**Henderson County Homeless Coalition**

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

at the Eleanora W. Meloun Community Education Room

at Blue Ridge Community Health Centers

2579 Chimney Rock Rd

Hendersonville, NC 28792

**Present: Anita Oldham, Hugh Rutledge, Jenny Simmons, Connie Stewart, Austin Watson, Erica Woodall, Diana Brow, Brian Alexander, Emily Balcken, Missy Blackwell, Troy Bradley, Kathleen Carr, Kristi Case, Sandy Cavanaugh, David Cook, Christine Craft, Ariana DeTore-Forlenza, Brice Eidson, Trina Hill, Kathleen Lambert, Sarah Lancaster, Marian Lowry, Susan Maybin, Kathaleen McWilliams**

* **Introductions and Agency Updates**

 *WCCA* – Still has funds to help low-income families get into housing.

 *Homeward Bound of WNC* – Permanent Supportive Housing program is up and running. It is for

 people who are chronically homeless and disabled. Frank Dumont is the contact for this program.

 His office is on Spartanburg Hwy. frank@homewardboundwnc.org. HB will receive $40,000 in HOME

 funds from the city of Hendersonville for Rapid Re-Housing this fall (September/October). Robin

 Hellman is the contact for this program. robin@homewardboundwnc.org.

 *Henderson County Churches Uniting* – “Homes for Youth” program has started to help homeless youth

 identified through the school system.

 *Joseph’s Outreach Ministries* – Involved in HOME to HOME program at Homeward Bound and

 different Feeding Programs in Henderson County. Waiting on a building permit from the city of

 Hendersonville to begin a Day Center. They are interested in finding out what services people

 experiencing homelessness say they need at the Day Center.

 *Housing Assistance Corporation* - Henderson County Board of Commissioners denied zoning request

 for the new proposed property. HAC thanks everyone for their support of this project.

 *Hendersonville Housing Authority* – New director, Diana Brow, since October. HHA staff are

 glad to be attending HCHC again.

 *Interfaith Assistance Ministry –* Seeing a 7% increase in requests for food this year, 15% increase in

 need for clothing; and 109 1st time clients this year. Shared disappointment in Commissioners’ decision

 last night not to approve zoning change for the Housing Assistance Corporation property.

 *HELP* – Thus far HELP has identified 300 homeless students this school year. 80 of these students are

 unaccompanied youth. Beginning next school year, will start to look for patterns with the 80

 unaccompanied youth through an informal survey with these students. Results would help inform

 service provision. Noted the closing of Alpine Woods and the need to relocate families.

* **Approval of April 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Trina Hill asked for a motion to approve minutes. Anita Oldham made the motion, seconded by Sandy Cavanaugh; carried by common consent.

* **Balance of State Steering Committee Update (Brian Alexander)**

Reviewed Balance of State 79 county region 2014 Point-In-Time Count. Between 2013 and 2014, there was a 12% decrease in the overall number of people experiencing homelessness. There was a 17% increase in number of people in shelter and a 41% decrease in the unsheltered count. Keep in mind there was a snow storm in the piedmont and eastern parts of North Carolina the date of the count. Some communities were simply not able to get out to conduct a street count and more people were sheltered because of the weather. There was a 35% decrease in those experiencing chronic homelessness, a 12% decrease in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness, and a 22% decrease in families experiencing homelessness. In Henderson County, our Point-In-Time Count dropped 14% from 2013 to 2014. This data can be reviewed at [www.ncceh.org/PITdata](http://www.ncceh.org/PITdata).

Sub-Committee Information:

1. Rapid Re-Housing: Conference call is quarterly on the 3rd Friday of March, June, September, and December at10:30am.
2. Permanent Supportive Housing: Conference call is quarterly on the 2nd Monday of February, May, August, and November at 10:30am.
3. Data Quality: Conference call is bi-monthly on the 4th Monday of January, March, July, September, and November at 10:30am. May’s call is on the last Thursday of the month at 10:30am.

At this time there are no recordings of these calls. To register go to <http://www.ncceh.org/events/month>, click on the call you want to attend and follow the registration process.

* **Coordinated Assessment Update and Video (Brian Alexander)**Watched a HUD video on Coordinated Assessment. This video can be viewed at <http://prezi.com/wnyhynaotpo3/continuum-of-cares-coordinated-assessment-system>. Also handed out a 2-page information sheet on Coordinated Assessment from NCCEH Balance of State.

The HCHC will continue the work on Coordinated Assessment through the Coordinated Assessment Sub-Committee. If you are interested in being a part of this group and if you are a stakeholder in the homeless service system you are strongly encouraged to be a part of this group, we will begin to meet at 9am in the conference room at the Blue Ridge Community Health Center prior to the HCHC meetings at 10am. Coordinated Assessment must be up and running by January 2015, we have time to work on this implementation, but also a lot of work to do. The system will not be perfect when it starts and can be tweaked overtime. The plan developed by the sub-committee will be brought to the HCHC for a vote for approval. Sometime over the summer, NCCEH will set up training with HCHC and other western North Carolina Regional Committees. This training will give us the opportunity to learn along with our neighboring communities. The system developed should consist of 3 parts: 1) prevention and diversion; 2) pre-screening (using the VI-SPDAT – Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool); and 3) assessment. It will be client-centered instead of program-centered.

There was some discussion about Coordinated Assessment. Some are concerned about vital agencies in the homeless service system not willing to participate. Others are concerned about assessing individuals for housing that Henderson County does not have. Others shared their excitement for a system that will have agencies work together for the best interest of clients.

* **HMIS/CHIN Governance Committee**

Agencies receiving HUD funding are required to use HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). HMIS produces the AHAR (Annual Homeless Assessment Report) that goes to Congress. Funding for homeless housing services has not decreased because of HMIS data which shows progress being made to end homelessness. North Carolina’s HMIS is CHIN (Carolina Homeless Information Network) through the NC Housing Coalition. The NC Continuums of Care are formally responsible for HMIS/CHIN through a governance committee. A study by Focus Strategies last year suggested that CHIN is too expensive for what it is producing. The governance committee issued an RFP because of this cost and other concerns. CHIN will continue to operate HMIS through the end of the year. There may be a change in the lead agency operating HMIS by 2015. Contact Brian Alexander for more information and if your agency is interested in beginning to use HMIS.

* **Next Meeting – June 10, 2014 10:00 am with Coordinated Assessment Sub-Committee Meeting at 9am.**