

Homeless/Housing Taskforce
BC360 Task Force on Family/Women's Shelter

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The Homeless/Housing Taskforce/BC360 Task Force on Family/Women's Shelter met at the Beaufort County Health Department on this date (1/12/2017). The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Sally Love (Beaufort County Chairperson/Beaufort County United Way). Those in attendance were: Michelle Linton (Beaufort County Health Department), Evan Lewis (attorney/BC360 representative), Valerie Kines (Ruth's House), Charles Smith (retired clergy), Joshua Yoder (Christ Church), Brandy Vinson (Beaufort County DSS), Melissa Eastwood (Trillium Health Resources), Jim Pegan (First United Methodist Church), Dot Moate (First Presbyterian), and Greg Singleton (Beaufort County Schools, McKinney Vento Homeless liaison).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were sent out via email prior to today's meeting. No corrections noted.

FAMILY/WOMENS SHELTER

Valerie Kines provided an update regarding the Ad Hoc committee. The committee met yesterday 1/11/2017. They discussed Articles of Incorporation; Evan Lewis has taken the lead on this (incorporator). They will need an employer ID number and the committee will need to develop a conflict of interest policy (Evan will draft this). The committee is working to prepare by-laws. The committee plans to move forward with obtaining a special use permit for an R2 neighborhood. Additional information was reviewed regarding the property (10th and Nicholson). The meeting for the planning board will be the last Monday of the month at 5:00pm. Jim Pegan may be asked to speak for the group. A member from the ad hoc committee will contact a real estate agent to explore alternative locations. Sally noted that the 10 year plan states shelters must be in the industrial zone. The industrial zone would not be appropriate for a shelter. Sally discussed the need to make the public aware of what we are doing and talked about walking through the neighborhood and speaking with residents. She has made some flyers and has plans to distribute. Brandy with DSS has offered to help with providing information/flyers to individuals in the surrounding neighborhood.

Valerie reported that a temporary board has been appointed. The temporary board president will be Dot Moate. Valerie Kines volunteered to be Vice-President. Sharon Probert will be treasurer and John Rebholz was appointed secretary. United Way has agreed to serve as fiscal agent (nothing written up). Sally reported that money has started coming in for the women's' shelter. The Episcopal Church has already donated 2 checks (\$3300 and \$1000+). The name that was recommended was Open Door Community Services, Inc.

Valerie requested additional numbers (pertaining to homeless women/children) from Brandy. Brandy stated that she has documented 23 families as homeless from January 2016 to December 2016. Brandy

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has had 8 more since January 1 2017. Brandy staffed a case with the group. She reported that she has an individual staying in a hotel that is paying 700.00 per week for a hotel (family, children's' father, etc.). The individual has maxed out resources. She recently got a job in Beaufort County. Valerie inquired whether the Greenville Shelter would be an option. Brandy indicated that it probably wouldn't because of the children being in school and her new job. Greg reported that the school system is working with this family as well. They have provided school supplies, clothes, transportation, etc. Greg reported that they are helping around 70 currently.

The next meeting of the AD Hoc group will be January 25, 2017.

There will be at least 1-2 representatives from the Beaufort Women's Shelter Committee at the Homeless/Housing Taskforce meeting each month to provide updates.

3:00pm Regional Committee meeting

Sally provided a brief overview regarding the Homeless/Housing Taskforce and our roll in the NC BOS regional committee. She made everyone aware that our committee has responsibilities and she provided examples. Jim Cox has assumed the role of Regional lead for Region 12 (Region 12 consists of Pitt County, Beaufort County, Martin County, Bertie County, and Washington County). There will be a chairperson for each county in region 12. Sally love was appointed the chairperson for Beaufort County (Valerie Kines made the motion to approve). Each regional committee must participate in the Point in Time count and Coordinated Assessment. The benefits include the ability to apply for ESG funds and other grants. Historically, this has been done for Zion Shelter. Sally has applied for rapid rehousing for the county as well. Both of these were approved. It offers the opportunity for regional support as well. As a regional committee, when funding becomes available the committee would meet to determine where funding is needed.

The United Way has an online database that has information about those that provide donations, grants, etc. Sally stated that this could be used as a resource for our group.

Point in Time

Sally reviewed information about the Point in Time Count. The count will be on 1/25/2017 (last Wednesday of the month). The count will start at 600pm. Michelle volunteered to make a poster for the count. She reported that there was little success last year but indicated there was little training. Sally reviewed information about the categories for the count (sheltered vs unsheltered). Sally is going to attempt to engage law enforcement to assist with the count this year. Individuals should be counted up to 7 days following the count. She provided examples regarding agencies/places we can approach (library, Vidant, DSS, etc.). Sally requested that everyone reach out to contacts to find out places to go. She asked the group to start looking for homeless individuals. The committee discussed the different

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definitions of homelessness. It was recommended that the committee track all homeless (HUD definition and others). Sally will provide everyone with survey forms.

Sally asked Brandy if she could meet with someone at DSS to inquire about them partnering with us to do the count. All of the numbers should be fed into one centralized place. The BOS has never gotten any numbers from Bertie, Martin, and Washington County.

Coordinated Assessment

Beaufort and Pitt will work together to implement a systematic coordinated assessment process. The idea is that the 5 counties would have 1 coordinated assessment plan. Sally inquired about who is administering the prevention and diversion screening and who can do this in the future. Beaufort County DSS has agreed to attempt to administer the VI-SPDAT. Brandy has submitted one since the last meeting. Melissa explained the importance of administering the assessments and gathering data. Priorities are given to chronically homeless. We will need to set up and implement a coordinated entry process for Beaufort County as this ties into our rapid rehousing funds.

MISCELLANEOUS

The committee reviewed information about Greene Lamp. The group was informed about what Greene Lamp does and how the program can assist those in our community. Amy Howard is our contact person for Greene Lamp. Amy's contact number is (252) 933-0720. They can assist with accessing education services, job search and placement, etc. They can provide monetary assistance with transportation, rent, deposits, etc. for those that are established in their programs. They do not work backwards (ex. Can't pay past due balances). They need referrals.

There is still a need to combine resources and work together to better help individuals in Beaufort County. There are agencies that provide services and everyone doesn't know what they do or how to access the services. This committee would like to increase collaboration.

The FEMA deadline has been extended to 1/23/2017.

The ESG grant Sally wrote for Zion included \$15,253 for operating expenses and \$10,168 for Rapid Rehousing. **Both requests were in the same grant application and were approved.**

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Sally Love adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Beaufort County Health Department on February 9, 2017 at 2:00pm.