**Alamance County Interagency Council for Homelessness**

**February 4, 2013**

Present: Jan Bowman, ABSS; Kim Braxton, RTSA; Kim Crawford, Allied Churches; Suellyn Dalton, volunteer; Maseta Dorley, Cardinal Innovations; Donna Hodges, Allied Churches; Wendy Lewis, Salvation Army; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Heidi Norwick, United Way; Jashella Sessoms, PSI; Jackie Sheffield, Burlington Police Department; Shawna Tillery, City of Burlington; Clara Trollinger, volunteer; Calvetta Watlington, Family Abuse Services; Leo Welsh, Allied Churches; Robin Wintringham, Habitat for Humanity.

The meeting was called to order by Leo Welsh, President. Leo introduced the new Executive Director for Allied Churches, Kim Crawford, following which all members present identified themselves and the agency whom they represent.

The minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jackie Sheffield and seconded by Robin Wintringham. The minutes were approved as distributed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Point in Time Count: The Point in Time count was conducted as directed. It was noted that, while Loaves and Fishes does serve homeless individuals, they report no homeless individuals on January 30th. Jackie Sheffield will make a follow-up call to Brenda Ingle to confirm this information. It was mentioned that the CHIN report for that day at Allied Churches did not match the actual count. Elizabeth Lockley of CHIN pointed out that there is a method to help isolate those individuals who need to be exited if need to improve data quality for the Point in Time count report. Robin Wintringham reported that she was welcomed at the Piedmont Rescue Mission and received their assistance in conducting the Point in Time count at this agency. Gloria McCauley, from God Did It, contacted Jackie Sheffield and picked-up their Point in Time count forms. Ms. McCauley expressed her desire to be more involved in the efforts of ACICHA but it is difficult given the locations of her facilities. Jackie stated she will check with Living Free Ministries regarding their homeless count on the night of January 30th. Heidi gave Jackie the contact information for Jay and Kristy Doss who operate this program. Information regarding the count in Alamance County will be distributed after tallying is complete.

**Program Updates**

Family Abuse Services: They have one open bed for a single person. Four individuals found housing in the last week and have left the shelter. ESG money is expected soon.

Salvation Army: The need for food assistance has increased tremendously with the closing of the Lexington Ave. location of Loaves and Fishes for renovations. They hope to restock their supplies using a grant from WalMart and are waiting on the 2nd quarter shipment from ESP.

Food Pantry at ACC: Suellyn Dalton reminded folks that Alamance Community College has a food bank for the students there. This food bank is running low on stock with the main source for refilling their shelves being staff contributions.

CHIN: Elizabeth Lockley brought and distributed the Data Quality reports for November. There have been some glitches in producing this report. CHIN hopes to be back on track this month and will run December and January reports soon. Elizabeth noted that bed utilization appears very high. All CHIN users are asked to exit those who need to be exited. If you need help in knowing who needs to be exited, please contact the CHIN help desk. Please note that, if you have a bed utilization score of 125% or higher, you receive an HMIS score of zero.

Cardinal Innovations/Shelter+Care: Maseta Dorley noted that Cardinal Innovations staff are running financials as they receive applications to ensure monies are being spent as needed. There is also an effort underway to clean up the bed utilization data for the Shelter+Care program. Maseta has received training regarding the ART reporting feature and has received an email from CHIN for program administrators to clean up their data.

United Way: Heidi Norwick stated that Ruth has sent to agencies the request regarding the EFSP second round of funding. Heidi referenced an article in the Times News of last week regarding the changes in applying through DSS for utility assistance. She will forward the link to this article via email. The article outlines that, while these monies were for DSS clients only, this is now (as of February 1st) available to all who qualify for payment of past due utility bills and/or heating/cooling needs.

