**Neuse Trent Housing Alliance**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**8 AM**

**May 6, 2015**

**United Way Building, New Bern**

Present:

Terry Brubaker, DSS

Michelle Carver, Family Endeavors

Ron England, CarolinaEast Health System

Jeanine Ethridge, RHA/RLM

Lt. Linda Godette, New Bern Police Department

Beverly Heine, DSS

Susan Kachur, RCS

Tharesa Lee, Neuse River CDC

Susan Lucas, Coastal Women’s Shelter

Amy Modlin, ECBH

Christy Nowaczk, Salvation Army

Sandra Phelps, United Way

Glenda Riggs, Carteret County Domestic Violence Program, Inc.

Juliet Rogers, RCS

Lovay Singleton, Veteran’s Garden

Sue Steinhauser, Community Development Coordinator

Reeshema Walker, DWS NC Works

* Juliet opened the meeting and introductions were made.
* The National Day of Prayer is tomorrow, 11 – 1, at Union Point Park. Rain location is New Bern Church of God on Colony Drive.
* Juliet reviewed the purpose of the Neuse Trent Housing Alliance. We are a regional committee of the North Carolina Balance of State, with the mission of securing permanent supportive housing. Meeting regularly makes us eligible to apply for funding. She mentioned that there are two women in James City who would like to offer transitional housing; we could help them secure funding.
* A VI-SPDAT assessment tool will soon be required for use by agencies wishing to refer clients for supportive services. RCS, CWS, DSS, and Salvation Army will be able to assign these numbers. This is not yet in place.
* A grievance committee is required to be a part of the Neuse Trent Housing Alliance to offer clients a place to air issues with any of the participating agencies. Ron, Terry, and Tharesa will serve with Bev serving as an alternate.
* Ron spoke about mental illness in our communities. May is Mental Health Month. There is a national and international crisis surrounding mental illness because of the high rates. We do a terrible job of equipping our children to deal with stress. Crossroads provides patients with “”road maps” to follow to be successful and not return to the unit. All they can provide is crisis stabilization as the average length of stay is 6.2 days. The readmission rate after 30 days in 8%.
* He recommended that as providers, we should all be trauma sensitive. Be empathetic, not sympathetic as sympathy can cloud professionalism. Try to identify triggers for the expression of trauma, and recognize that as providers we all make a difference.
* Lovay spoke about the Veterans Stand Down event scheduled for September 18 and 19, 2015. She invited agencies to attend the next planning meetings: May 14 @ 2 pm at the Veterans Garden, 901 Chapman Street and June 11 @ 2 pm at Walter B Jones Park in Havelock. It will be a good opportunity for all agencies to share what they can offer veterans.
* Sue Steinhauser handed out information about the Community Development Block Grant Housing Minor Rehabilitation Project.

**\*\*\*\*\*NEXT MEETING JUNE 3 8 AM\*\*\*\*\***