Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 12/13/12

Members Present

Shari Wright BWB Connections
Heather Pack CCC&TI
Autumn Hight WPCOG Section 8
Sharon Poarch Shelter Home
Mindy Watson McDowell Mission
Bill Warren McDowell Mission
Don Bushman Caldwell Healthnet Collab.
Sarah McBrayer Smoky Mtn.

# Introductions: Shari Wright asked for Introductions.

1. **Review of Minutes:** Shari W. asked for everyone to review November minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Sharon Poarch and seconded by Bill Warren.
2. **Announcements/Discussion:**
	1. Point in Time Count-What do we need to do to get a more accurate count? Bill Warren said in the past it’s has been whatever law enforcement can find and going to the 2-3 shelters for their numbers that day. They have not been aggressive in the past to find the homeless population. Sharon Poarch reported that we’ve used law enforcement, Larry McMullen with the Veterans, the soup kitchen, and the shelters in the past for Caldwell County. Sharon P. asked if we could count the under 18 population now? The school counselors are the ones reporting the teenage numbers. Bill W. suggested doing a blanket drive to try to get a count. Sharon P. suggested using South Caldwell Christian Ministries and Yokefellow because they are a non-threatening point of contact. Shari W. suggested using Huffman Mills to donate socks. Bill W. said there was going to be another webinar about the point in time count, hudHRE.info, on Dec. 17th at 2 p.m. that will last an hour. We only need to verify they were homeless on the date of the point of time count. Sharon P. said there were buildings of clothing, blankets, etc. from the Stand Down last year and they may be willing to donate to help with the point in time count. Sharon P. said last year they met a month before with law enforcement and other agencies to get everyone on board for the Point in Time count. We have 10 days to gather the information for the count. Sharon P. is also working with Alexander County to determine their count. Bill W. said they are reporting on a variety of different areas, not just single homeless people. The count determines certain budget aspects of money coming into our counties. Shari W. is suggesting we do our count on Jan. 26. Sharon P. reminded us that it needs to be attached to a food event. Shari W. suggests that next week we gather blankets, socks, etc. and conference call together on Dec. 27th.
3. **Agency Updates:**
	1. **Housing Thru Connections**- Kwanzaa Inn is having a vigil at the square in downtown Lenoir Saturday, December 15, from 12-2.
	2. **WPCOG-** nothing to report
	3. **McDowell Mission**- Bill W. is happy to announce they have assistance with county grant writers to do some major projects at the McDowell Mission. They also have another grant to rid the asbestos from the building.
	4. **CCC&TI-**nothing to report
	5. **Shelter Home-** nothing to report
	6. **Smoky Mtn.-** nothing to report
	7. **Caldwell Healthnet Collaborative-** nothing to report

Next meeting Dec. 27th.

Minutes submitted by Heather Pack.