

## ICCHP Quarterly Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2025 • 1:00–3:00 PM • NCDHHS Headquarters

**Co-Chairs Present:** Karen Wade, NCDHHS, and Jessica Whichard, DMVA

**Members Present:**

Dr. Latonya Agard, Brett Altman, Emily Ball, Marsha Basloe, Representative Allison Dahle, Debra Farrington, Scott Farmer, Samuel Gunter, Hsun-Ta Hsu, Desiree Kennedy, Jaclyn Kiger, Katrina Knight, Karon McKinney, Deronda Metz, Fred Mills, Amy Modlin, Elizabeth Moncrief, Maria Perez, George Pettigrew, Lisa Phillips, Director William Ray, Jefferey Rawlings, Dr. Torry Reynolds, Joell Steininger, Donya Strong, Pamela Suggs Story, Emila Sutton, Josh Walker, Carla West

**Members Absent:** Darla Cole, Ashley Jarrett, Steve Maynor, Stephanie McGarrah, Senator Natalie Murdock

**Other Staff Present:** Amy Sawyer, Emily Carmody, Katharine Davis, Denise Neunaber

**Guests Present:** Thurston Alexander-Smith, Joanne Cain, Andrea Carey, Danielle DeCaprio, Shereka Floyd, Erin Flynn, Mary Haskett, Zsuzi Kadar, Peter Kane, Branden Lewis, Emily Lewis, Cheri Neal, Erin Nixon, Rykell Turner, Christiana G Tugman

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**Welcome & Opening Remarks,** Jessica Whichard, Co-Chair

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jessica Whichard at 1:00 p.m.

Co-Chair Whichard welcomed members to the first in-person ICCHP meetings in the new NCDHHS building. She reviewed the Council's statutory charge and reiterated the three primary focus areas guiding ICCHP's work:

- Increasing access to rental and housing-related financial assistance.
- Increasing development and access to rental units for people experiencing homelessness or at risk.
- Increasing availability and quality of housing-focused services, including housing stabilization and navigation.

Whichard emphasized that coordination across agencies is especially critical in the current fiscal environment, noting uncertainty at both the state and federal levels.

**Adoption of Minutes,** Jessica Whichard, Co-Chair

A motion to approve the September minutes was made by ICCHP Member George Pettigrew and seconded by ICCHP Member Josh Walker. The motion carried. Chair Whichard clarified that ICCHP members are not required to complete state ethics training, correcting earlier guidance.

**State Agency Updates,** Karen Wade, Co-Chair

Karen Wade introduced agency updates, followed by report-outs from ICCHP members or their representatives:

**Office of State Budget & Management (OSBM),** Brett Altman, OSBM

Altman provided an overview of the current state budget environment. North Carolina continues to operate under continuing budget authority due to the absence of an enacted biennial budget. Agencies are operating at recurring base levels, and non-recurring items or program expansions cannot move forward. Altman noted that several housing-related proposals included in the Governor’s recommended budget—including Housing Trust Fund funding, Workforce Housing Loan Program investments, reentry supports, and local zoning grants—were not adopted in House or Senate versions. Revenue forecasts project a 2.5% decline next fiscal year and long-term reductions of approximately 13–15% by 2030–31 due to phased-in tax reductions and broader economic uncertainty. He described the fiscal outlook as “flat at best,” with sustained pressure anticipated for housing and human services programs.

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA), Scott Farmer, NCHFA

Farmer reported that all 15 HOME-ARP developments have completed HUD environmental review, including 14 integrated housing projects and one non-congregate shelter. Three projects are under construction, and three additional developments are preparing to close. He noted that the Workforce Housing Loan Program (WHLP) is funded at \$0 for the upcoming cycle, after two years at \$35 million, which may affect the feasibility of LIHTC projects in approximately 80 counties. Farmer also highlighted active Housing Trust Fund rounds for supportive housing, human trafficking/domestic violence survivors, and veterans. He emphasized continued partnership with NCDHHS on the Targeting Program and TCL housing efforts. At the federal level, he noted concern about potential risks to the HOME program, given its importance as development gap financing.

Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA), Jessica Whichard, Co-Chair

Chair Whichard provided an update on veteran homelessness, noting that approximately 688 veterans were experiencing homelessness in North Carolina in 2024. She highlighted ongoing Veteran Stand-Down events, County Veterans Services Grants totaling \$1.5 million statewide, and continued partnerships with NCServes, Veterans Bridge Home, and the Veterans Life Center.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Karen Wade, Co-Chair, Maria Ramirez Perez, and Josh Walker, NCDHHS

Karen Wade provided updates on the implementation of the NC Strategic Housing Plan, which aligns closely with ICCHP priorities and continues to convene the Housing Leadership Committee quarterly. NCDHHS’s NC Strategic Housing Plan has been in effect since July 2024; the department meets quarterly with the Housing Leadership Committee and coordinates closely with ICCHP as the plan’s focus areas (development, access, and services) mirror the Council’s priorities.

