Avril M. Pinder, CPA, ICMA-CM
County Manager

Buncombe County Government
Commissioner Briefing
July 21, 2026
3:00 PM
1st Floor Conference Room, 200 College St.

I.	Meeting Called to Order		Chair Edwards
II.	Review Meeting Agenda		Chair Edwards
III.	Staff Updates		
	a. CDBG-DR Update: Community Infrastructure	15 mins	Tyler Henry
	b. Continuum of Care Update	20 mins	Lacy Hoyle
	c. Cyclosporiasis Cases in NC Update	15 mins	Ellis Matheson
IV.	Open Discussion		All

[MEET_FOOT]

CONTINUUM OF CARE UPDATE

Presented by

Lacy Hoyle, Homelessness Program Manager

Community Development Division

Board of Commissioners Briefing

July 21, 2026

CODE PURPLE FY26 CLOSE OUT

- **Funding Committed/Actual: $303,000/$179,224**
  - Buncombe County $50,000/$41,606
  - City of Asheville $50,000/$41,606
  - City of Asheville (ARPA) $128,000/$42,830
  - Mission HCA $75,000/$53,182
- **Funding Structure**
  - Per diem rate based on bed utilization
  - Partial Operations Coordinator Costs
- **Period Covered:** November 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026

Code Purple Parameters

- <32° forecasted temp or wind chill
- 33° - 40° & forecasted precipitation
- Other extreme weather events

Code Purple Nights

- Code Purple Nights: 80
- Average Per Night: 48
- Maximum Use on a Single Night: 133

Provider	Location	Population	Bed Capacity
ABCCM-Transformation Village	30 Olin Haven Way	Women, Women with Children	35
Salvation Army	204 Haywood St	Men	16
Homeward Bound-AHOPE	19 N. Ann St	Couples, People with Pets	20
		Total Code Purple Beds	**71**

CODE PURPLE EMERGENCY FUNDING

- **Need:** Daytime Code Purple capacity due to extremely cold temperatures during Winter Storm Gianna (1/30/26 - 2/2/26)
- **Request:** Support for staffing for Code Purple shelters to remain open during daytime hours to ensure safety of unhoused population (note that 133 beds were used the night of January 31)
- **Cost:** $8,753.28
  - Buncombe County: $4,376.64
  - City of Asheville: $4,376.64

CODE PURPLE FY27 PLANNING

- System Planning and Implementation Committee will lead planning
- RFP Process to identify providers
  - Committee will collaborate with identified provider cohort
- Funding Committee recommends per diem funding structure
- Plan and updated manual to be presented to CoC Board August 2026
- Confirmed Available Funding:
  - Buncombe County: $100,000 (match with City General Funds)
  - City of Asheville: $108,394
  - City of Asheville ARPA: $85,170

HUD CoC PROGRAM FUNDING UPDATE

- Annual funding providing housing and planning support for the CoC
- FY 2024 (January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026): Permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing
- FY 2025 (January 1, 2027-December 31, 2027): rescinded due to litigation
- FY 2026 (January 1, 2027-December 31, 2027): NOFO released June 1, 2026
  - Application Due: August 26, 2026
  - Priorities: Transitional housing, supportive services, & required treatment programming
- Significant Changes
  - New National Priorities from HUD
  - Funding Structure
  - HUD's Application and Selection Process

ADDITIONAL FUNDING UPDATES

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

- Annual funding for emergency response and housing stability activities
- Available Funds: $130,446 (CY 2027)
- Applications Due: August 24, 2026
- Notification of Award(s): Fall 2026

Right at Home Homelessness Prevention Partnership

- Funding for direct financial assistance to prevent homelessness
- Asheville Region Awarded additional $1M
- Project Charter, Draft Operations Manual approved June 2026
- RFA released to CoC, applications due: August 14, 2026
- Anticipated Program Launch: November 2026

CDBG-DR Planning Grant

- Award Amount: $242,500
- City Council approved for emergency shelter planning
- Contract for project management capacity and fund professional services as needed

SALVATION ARMY UPDATE

- Center of Hope Shelter (204 Haywood St) to pause operations beginning November 1, 2026
  - 65 shelter beds offline
- Intent to reopen within 6 months, contingent upon securing operational funding
- Annual Operating Budget: $1.6M
- CoC leading conversation with Salvation Army on solutions
  - Funding Committee, System Planning and Implementation Committee Chairs have met with Lead Agency Staff and Salvation Army leadership
  - Exploring opportunities for partnership during 2026-2027 Code Purple season
  - CoC Board has requested regular updates and materials to share for awareness and support

CoC BOARD ACTIONS

- Approved implementation of plan for Compensation for People with Lived Experience
- Adopted Funding Policy—defines processes for Funding Committee activity
- Approved “Moving On” Preference with HACA
- Approved addition of Board Seat: Elected Official from the Criminal/Legal System
- Approved additional members for established Committees and Work Groups

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CoC Membership

- Tunnel Road Community Cleanup: Thursday, July 23, 2026

CoC Board

- Special Called Virtual Meeting: August 10, 2026, 4:00pm
- Regular Monthly Board Meeting: August 13, 2026, 4:00pm
  Harrah's Cherokee Center Banquet Hall

County Representatives to the CoC Board

- Commissioner Jennifer Horton, Non-Voting Liaison
- Lacy Hoyle, Homelessness Program Manager
  Buncombe County Staff Appointed Seat

QUESTIONS?

CYCLOSPORA UPDATE

Dr. Ellis Matheson – Public Health Director

Buncombe County Health and Human Services

What is Cyclospora?

- Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by a parasite called *Cyclospora*.
- This parasite can only be seen with a microscope.
- People get sick when they eat or drink food or water that is contaminated with this parasite.
- North Carolina is among dozens of U.S. states experiencing an increase of cyclosporiasis cases this summer.

Signs and Symptoms:

- The main symptom of cyclosporiasis is watery diarrhea, with frequent bowel movements.

- People usually feel sick about one week after exposure to the parasite.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Stomach cramps and pain
- Bloating
- Increased gas
- Nausea
- Fatigue

Some people may also experience:

- Vomiting
- Body aches
- Headache
- Fever
- Flu-like symptoms

*Some people who are infected **may not have any symptoms**.*

Current Case Counts

Level	Cases (since May 1)	Hospitalizations	Deaths
National	1,645 confirmed	141	0
North Carolina	307	13	0
Buncombe County	4 confirmed	0	0

Source: NCDHHS, CDC, Buncombe County

Buncombe County Public Health Priorities

- **Enhanced surveillance:** tracking and reporting locally
- **Case investigations:** interviews to identify exposures
- **Communication:** contact with medical providers with guidance
- **Coordination:** state and federal agencies
- **Education:** food safety and hygiene

Guidance for the Public

- Wash all produce well under running water; gently scrub firm items.
- Remove outer leaves of leafy greens and discard bruised areas.
- Cook produce to significantly reduce the risk of illness.
- Hand hygiene: wash hands for at least 20 seconds before eating/preparing food and after bathroom use.
- Stay hydrated, seek care for persistent diarrhea, and stay home if sick.



Key Takeaways

- Cyclospora is a seasonal parasitic illness with increasing national and state cases.
- Symptoms appear about a week after exposure.
- Frequent watery diarrhea is the most common symptom.
- Buncombe County has 4 cases, no hospitalizations or deaths.
- Public health response is centered on surveillance, investigation, and education.
- Community should properly wash produce, practice good hygiene, stay home when sick, and seek medical attention.