**Kerr-Tar Coalition to End Homelessness/Regional Housing Committee**

**H. Leslie Perry Library Henderson, NC**

**Minutes**

**August 27, 2013**

Attendees: Angela Harris: Harbour House, Ben Foti-Kerr Tar COG, Cassandra Hart-VCDSS, Craig Thorpe-HPD, Gertie Crute-J-Jireh Services, Jacquetta Bullock-New Direction Ministries, Jamie Neal-Franklin County Schools, Joel Rice-Community liaison, Kanika Turrentine-Infinite Possibilities, Inc (Regional Lead), Kim McCowan- ARC-ATT, Renale Giles-Safe Space, Lt. Irvin Robinson-HPD, Michael Bobbitt- Red Cross, Felicia Gregory- F-V-W Opp, Inc., Karen Foster- Kerr Tar COG, Brenda Gant- Eden Enterprises, Ashely Evans-Reaching Your Goals, Inc., Claudia Amoah-Reaching Your Goals, Inc., Tameka Gunn-Community Link, Patricia Bryant-Community Link

Meeting was called to order by K. Turrentine. New attendees were welcomed and introduced.

May and July meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the committee members.

**CoC Member Agreement**

Member agreement was presented to all members and asked to be submitted by September meeting. Members were also encouraged to submit partnership agreement with BoS if they have not done so.

**Updates from the Balance of State Steering Committee**:

Upcoming sub-committee calls were mentioned, 9/17/2013 at Data Quality Subcommittee meeting at 10:30am for all CHIN users and 9/24 for RRH committee members. Committee types were reviewed and members were reminded to join a committee if they hadn’t done so already.

**SOAR overview: What is SOAR?**

Mrs. Jacquetta Bullock presented and distributed information about SOAR and its benefits to homeless individuals who working a full-time job is not an option because of some type of disability. The processes for completing SOAR cases as mentioned by Mrs. Bullock is 90 day window and she has been successful in the cases she’s worked.

There are 2 trained SOAR workers in the Kerr-Tar area: J. Bullock and Gertie Crute.

As of July 15 2013 in Vance County, 2 cases and 2 approvals with an average of 37 days between completion of application and determination.

**Presentation:**

Mr. Spencer Cook- Regional Housing Specialist Cardinal Innovations-

New Regional Housing Specialist for Cardinal Innovations introduced himself and talked briefly about the new processes for sending referrals for Shelter Plus Care and Community Capacity. Contact information was given for Mr. Cook and committee members shared concerns of the time frames for getting such requests handled.

Community Links- Tameka Gunn-

Community Link was introduced as the new contracted provider of services for Shelter Plus Care in collaboration with Cardinal Innovations. Mrs. Gunn introduced the temporary Housing Coordinator filling that role as Mrs. Patricia Bryant who will be completing tasks until permanent staff is hired in this area. Mrs. Gunn shared history of Community Link, its programs and services offered out of its Charlotte office including- Single Family Rehab, Tenant Education, Financial Literacy, VITA and more. She shared that Community Link’s role in the Kerr-Tar area would be to carry out the duties of Housing Coordination with Shelter Plus Care. The Housing Coordinator would be responsible for housing search and placement with those who had been approved for SPC through the Housing Specialist, negotiation of rental prices, tenant education, etc. Mrs. Gunn and Mrs. Bryant expressed they would work with referring providers and would make contact with providers regarding the processes and customers.

**Reports:**

**Infinite Possibilities, Inc. - Rapid Re-housing**

To date 27 clients had been served by RRH and referrals were still being accepted**.** Criteria applicant must be homeless according to Category 1 or Category 4 of HUD’s definition of homelessness. Providers must make the referral.

**Shelter Plus Care**

The newly awarded SPC has 20 slots for homeless individuals and/or families. Criteria applicant must be homeless according to Category 1 or Category 4 of HUD’s definition of homelessness and have a disability. All SPC referrals must be sent to Housing Specialist, Housing Specialist will then forward application to Community Link to begin housing search and placement for client. It was also discussed that a letter would be sent to provider and client disclosing approval.

**Target Units**

Agency participation agreement were distributed for those interested in becoming a referring provider for targeting program directly with NCDHHS. Springwood apartments does have target units available. Eligibility criteria- HOH disabled with disability income.

**Emergency Shelters**

Community Partners of Hope Men’s Shelter is scheduled to open in November in the basement of First Presbyterian Church with 10 available beds, on a nightly first come – first serve basis. The new location on the corner of Horner and Chestnut will offer a transitional program for men is scheduled to open soon. Volunteers are needed.

Safe Space, Inc. Domestic Violence shelter reported it does have available beds.

Harbour House (Men and Women) - currently no vacancies

Kanika shared the recent closing of Heart’s Haven in Vance County will have a direct impact on our neighboring counties and has left Vance without a housing option for women and children.

**The following topics drew discussion from committee members and remain open for solutions:**

1. Problem: Clients dropping out of services and keeping them engaged in services.

**Updates/Announcement/Needs**

K. Foster (Kerr-Tar COG) and F. Gregory (F-V-W Opp., Inc.) both discussed available services within their respective organizations and the Neighborhood Stabilization Project

No other announcements/updates were shared.

Meeting was closed by Kanika Turrentine