Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 5/21/15

Foothills Homeless Coalition

Meeting was held at Caldwell County Public Library

Present at meeting:

Gwin Laws – Caldwell Co. Schools

Lori Watts – Smokey Mountain CME / MCO

Stephanie Hoover – NC Works

April Davis – Caldwell Co. DSS

Sharon Osborne – Caldwell Co. Yokefellow

Elizabeth Norris – LEOS

Leila McMichael – Dulatown / Kwanzaa Family Inn

Sharon Poarch – Shelter Home of Caldwell Co.

Saber Rock – McDowell Mission Ministries

Marisol Tomas – Charles George VA Medical Center

Meeting began at 2:03 by Sharon Poarch.

Excused: Tammy Gray – Smokey Mountain; Larry McMullen – VTAB

Discussion about Minutes – While those that attended FHC meeting at LEOS, Sharon P. met with Nathaniel Morgan, Veterans Outreach Specialist with Community Links out of Mecklenburg County

Coordinated Assessment Update – Sharon Poarch was on a phone conference with Corey Root and Linda Ashely as they went page by page, paragraph by paragraph of what needed to be updated on our submitted coordinated assessment.

* Don’t be general or gray – be specific with what individual agencies are going to serve what population, clarify the information.

Question asked - What’s the purpose of the coordinated assessment that we submitted?

Answer – It is like an umbrella agreement of how we are going to serve the homeless, or who we are going to serve in our counties (Caldwell, Alexander, McDowell)

Sharon O. and Sharon P. went to Balance of State meeting and were glad to see that our coalition is doing good work together, since we are coming together as agencies across the service populations

FHC Flyer Update – Sherri Wright had original – do we need updates?

* Meeting location and time needs to be changed
* Add mission and vision

Discussion about changing meeting time – changed!

* 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00
* June 16th, we will meet at Friendship House in McDowell

Variety of Meeting Locations

* Would meeting at other locations be an option, so that we can see other agencies that are part of our coalition
* Other organizations/agencies to invite to these meetings (Alexander, McDowell, Caldwell)
	+ DSS, NC Works, Homeless Liaison in School systems, Goodwill Connections, VR, United Way

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in November

* Two years ago was a success – Movie and Panel Discussion, Sleep Out, Festival on College Avenue on Saturday during Rotary Festival
* Last year, nothing happened
* This year – 2015
	+ Panel discussion and skit? – Larry McMullen had mentioned in the past about a possible skit or live demonstration that he had connection with from Catawba County – could we get them this year?
	+ Declarations in all towns and counties (McDowell, Alexander, Caldwell)
	+ Local T.V. channel to show ‘The Line’ during that week\*
	+ Set up possibly on West Ave in front of LEOS instead of College Ave, if rotary is having their festival

Agency Updates

* Kwanzaa / Dulatown Family Inn
	+ Got a garden started – partnership with Project Challenge, Lowes and community help
	+ Caring for their residents, helping with transportation to medical, legal, etc. appointments.
* Shelter Home of Caldwell County
	+ 25 residents in house, half children – 40 is full house
* Caldwell Co. School System
	+ 183 McKinney Vento children
	+ Received grant to buy graduation clothes for McKinney Vento seniors (12- South Caldwell, 5-West Caldwell, 4-Hibriten, 2-Early College)
* VA Medical Center
	+ HUD vouchers available
* McDowell Mission Ministries
	+ Hired a women shelter director
	+ Men’s shelter is full, women’s shelter is half full
* Smokey Mountain
	+ HUD grant renewal for Shelter + Housing is early this year
	+ Target Program Training – Disability Income – Boone on June 16th from 1-3, contact Lori or Tammy for details
	+ Housing Employment Team has been changing
* NC Works
	+ Caldwell is Hiring event was on April 30 with 37 employeers
	+ WIA funding – Skill development, training money available
* DSS
	+ Adult home specialists position has been filled
	+ April they had the highest number of APS cases reported and opened
* Yokefellow
	+ Starting new mobile food pantries to serve seniors in the area – identifying pockets of seniors that living in Housing Authority
		- Vance Street
		- Ridge Street
		- Also adding Koininia in June
* LEOS
	+ Have 11 in shelter
	+ Working on getting residents to understand that volunteers communicate with staff and that nothing can be slid past us

For future meetings, everyone should bring brochures of their agencies to share with group

Adjourned at 3:30

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 16th at 2:00

Friendship House in McDowell

\*The Line Movie - http://www.thelinemovie.com/