**Alamance County Interagency Council for Homeless Assistance**

**December 2, 2013**

**Present**: Jan Bowman, ABSS; Kim Braxton, RTSA; Kim Crawford, ACAC; Jaren Doby, BHA; Wendy Lewis, Salvation Army; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Heidi Norwick, United Way; Nikki Ratliff, BHA/BDC; Jackie Sheffield, BDC; Jimmy Taylor, Salvation Army; Shawna Tillery, City of Burlington; Robin Wintringham, Habitat for Humanity .

Kim Crawford called the meeting to order. Minutes of the November meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Robin Wintringham, with a second by Heidi Norwick. The minutes were approved as distributed.

**City of Burlington**: Shawna Tillery from the City of Burlington discussed how the City is working with the Alamance County Human Relations Commission regarding a Fair Housing Summit being held in February in conjunction with the United Way. There will be another meeting in December to set a date and the City will provide a location. The City is working with other municipalities to complete a Fair Housing Assessment prior to submitting their Consolidated Plan. There will be 5 members of this community to meet with the committee to develop the assessment to be completed in August 2014. They will have a consultant in place in January. The City is conducting this process regionally due to HUD’s movement towards regionalism, and to get a better product with larger participation and the use of a consultant. High Point will be the lead entity. The Fair Housing Assessment will focus more on economics, transportation, social issues, and how we can position ourselves to know this data in a better way to help those people who are not receiving housing as they should. This document, with completion by August, will be in place in time for the Community Assessment that United Way does. A draft is expected in May/June 2014. Also, the CDBG deadline was in November. The main applications submitted were from ACAC—which are being reviewed by an engineer at this time.

**Project Homeless Connect (PIT Day of Service for Homeless and those in Need)**: Heidi Norwick announced that the United Way Income Division of the Community Council has agreed to work on this as a project. A subcommittee will be formed to discuss and plan this; they will contact the folks from Pine Ridge. The first meeting will be Friday, December 13, at 10:00 a.m. at the United Way building. All interested parties are invited to participate.

**Habitat for Humanity**: Robin has a family in need with many issues and concerns, including eviction. She referred to them to ACAC, Cardinal Innovations, GHA, and BHA. They will be evicted from their home on 12/4/13. The group discussed that, when we receive calls like this we should send them to ACAC for shelter first and they’ll talk with them about their other needs.

**CHIN**: Elizabeth Lockley announced that the APR report that was updated recently has undergone a revision and a new one has been implemented. If you have an APR due soon, run a new APR report in CHIN. The problem was interim assessments. The group offered thanks to the CHIN Help Desk for the wonderful, friendly help they provide no matter when you call.

**Balance of State:** Kim Braxton reviewed the minutes of the November 5, 2013, Balance of State Steering Committee with the group. Kim distributed copies of the 2013 Balance of State Services Survey and asked all who are service agencies within the Continuum of Care to complete the survey online as soon as possible.

**Feeding the Hungry**: There were 2,300 people fed through the Salvation Army in November. A meeting has been scheduled Ron Shive of First Presbyterian Church to challenge all churches to remember the hungry, where Salvation Army and ACAC can come and present regarding the feeding programs they’ve been doing. Twin Lakes’ “Lanes of Light” will split their food donations 50/50 with ACAC and Salvation Army. Last year they collected 22 tons of food. The Salvation Army polled the 450 families who they served last month, and of them, approximately 400 families were brand new. SAFE is feeding up to 500 families each month. “The previous food distribution center” placed limitations on whom they would serve. People seem to be more aware now of available help. There is fear that this will end after the holidays. SA is expecting to receive rental assistance money to help individuals remain housed for 30 days, one time only, for rent or mortgage. There are still Duke Energy money available for up to $200 towards bills to be paid. They can also do this for natural gas up to $200. Has to have some residents from Haw River and Mebane to be used for utilities, heating fuel, etc. SA wants us to send these folks to them. If there’s a balance above $200 it must be paid before Wendy sees them. No new Rapid Rehousing money until January.

**Affordable Care Act**: Legal Aid has certified Navigators that are Family Justice Center on Wednesdays and they will come to a location if there are a large group of folks that need their assistance. The County will also be adding some Navigators. To have it in effet 1/1/14 they must sign up by 12/23/13.

**Heating Assistance**: Jackie Sheffield has been receiving calls from a local minister regarding heating assistance—small heaters, wood for wood heaters, etc. We can direct calls such as this to the Salvation Army. Individuals can also use 211 to find sources of energy assistance. Salvation Army has money available for water bills, etc., of under $50.

**HOPE & STEPS**: Hope has 3 slots available; STEPS has 4 participating families with no slots available. The 4th family will be in need of furniture, etc. There remains no matching money with which to pursue renewal of these projects through HUD. Shawna Tillery has agreed to coordinate a meeting with the City to see if matching funds can be received--$20,000 is required for the supportive services match. STEPS is a transitional program. If they could get the matching money, they would look at making this project permanent housing.

**RTSA:** The current grant ends 1/31/14 but the HUD NOFA deadline is not until 2/3/14 so the program will be operating without funding while awaiting word on renewal funding. RTSA is discussing how to cover expenses in the interim.

**ABSS**: There are 560 kids in the ABSS right now who are homeless or double-ups; there were 760 at the end of last year. Jan Bowman is working to get tutors at the ACAC Shelter and then conduct a summer enrichment program at the Shelter in the summer. Jan would hope to have a Monday-Thursday schedule for this program.

**Announcements:**

The Salvation Army has their annual concert on 12/20 with an entry fee of 2 cans of canned food. There was a suggestion that the Salvation Army add flyers to the table at Community Council.

ACICHA will need to determine a new Chair for 2014 as Kim Crawford’s new duties related to the food pantry and distribution at ACAC require her attention at this time. We will revisit this at the January meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Heidi Norwick with a second by Robin Wintringham.

ACICHA will meet again on January 6, 2014, at 2:00p at the Habitat for Humanity Administrative Office.