

REGION 7 Zoom Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2021

Attendance (40): Quiotti Ratliffe, Sandhills Center; Rachel Mann, City of Sanford; Tina Ray, JLHCA; Alexis Coleman, Lydia's Place; Catrina Martin, JLHCA; Kerry Bashaw, BCCDC; Hamer Carter, OMI; Kendra Martin, United Way; Brenda Goss, Sandhills Center; Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center; Priscilla Ward, OMI; Beth Lingerfeldt and Peggy Hendrix, Family Promise of Moore County; Kim Childers, Richmond County; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Stephanie Alford, Hoke County Schools; Nicholas Peak, Montgomery County DSS; Paul Tate, OMI; Ebony Sanders, Journey Rescue; Manuel Hyman, Alliance Health; Laura Spivey, OMI; Kim Ledford, Friend to Friend; Tami Carter, Lee County Senior Services; Winona Coveney, Friend to Friend; Tracy Staley, Lee Salvation Army; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA; Joy Maynor, Morning Glory Ministries; Britney Gibson, Johnston County Public Schools; Shelley Hudson, Cumberland HealthNet; Joey Mosley, Haven in Lee County; Tammy Chaney, Hoke DSS; Joy Smith, Harnett County; Susana Rodriguez, SAFE of Harnett; Nina Walker, Sandhills; Jeff Rawlings, JLHCA; Karen Kennedy, City of Sanford; Rasheeda Sturdivant, Trinity; Lesly Delgado, SAFE of Harnett County; Terafean Goodwin, Rockingham Housing; Kay Johnson, Harbor

1. **10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Unanimous approval of minutes
3. **Discuss BOS Meeting - Jeff Rawlings**

At the last Balance of State meeting, the new executive director of the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness was introduced. BoS discussed ESG grant issues (Some agencies declined awards). The group went over CoC grant information and gave a timeline for submissions. The racial equity subcommittee indicated they have finalized the racial equity dialogue series. There was discussion around the new data dashboard. The dashboard will break down demographics and numbers of people who are experiencing homelessness. It will give us a better understanding of what is actually happening in the Balance of State. Then, there was a broadband presentation and child tax credit presentation. People should apply for this program; There is an app that they can file through.

4. Vote PIT Lead – Jeff Rawlings

Kam McDonald nominated Cindy Hall (Lee County) for the regional PIT lead position. Donna McCormick seconded. There was unanimous approval. Cindy Hall was not at this meeting to accept the role; Jeff Rawlings will speak with her about her nomination.

5. ESG FUNDED AGENCY REPORTS

Friend to Friend, Kimberley Ledford- Completed the Butterfly Cottage and hoping to start serving clients there in November. Friend to Friend is currently at capacity.

Outreach Mission, Hamer Carter- OMI helped 29 clients throughout September. So far, they have assisted 272 clients this year, and they are on track to help 400 total. OMI launched a street outreach ministry and have volunteers helping with that. Dr. and Cindy Hall operate a street medicine ministry called H3; OMI is collaborating with this group. OMI is also starting a transportation route to bring

people experiencing homelessness to Sanford's day shelter, the Navigation Center. OMI will be managing the extreme weather shelter in Sanford this year. OMI is on schedule for spending their ESG funding.

Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.- Caty Martin, Lee: 3 clients in homelessness prevention, 16 RRH, 35 in ESG CV. Able to move in 3 people last month in CV, 1 in RRH. Kelly Hutchinson, Richmond, Montgomery, Moore and Randolph: 41 in Back@Home list, 19 housed total, ESG RRH 37, housed 17 to date this year. Joy Smith, Harnett: 3 clients moved in, 1 CV client, 2 CV clients pending move-in in October. 4 housed in RRH. 6 CV housed. Angela Jones, Johnston: 9 housed currently for RRH, 4 pending.
Safe of Harnett County, Susana Rodriguez- Safe is currently at capacity.

- 6. BCCDC Conversation, Kerry Bashaw-** Brick Capital Community Development Corporation (BCCDC) is a HUD housing counseling agency and developer of affordable housing located in Sanford, NC. Brick Capital recently submitted a CoC application to NCCEH for permanent supportive housing (PSH) funds for Region 7. This funding would create housing for 20 chronically homeless households. Currently, there is no PSH in the region. BCCDC needs to receive feedback from Region 7 on their application. If anyone has feedback on this application or agency, please contact Kerry. Jeff R asked if the PSH would just be for Lee County or for the entire region; Kerry said the resources will be located in Lee County, but they are willing to serve all nine counties in the region. Clients would have to come into Lee County to receive services. Jeff asked what the method of entry would be; Entry will be through coordinated entry. BCCDC will be getting more involved with the CE process. Also, BCCDC has a good partnership with Daymark and will be working closely with them for PSH. The rankings of CoC applications will be happening next week. Kerry will know soon if the application will move forward.

