

**From:** Emily Ball <eball@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** 9/23/2021 11:52:39 AM  
**To:** Amy Hobson <amy.hobson@caring4children.org>, Scott Rogers <scott.rogers@abccm.org>, Laura Kirby <laura@haywoodstreet.org>, Micheal Woods <micheal@westerncarolinarescue.org>, Phil Swyers <phil.swyers@uss.salvationarmy.org>, Cindy McMahon <ed@homewardbound.org>  
**Cc:** Brian Huskey <bhuskey@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Subject:** Provider workgroup

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Hi all,

I'm hoping to convene a regular time for us to meet to strategize and collaborate on ways to improve our community's ability to support people who are homeless. I've talked with several of you about this idea with great response, and I'm hoping you'll all join me in seeing the value of this.

I've seen our service system become increasingly fractured over the years, and I'd like us to work together to change that: I think it's possible for us to build real cohesion among this group, and I know from my experience of each of you that we have a lot in common when it comes to our values and the drivers behind the work we all do. I'm confident that the folks on this email coming together as a leadership team around homelessness could have a major impact on how we work together and what we can accomplish.

I know everyone's busy, but I'm committed to making this a good use of time and I'm asking that you commit to participating in this group yourself or sending a decision-maker from your agency when you're unable to attend. I'd like to keep the group small and strategic - while our community has a lot of great services, you're all specifically leading shelter and housing programs which are the foundation of our homeless service system, and a strong, collaborative, and unified foundation will give us a great platform to build on together.

[Here's a doodle poll with some first meeting options](#) - I'm listing options mid-October hoping this much notice will be helpful in locking in a time that works for us all. I'd love to meet in person (masked) if you're all comfortable with that - we can meet at City Hall, or would any of you be able to host a group this size? Please let me know if you'd prefer to meet virtually which we can absolutely do.

Thank you for the essential work you each do - I'm really proud to work alongside you and I'm optimistic about what we can do as we come together even more.

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