Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 11/8/12

Members Present

Shari Wright Housing Thru Connections
Heather Pack CCC&TI
Larry McMullen VTAB
Linda O’Connell Veterans
Sharon Osborne Yokefellow
Paul Powell Connections BWB
Autumn Hight WPCOG Section 8
Linda Pitts WPCOG Section 8
Sharon Poarch Shelter Home
Mindy Watson McDowell Mission
Bill Warren McDowell Mission

# Introductions: Shari Wright asked for Introductions.

1. **Review of Minutes:** Shari W. asked for everyone to review July minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Larry McMullen and seconded by Sharon Poarch.
2. **Announcements/Discussion:**
	1. **Fiscal Agent Search-**Have to find a fiscal agent for the ESG by next year. Bill Warren reported they have not received their contracts; Larry McMullen confirmed. They reported it will probably be a few more weeks, possibly December. Bill W. explained that the fiscal agent would be contracting with the state and subcontracting with each of us. We are unsure of the funding amount as of right now. The funding is for Alexander, Caldwell, and McDowell counties. The shelters that have been approved are for Caldwell and McDowell counties. Alexander county homeless population typically comes to Caldwell. The shelters are filling up fast. Kwanzaa said they could pull out cots to help accommodate the need in an emergency. Larry M. said they could use the National Guard armory, but they have to go through the emergency management procedures. Lenoir Emergency Outreach Shelter will open mid-December; but they don’t open until 8 or 9 p.m. Sharon Osborne reported having discussed the option of a day shelter with the board of the Soup Kitchen. Sharon Poarch reported there is a possible move for the Soup Kitchen. WPCOG could possibly come in on this with us and help with the Fiscal Agent need. Linda Pitts is going to investigate. The issue could be that McDowell is out of the jurisdiction, but not impossible. The Fiscal Agent will only be responsible for the new funding not the previous funding. The Fiscal Agent will not have to mediate who gets what money; that is predetermined in the application process. Linda P. will let us know by Monday if the WPCOG can be the Fiscal Agent.
	2. **Point in Time Count-**January 30, 2013, Wednesday. McDowell County has done well in getting their numbers; Caldwell County has not done as well. Caldwell goes to the shelters and used the local law enforcement, which has not been successful because the homeless population typically run from the law enforcement. Larry M. reported we can do the count at another time where they were on January 30 and we can count “couch travelers” now. Larry M. also said to count veterans, divided by gender and age. Sharon O. said the school system is keeping much better records using the new definition of homeless. Larry M. recommends going to the county commissioners and the city to help take the count seriously. This will help in funding for them. Sharon O. recommends bringing a partner to the table (i.e. soup kitchen representative, school system, county, etc.). Bill W. recommends Street Outreach, MIS, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, etc. Sharon O. said there are large sums of Duke Energy Share Holder money to help with deposits, etc. and she has a list. Shari W. said to bring that information to the table. As of last week, the domestic violence victims of Alexander county are being served by Caldwell Shelter Home. Shari W. suggested after the Point in Time Count to put together a booklet of resources available in the various counties. Autumn Hight recommended using 211 because paper resources become out-dated so quickly. Another issue is where can the mentally ill homeless go? The majority of shelters don’t want to deal with those with mental illness. Larry M. pointed out that Grace House (Hickory) moved this week and if the temperature drops below 32 degrees, they can open beds. Bill W. said they don’t take anyone with a disability and if they have mental illness, it depends. They try not to take those with mental illness. They use RHA to help figure out where to send those with mental illness. The liabilities are too high to take disabilities and possible mental illness. Larry M. reported it’s Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week (next week) and Catawba is doing a forum and informing those about the Point of Time Count. Caldwell county has nothing planned. Shari W. has a brochure from Melissa Ledbetter about the Point of Time Count. She wants to double check it before sending it out. Balance of State created website for each Continuum of Care group, but ours has no information on it. HUDHRE.info for more information. We also need to figure out how to count Alexander County. DSS, school systems, churches, Second Harvest Food bank resources, and crisis outreach. Bill W. recommends reading the instructions for the Point of Time Count before our December meeting. Also, bring any resources to the next meeting and possible partners.
	3. **Changing meeting time-**To bring more people to the table, we may need to change the meeting time. We may also need to meet what day we meet to not compete with other agency meetings.
3. **Agency Updates:**
	1. **Housing Thru Connections**-Traffic has picked up in Lenoir. Currently doing substance abuse counseling and have family therapy as well. Accepting multiple insurances. They also do medication management (with psychiatrist is in Charlotte via Skype). Ability to service any county within Smokey Mountain, but focusing on Caldwell, Alexander, and McDowell. MCO is allowing other agencies to help.
	2. **WPCOG-**
	3. **Yokefellow-**Duke Energy Shareholder Funds have become very helpful to assist with “large messes”. They are at capacity; having building issues. They are undergoing long range planning; a revisioning. They are giving out of 25,000 lbs. of food each month. They are only open 22 hours a week. There are 2 satellite food pantries (Oak Hill and Kings Creek). Next Saturday they will be doing Scouting for Food.
	4. **VTAB**-$11,500 last month from Greater Catawba Realty Association (Golf Tournament). That money went to Veterans Transitional Home. Every Wed. they meet with needy veterans at Grace House for an evening meal. Lt. Governor has made it his mission to help veterans and their education.
	5. **McDowell Mission**-
	6. **CCC&TI-**nothing to report
	7. **Shelter Home-**They are expanding to a 41 bed capacity to be completed May 31, 2013. Now also receiving funding for serving Alexander county domestic violence victims. 25% of victims have not been from Caldwell County.

Next meeting December 13, 2012.

Minutes submitted by Heather Pack.