Committee Reports

Discuss SSO – Coordinated Entry – Jeffrey Rawlings- Jeff shared the coordinated entry dashboard that is used for RRH. It would be used for PSH as well. PSH has been missing from the table in this region. The nation is moving away from transitional housing. 377 households are in coordinated entry in the region right now. We are expecting a huge increase now that moratorium has ended. Seeing a slight uptick right now, but not a huge change yet because evictions haven't started in many counties. There are two ways in to Coordinated Entry: Call 211 in Lee County or call 910-984-1047 in other counties. Kendra M clarified that 211 is for Lee County only. For regular entry into coordinated entry other counties need to call the number that Jeff gave or email Jeff directly. Hopefully 211 will be statewide one day! Regional coordinated entry is open to all nine counties and anyone can call Jeff's number, but in Lee County the preferred method is to call 211. For anyone who is calling about Back@Home, they can call 211; 211 makes judgement about if client is applicable for Back@Home or not. If not, 211 will give clients general coordinated entry number. The client will not fall through the cracks either way; There is a safety net no matter who they call.

AGENCY REPORTS

Sandhills Center, Donna McCormick- Trying to find new private landlords, especially for clients with criminal backgrounds. Sandhills is adding Rockingham and Davidson county to the nine-county area. In the process of Medicaid transformation.

Anson County Schools, Kam McDonald- Currently, there are 22 McKinney Vento students. Staff is busy with Covid cases and assisting quarantining families. However, numbers of local Covid cases are down.

Johnston County Schools, Britney Gibson- Currently, there are 137 McKinney Vento students. Staff is looking into new funding sources for homeless youth and families in Johnston.

Richmond County Schools, Kim Childers- Currently, there are 54 McKinney Vento students.

Montgomery County Morning Glory Ministries, Joy Maynor- Trying to get volunteers from the community for the PIT Count. There will be a coat giveaway this Saturday, and one in Robbins next Saturday. Continuing to fundraise for the mobile shower.

Alliance, Manuel Hyman- Independent Living Initiative (ILI) Housing Assistance training for Johnston County behavioral health providers only (or other interested parties) is available in October and November. ILI funds assist with eviction prevention and startup costs... security deposit, first month's rent, utility deposit. Applicant or member of household must be actively engaged in an enhanced behavioral health service. Contact Manuel for more information. mhyman@alliancehealthplan.org

JLHCA, Tina Ray- Tina informed the group about a Johnston County pilot program. One month of rent *or* one month of utilities is available (but not both). Need proof of income for everyone in household, a picture ID, and other information to apply for program. Contact numbers: Johnston County- 919-934-2145, ask for Tanisha, Lois or Nicole. Lee County- 919-776-0746, ask for Linda. Tina also informed the group about a website where people can apply for free cellphones.

Family Promise of Moore County, Beth Lingerfeldt & Peggy Hendrix- Looking for affordable housing. One client moved out into housing recently.

Salvation Army of Lee County, Tracy Staley- There have been a lot of referrals from the Lee County School System for people who need hotels.

Sandhills, Nina Walker- Nine mainstream vouchers are still available. Any household that includes at least one disabled person is welcome to apply. Tandra Chamberlain's board is doing a survey to learn as much about the local homeless population as possible.

Harbor, Kay Johnson- Shout out to JLHCA for participating in Harbor's collaboration forum! Received feedback from people who were not aware of what the affordable housing and homelessness situation is really like. Looking into mitigating existing property. Currently still using non-congregate shelter.

Haven, Joey Mosley- Haven has been running at capacity for the last few months. Trying to find safe housing is biggest issue.

Emergency Housing Vouchers, Jeff R- Emergency Housing Vouchers are technically emergency Section 8 vouchers. The Department of Affairs received 400+ and have agreed to share with other counties who did not originally receive any. The vouchers are a first come, first serve basis. At our next meeting we will go over this further and discuss how to use these vouchers.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting – November 4, 2021