

Balance of State Region 7 Committee Meeting

Zoom Conference Call, May 7 2020

Ms. Marie Watson, Region 7 Lead, welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present introduced themselves.

Members present: Hamer Carter, Outreach Mission Inc; John Campbell, Daymark; Marie Watson, JLHCA; Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center; Tamara Brogan, Family Promise; Rachel Picard, City of Sanford; Jeff Rawlings, JLHCA; Chrishonda Ham, SAFE of Harnett County; Tandra Chamberlain, Moore County Schools; Tandra Place, Young Women's Transition Home of Moore County; Kimberly Ledford, Friend to Friend; Katy Martin, HAVEN; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA/ Reform; Angela Jones, JLHCA; Shelley Hudson, Salvation Army; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Tami Carter, The Enrichment Center; Manuel Hyman, Alliance Health; Kendra Martin, United Way of Lee County; Kay Johnson, Harbor; Marcia Johnson, Outreach Mission Inc; Torya Hutchinson, VA; Nina Walker, Sandhills Community Action; Kimberly Childers, Richmond County Schools; Cherese Madison, Salvation Army

Minutes

A motion was made by Tandra Chambelin to approve the April 2020 minutes. Hamer Carter seconded. The motion carried.

COVID-19 Agency Reports

Sandhills Center is working closely with Emergency Management directors in each county. There is a list of hotels that they are in contact with in case anyone needs isolation. Quiotti Ratliff and Donna McCormick have been checking in with each county. County directors are billing FEMA for the hotel stays. FEMA is reimbursing for the hotel stays as long as they are COVID-19 related. Shelley Hutchinson reported that the Salvation Army is working with the Public Health Department in her county, and they are paying for ten hotel rooms for homeless people who have been exposed to COVID, even if they are asymptomatic. Community partners are paying for "healthy rooms" for people who are over 65 or at risk in another way. If anyone has a list of hotels who are willing to assist, please share! Jeff Rawlings added that some hotels are accepting COVID-related clients, but are charging more or requiring a credit card up front.

BoS Report

There is a statewide COVID response plan with crisis response and housing teams. The final submission of PIT data to HUD is delayed until June 30, due to COVID. The racial equity subcommittee will begin meeting monthly soon.

ESG Funded Agency Reports

Friend to Friend- Kim Ledford reported that they have received additional ESF funding to support COVID-related emergency activity.

Outreach Mission, Inc- Hamer Carter reported that there are restrictions in place (no clients from outside of Lee County, strict cleaning schedule). There is also an enhanced diversion system. OMI received additional ESG funds and are considering how to use it.

JLHCA- Jeff Rawlings reported that a lot of hotels are not accepting COVID-related cases, and if they are, their rates are usually higher. Marie added that we need landlords!

SAFE of Harnett County- Chrishonda Ham reported there have been no positive COVID tests. They have not seen an increase in calls, but they are busy.

Committee Reports

Youth Committee- Tambra Chamberlain reported that they are meeting once a month. Exciting things are happening for the committee; Three goals have been set to further explore a grant, and to explore housing and rental options. They are continuing to ask committee members to get community stakeholders involved in the committee. This will help us find resources across the region for youth. Housing for youth is a big issue in rural areas. The next meeting will be May 27 from 3-4 PM.

Coordinated Entry- Jeff Rawlings reported that they are meeting weekly. In April they approved six families with two more tentatively approved. They are case conferencing on coordinated entry calls now and trying to connect clients with housing and services.

Agency Reports

HAVEN, Caty Martin- One room is available. They have seen a decline in calls. HAVEN is having a hard time locating housing units, but all adults have been approved for Rapid Rehousing. They have a shortage of cleaning supplies.

Family Promise, Tamara Brogan- All families are currently staying at the day center, which is a change to the operational model. They are not sure when they can restart the church rotations.

Harbor, Kay Johnson- Domestic violence calls have been steady. They are trying to divert and provide resources whenever possible. They are looking into a lease agreement with a hotel in Johnston County.

United Way of Lee County, Kendra Martin- Apply for UW Emergency Funding by May 15.

Moore County Schools, Tambra Chamberlain- They have expanded their mission due to COVID and now are assisting youth who have become homeless due to the pandemic. They are trying to stabilize by offering services.

Anson County Schools, Kam McDonald- Social workers are assisting at food sites.

Richmond County Schools, Kim Childers- 167 students currently homeless in Richmond County Schools. 15 have been added to the list recently, but this is not necessarily due to the pandemic- there have been storms and fires too. Buses are delivering food along their route daily. They have been working with DSS on food stamps.

Adjournment- Marie Watson thanked everyone for their services during this unprecedented time.

Next meeting will be June 4, 2020 via Zoom