**Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 4/17/2014**

Foothills Homeless Coalition

April 17th, 2014

Caldwell County DSS

**Members Present**

Larry McMullen VTAB

Savannah Honeycutt Family Services of McDowell County, Inc.

Jennifer Beaty Family Services of McDowell County, Inc.

April Davis Caldwell Co. DSS

Dalea Sneed Lenoir Housing Authority

Don Bushman Yokefellow

Frances Johnson National Guard

Angela Battle KFI – Dulatown Outreach

E.B. Freeman Jr. KFI – Dulatown Outreach

Lisa Lawson Smokey Mountain Center

Lori Watts Smokey Mountain Center

Discussion about December minutes, members present, and getting minutes together for that meeting.

1. **Introductions**: Sharon Osborne welcomed those present.
2. Defining out Purpose and Mission: Discussion of developing a plan for our communities to end homelessness. It will be important to find out who is willing to contribute to creating this plan, possibly using small subgroups to work on specific issues. Discussion of the 4 points that as a Continuum of Care: outreach, intake, and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent and permanent supportive housing. Sharon requested that everyone brings their own idea of what they would like the CoC to be, so that we as a group can create our vision and mission statement at the May meeting. Don and Dalea volunteered to look at other Counties CoC Homeless plans to allow us to refer to those plans.
3. **May** **Meeting**: Next meeting will be held May 15th at Caldwell County DSS building in the 3rd floor training room @ 1:00pm. Special Guest – Corey Root, NC Coalition to End Homelessness.
4. **Hunger and Homelessness Event**: Event will possibly be held November 17 – 21, 2014. Sharon O. mentioned that we need a subcommittee of volunteers for this event. Larry mentioned the possibility of having a group give a presentation at this event on homelessness.
5. **Agency Partner Reports**:

**VA** – FHV Stand Down event will be happening April 25, 2014. There are 60 sponsors and 150+ volunteers have been trained for the event.

Family Services of McDowell Co – Fundraisers coming up: Benefit concert this Saturday in memory of Amy Parker who was killed over a year ago due to domestic violence, 2nd Annual Women’s Day Out for direct sales vendors and local businesses to show their products and to promote awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault, and the 4th Annual No Excuse for Abuse 5K will happen on May 31st in Marion.

**DSS** – APS numbers are up. Celebration of Life is coming up on May 16th at the Mountain Grove Baptist Church.

**Lenoir Housing Authority** – They are utilizing the BEB center for new activities. Must show HUD that she has linked at least 50 people to services within 3 years. They have a newsletter that will be going out monthly, which she can connect interested members with. There is a new director of the Lenoir Housing Authority, Michael Nadine.

**National Guard** – Frances talked about her involvement with the community and her Easter Egg Hunt for military children. It will be held at the Gamewell Walking Park at 11:00am. Other children are able to come to play. She also mentioned that she is seeing that many veterans are not reaching out for food, leaving many of them only having one meal a day. Sharon O. mentioned working with another organization to provide food bags to veterans during drills on weekends. One of the veterans that she works with donated monies to give children gift cards to Wal-Mart, which was a great surprise!

**Kwanzaa** – They are currently full, with 8 children. One emergency are in the shelter was destroyed due to a flood from a busted pipe. However, they are making progress and moving along.

Smokey Mountain Center – They have five openings for Shelter + Care. They have been working to get out into the community and get the word out about their services.

**Yokefellow** – They have had a very busy winter. They fed 9,100 people this winter’s first quarter with 88,800lbs of food needed to stock their pantry. LEOs is happening! There are talks about contracts for the needed mechanical things to have the building habitable. They are working to find contractors to work flexibly with the city to have city workers collaborate with them to complete the needed work. They are also working with local churches to raise $175,000, $120,000 to cover construction and startup and $50,000 to cover the first years expenses.

1. **Update on ESG Funds**: The paperwork has been turned in after our meeting. We are waiting to hear more about what has happened with that.
2. **Other Information**: Larry suggested that everyone Google the term “Homeless Jesus” because of the comments and controversy surrounding the Church in Davidson that purchased the statue.

Sharon O. mentioned that the City Manager and Mayor have been very supportive and work to help the homeless individuals in this area.

Sharon O. mentioned that there is no shortage of available food, however, we are above the state average for child hunger. Seniors are also falling through the gaps for food assistance, so there will be a push to make sure that seniors are not falling through the gaps in regards to access to food. One issue is the complicated paperwork and that many seniors only qualify for a small amount of food stamp benefits. April mentioned that if they call APS about difficulty with paperwork that they may be able to receive assistance with the paperwork.