Alamance Burlington School System: Jan Bowman stated that the ABSS homeless numbers are ridiculously high—600+. There are currently a lot of families in crisis. Owing utilities monies is a huge issue in housing. There are a lot of double-ups. Jan gave information regarding a new program at Sylvan Elementary School: Piedmont Health Services. Through this program, a Nurse Practitioner provides services to students and to the community—for insured, non-insured, Medicaid, Medicare. This service is primarily for direct care—trauma, illness, healthy female care, etc. Individuals can receive on-site prescriptions at a cost of $3, $5, and/or $7 each. There’s another such service at Eastlawn. NC WYSE and database containing homeless information are integrated now allowing for more efficient and prompt organization of transportation needs and child nutrition needs.

City of Burlington: Shawna Tillery announced the public hearing being held at the Municipal building tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. to hear from those who have applied for CDBG/HOME funding. Included in the requests for funding are the Hall Ave roof (40 yr architectural shingles); Allied Churches’ parking lot pavement improvements (front and back) as well as correcting the structural sinking of the structure on one side; and, books for the North Park library. Shawna will send a schedule of upcoming public hearings for distribution o the ACICHA mailing list. She is doing a presentation to the Council tomorrow regarding CDBG funding. Shawna pointed out that next year is the last year of our current Consolidated Plan. Writing of the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan will begin next year.

Allied Churches: Kim Crawford is new Exec Director and is moving here from Duluth, MN. Today is her 1st day at Allied Churches. She was Director of Life House—saw approx. 650 unduplicated youth (14-20) each year—providing housing, employment and mental health services there. Kim wants to get to know all of us and will be contacting folks in the near future.

Update from Leo Welsh: February 5th is the start date for the homeless prevention/rapid rehousing piece and they will be interviewing clients for rapid rehousing. The way the money came down it can be 7 families or 11 individuals for 1 year of housing assistance. The program is looking to help the most chronically homeless, at risk people out there without demanding their participation in services. Participating individuals can only make $11K continuing up to a family of 4 having an annual income of $18,000 or less. The intent of this money is to help folks maintain housing for a year, rather than subsidizing for 3 months and then becoming homeless again. They will start with Section 8 housing and go from there. The requirements for participation are that they be chronically homeless, meet the income requirements, and that they be asked if home visits can be made. Allied Churches is their own fiscal agent for these monies. Many of the ACICHA members present were concerned regarding the success of this program without the requirement that those receiving housing participate in services, i.e., assistance with employment/access to benefits, mental health counseling as needed, emphasis on educational needs, etc. Leo reiterated that the directive regarding this money is to house individuals for one year.

The shelter currently has openings for women and children in a brand-new hardwood facility. There is also room for women without children. The men’s side is remaining near capacity.

Shelter+Care: Maseta Dorley reported that there were 5 vouchers that have been filled—3 in January, one this past Saturday, and one this coming week. There are at least 3 new vouchers but we’d like to not put people in right now with the end of the grant nearing and match remaining at 100% for now.

Burlington Development Corporation: HOPE/STEPS are being taken care of by Pamela Holley in Nikki’s absence. No information was reported today regarding these programs.

ACICHA’s 501(c)3 Status: After the Point in Time count is complete, the subcommittee working on the 501(c)3 status of ACICHA plans to meet. The County established the ACICHA group as the designated group for the funneling of any homeless monies. We are incorporated and have a legal status with the state. The next part of this was to become a 501(c)3. Originally it was thought that if ACICHA was a 501(c)3, it could apply for and distribute grant funding. There is some question regarding the need now for ACICHA to become a 501(c)3 and the potential liability this would create for members of the ACICHA group. From discussion, it is evident that this topic needs further discussion and consideration. Therefore, this will be the main topic of discussion at the March 4th meeting. It was strongly felt that it would be helpful for a representative of the County to be present at this next meeting. Robin Wintringham will ask Jason Martin, Planning Director for the County, to attend.

**OTHER NEWS**

Clara Trollinger has been chosen as a representative for the regional CFAC.

The meeting was adjourned to meet again on March 4, 2013.