housed meeting, which meets monthly. VOA Mid States attends COC board meetings, Advocacy and Issues Committee, and the HMIS committee. VOA Mid States assists in the planning of and actively participates in the annual Point in Time Count. In addition, in 2020 and in 2021, VOA Mid States took part in emergency shelter planning for Covid19, and winter weather planning.

The SSVF program via VOA Mid-States has been serving the Lexington-Fayette County area since 2011. Last year SSVF served 179 veterans in Fayette County. It is our privilege to support this successful partnership and coordinated community effort for the Veterans in our area.