Josh Walker provided updates on Transition to Community Living (TCL), noting that without additional funding, subsidies could face a shortfall by May 2026. NCDHHS implemented a Housing Mitigation Plan effective October 15, 2025. The plan continues housing placements using non-state subsidies, pauses new state-funded entries, prioritizes the most vulnerable individuals, and tightens certain waiver flexibilities. Some impacts are anticipated in bridge housing and employment supports.

Updates were also provided on the Back@Home program, which has enrolled more than 1,000 households and moved approximately 965 into housing.

Maria Ramirez Perez discussed Healthy Opportunities. While pilot services ended in July 2025 due to lack of state funding, the infrastructure remains active. Over 100 community-based organizations continue

coordination through local partnerships, and NCCare360 remains operational for referrals and disaster response coordination. The department supported a small number of individuals with acute safety needs whose services could not be abruptly cut.

**Advancing a Unified Vision for Supportive Housing**, Maria Ramierz Perez and Josh Walker, NCDHHS

Karen Wade, Co-Chair, introduced the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Framework, noting that it was developed through the North Carolina Housing Services Partnership Alliance (HSPA). She invited Maria Ramirez Perez and Josh Walker to present the framework and outline next steps.

Representatives from the multi-agency Housing Services Partnership Alliance presented a proposed Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Framework. The framework was originally developed through the federal Housing & Services Partnership Accelerator ( now the Housing & Services Partnership Alliance) and seeks to establish a shared statewide definition and consistent standards for PSH. The goal is to establish consistent expectations, standards, and language across NCDHHS, NCHFA, and partner agencies. The framework defines PSH as permanent, affordable, community-based housing paired with voluntary, person-centered services in integrated settings that uphold tenant rights and ADA/Olmstead standards. Core principles include permanence, autonomy, voluntary participation, integration, and separation of housing and services functions. It covers Project-Based, Sponsor-Based, and Tenant-Based housing models.

CoC and local government representatives asked how they would be included in advancing and implementing the PSH framework. NCDHHS indicated that additional engagement opportunities will follow as the framework is implemented.

Council members were informed that the finalized framework will be circulated, with a vote planned at the next ICCHP meeting.

**Council Engagement: Sharing What Works**, Jessica Whichard, Co-Chair

Jessica Whichard introduced a Council engagement exercise, inviting members to break into small groups to discuss how their work connects to preventing or ending homelessness and opportunities for alignment with ICCHP priorities. Themes raised during report-back:

- The need for coordinated regional case conferencing across county lines.
- A growing recognition that homelessness is increasingly intertwined with public safety, requiring consistent messaging and engagement,
- Shared concerns about service gaps emerging from funding instability.

**Community Spotlight: City of Raleigh**, Emila Sutton, Housing & Community Development Director, City of Raleigh, NC

Sutton presented on Raleigh's direct-to-housing pilot addressing a large encampment. The pilot enrolled 45 households (66 individuals), with approximately 90% no longer experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The initiative included rapid housing placement, medical outreach, and a non-enforcement encampment closure completed in approximately eight weeks. Significant family reunification occurred, particularly for parents who had been separated from their children due to living conditions. The planning component was developed through a 48-member steering committee and is transitioning to Wake County's Continuum of Care for ongoing implementation.

Sutton referenced national models in Houston, New Orleans, and Dallas and referenced the [City of Raleigh Affordable Housing Summit](#), which includes an opening address by Gregg Colburn, Co- Author “Housing is a Homeless Problem” (YouTube).

**Member Updates**, Jessica Whichard, Co-Chair and ICCHP members

Whichard opened the floor for member updates.

North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness, Dr. Latonya Agard

Dr. Agard shared that NCEH is monitoring potential federal changes related to permanent housing funding levels and policy requirements that may shape future Continuum of Care funding opportunities. CoC partners also expressed concern about emerging federal discussions related to housing program funding levels, including reports of potential caps and shifts in funding priorities. NCEH is convening a monthly CoC Collaborative, tracking statewide housing funding gaps, seeking legal advice, coordinating with the State, and rebuilding SOAR support infrastructure.

NC Housing Coalition, Sam Gunter

Gunter reported on the development of a statewide housing funding dashboard to track gaps and noted that some housing counseling agencies are reducing services due to funding uncertainty. He emphasized potential long-term development impacts and growing philanthropic engagement in housing.

Dept of Adult Correction, George Pettigrew

Pettigrew shared that DAC received \$2 million for transitional housing for individuals with severe mental illness and violent offenses and also highlighted rural expansions, including a 44-unit reentry housing project. He discussed Reentry 2030 goals and noted that Local Reentry Councils have expanded to 31 statewide, though 7 have closed due to budget constraints and 4 more are at risk.

Reference: [November 12 Joint Reentry Council Meeting in Spruce Pine](#) on YouTube.

NC Harm Reduction Coalition (reported by Co-Chair Whichard for Alese Powell)

The organization has assisted 60 individuals in obtaining or retaining housing and has implemented a housing benefit for staff.

### **Next Meeting**

March 4, 2024 | 1:00–3:00 PM (Virtual). Materials and updates will be shared at <https://bit.ly/NC-ICCHP>.

### **Adjournment**

Co-Chairs thanked members for their commitment and urged everyone to continue cross-agency coordination, follow up with Council members, and stay engaged as budget and policy environments continue to evolve.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.