**Meeting - September 15, 2015  (Held in Polk County)**

* **Attendees:**
  + Janice Baynard-Director of Federal Programs for Rutherford County Schools
  + Victoria Green - Outreach Specialist for Rutherford County Schools
  + George Alley-Thermal Belt Outreach (dropped in, can rejoin 2016)
  + Debbie Briscoe Smith - Sisters in Christ Homeless
  + Kathy Pressly Dills - Sisters in Christ Homeless
  + Amy Upham—Smoky Mountain Center LME/MCO
  + Connie Orr-Steps to Hope
* **Purpose of Meeting**
  + form a balance of state with Rutherford and Polk Counties by bringing a variety of individuals, agencies, or non-profits with the focus of addressing homelessness
* **What is Balance of State?**
  + BoS is is one of 12 CoCs in NC
  + Continuum of Care (CoC) - determining what the homeless services look like
    - a variety of services within a county
    - a coordinating body
    - most rural counties join a BoS
    - purpose is to find housing for homeless individuals and families return to permanent housing within 30 days
* **How do we form a BoS?**
  + Once a month we have our Coalition meetings to review BoS and coordinate services/offer education
  + Twice a month, we would have a coordinated assessment meeting and present cases we are dealing with. Each case will be given a VI-SPDAT score based on a number of factors. Case managers/shelters could take on each case that is presented.
  + How can services work together to address homelessness in Rutherford and Polk Counties?
  + Point-in-time count (probably January)--every homeless person is counted in one day.
* **Definition of Homeless as determined for adult individuals and families**
  + federal guidelines distributed
* **Current Community Services**
  + Rutherford County
    - Sisters in Christ - serves men and women (can house 40)
    - Crossroads (Shelby) - men’s mission
    - Lighthouse - domestic violence (Shelby)
    - Family Preservation
    - Gail’s House - houses females and children
    - No one in Rutherford County houses an entire family which consists of a male
    - Local hotels (Tri City, Stagecoach and Thrifty) will assist with housing a family for 7 days
    - RHA-mental health casework
    - Local faith-based organizations
  + Polk County
    - Steps to Hope
    - Outreach Ministries
    - Polk County Schools
* **Current Community Needs**
  + Lack of transportation for individuals and families
  + Funds for doctors and medications
  + Assisted with utility bills
  + A need for a code enforcer to see that houses are up to code to pass an inspection fit for individuals to live in
    - Coz Pannell in Rutherford county has several rental properties
  + ESG-Rapid Rehousing funding--could help those with mental health issues that have gotten behind on payments and become homeless. Funding can help pay deposits or past-due bills. There are also prevention dollars in this fund for those who are in danger of losing power or water.
* **Email contacts to Amy Uphman at Amy.Upham@smokymountaincenter.com as to who should attend the next meeting**

**Handout passed out during meeting:** [**http://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/**](http://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/)

**NC BOS Coordinated Assessment Toolkit**