Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 9/19/13

Members Present

Shari Wright BWB Connections
Heather Pack CCC&TI
Larry McMullen VTAB
Francis Johnson National Guard

Sharon Osborne Yokefellow

# Introductions: Introductions were by-passed in the interest of saving time.

1. **Review of Minutes:** Shari W. asked for everyone to review August minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Larry McMullen and seconded by Sharon Osborne.
2. **Agency Updates:**
	1. **Yokefellow**-Sharon O. apologized for her absence because of how busy Yokefellow has been. Sharon O. is requesting help to excavate a senior’s apartment to avoid them getting evicted. New Interim Housing Director contact, Laiton Woodcock, has been very helpful. Yokefellow has a blueprint for a homeless shelter. It won’t be up and running this winter, but the city is committed to supporting Yokefellow managing this new center. Conversations are happening in regards to addressing homeless issues in the county. They will refurbish a building on West Ave.
	2. **VTAB-**ABCCM doesn’t have a current contact. Larry M. is encouraging to have a daytime shelter. Larry M. is looking into doctors and social workers to contract to have a space in the county to serve veterans. Tomorrow (20th) is POW/MIA Recognition Day.
3. **Planning for National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week (Nov. 16-24):**
	1. Location—Can’t be at CCC&TI, but could possibly you Broyhill Civic Center for the forum (Tuesday, Nov. 19). Sharon O. suggested downtown Lenoir, but Larry M.’s concern is involvement from the southern end of the county. Larry M.’s going to talk to First United Methodist in Granite Falls about being involved and helping transport people from that end of the county to the event on Sat. Sharon O. will take care of getting a permit to hold event downtown. College Ave. would be a good street to use.
	2. Activities—Hickory is sponsoring a play that is being utilized by another county as well. We could access them while they’re in the area. Larry M. will work on getting play/forum together. Sharon O. said they would provide a food pantry. She also suggested getting groups to have a night to experience a night of homelessness (Friday night cardboard village(s)), like youth groups that have done this in the Hickory area. Cook Stadium would be a good location. Frances Johnson will help with promoting to the high schools and around county. Forum will be people who have been/are homeless and those involved with serving the population (Sharon O., Sharon Poarch, counselor to address substance abuse, etc.). Sharon O. suggested Fr. Mike Cogsdale to moderate forum event. Generating good questions will be key. Possibly asking people to fill out a slip of paper when they come through the door. Sharon O. suggested we start promoting the Point In Time count during this week. Shari W. suggested doing a pre-count during the event to compare to numbers in January. Larry M. suggested having the Soup Kitchen involved in helping serve (at least) unless they would like to prepare as well.
	3. Deciding on new name/logo—Foothills Coalition for Hunger and Homelessness

We need to come together in 2 weeks to finalize details: Oct. 3rd; location TBD at 10 a.m.

Next regular meeting October 17th.

Minutes submitted by Heather Pack