

**Region 12, NC Balance of State Monthly Meeting**

NC Tele Center

415 East Blvd., Williamston, NC

Thursday January 11, 2018-10:00 AM-12:00 PM

**Present**

Lynn Alligood, Mid-East Regional Housing Authority

Alex Averell, VA Outreach Social Worker

Ken Becker, Family Endeavors (SSVF Provider)

Ava Bradley, Comprehensive Interventions

Wayne Bray, NC Works

Lakitra Claude, Trillium Health Resources

Tommy Cloyd, Disability Advocates Resource Center

Rodney Coles, Churches Outreach Network

James Cox, United Way of Pitt County, Regional Lead

Melissa Eastwood, Trillium Health Resources

Deloris Farmer, Pitt County Planning

Lorina Garrison, Mideast Regional Housing Authority

Ashley Gray, Greenville Housing Authority

Lynne James, Pitt County Planning

Evan Lewis, Attorney (Beaufort County)

Sally Love, Beaufort County United Way

Linda Mandell, Pitt County Planning, SOAR

Erica McCloud, Mideast Regional Housing Authority

Jessica McIntyre, Beaufort County DSS

Major Ken Morris, Salvation Army

Candace Parker, HUD VASH Social worker (Greenville VA)

James Rhodes, Pitt County Planning

Don Rogers, Mideast Regional Housing Authority Board Member

Harriette Rogers, Comprehensive Interventions/Liberty Christian Center

Justin Rouse, Disability Advocates Resource Center

Tujuanda Sanders, Greenville Housing Authority

Kelly Smith, Beaufort County DSS

David Taylor, Churches Outreach Network

Bob Williams, Community Crossroads Center

## **Introductions**

Jim Cox welcomed everyone to the Region 12 Regional Committee meeting. He thanked everyone at Mid-East for organizing and hosting the meeting. Jim reviewed the purpose of the meeting. He informed the group that next year the meeting to hold elections would be held in December. We will hold a meeting in Beaufort County in June. Jim facilitated introductions. He encouraged everyone to introduce himself or herself and identify where they are from and their role.

Jim provided an overview regarding Region 12. Our region consists of Bertie, Beaufort, Martin, Washington, and Pitt. We have work to do moving forward, however we need to celebrate our successes over the last year. We have accomplished a great deal over the last 18 months. We are working and functioning as one regional committee. There was no activity in Bertie, Martin, and Washington County previously. Martin County participated in the Point in time count over the last year. The Tri-County committee formed in June of last year and they have met monthly since then. Beaufort County received funds for Rapid Rehousing for the first time last year. There will be Rapid Rehousing in all five counties for the first time this year. Permanent Supportive Housing will be a resource available throughout the region.

## **Approval of Agenda/ Recommendations for the Naming of Region 12**

Jim Cox reviewed the agenda. He inquired about additional items that need to be added. No additional items were added by the group.

Jim discussed the need for a name for our region. He did research and looked at the map. Jim suggested the name The Inner Banks. The group unanimously agreed on the name. We will be known as The Inner Banks moving forward.

## **Regional Structure/2018 Elections**

Jim reviewed the structure of the regional committee. There will be leads, alternate leads, and Point in Time leads for each area. Sally Love will be the lead for Beaufort County. Evan Lewis will be the alternate lead for Beaufort County. The Pitt County lead is Jim Cox and alternate is Tujuanda Sanders. Lynn Alligood will be the lead and Lorina Garrison will be the alternate lead for the Tri-County group. Linda, Wayne, and Sally will be the Point in Time leads at the local level. We need to vote on overarching, regional positions. Jim put forth the following: Jim Cox, Regional lead. Lynn Alligood will be the alternate lead for the region. Point in Time Regional lead will be Jim Cox. Melissa Eastwood will be the webmaster for the region. Funding Committee lead, Jim will continue to serve in this role unless someone else would like to. Lynne James will be Coordinated Assessment lead for Region 12. Jim opened the floor for discussion. Jim asked for a motion to approve the regional committee. James Rhodes made a motion to approve with Sally Love seconding the motion. The group unanimously agreed. Elections will be held again in December of 2018 for next year.

## **Updates/Reports**

### **Veterans Plan Updates**

Jim provided an update regarding the Veterans plan. There is a huge emphasis on working with Veterans. On Tuesdays BOS call, there was a great deal of discussion regarding Veteran homelessness. We have two SSVF providers within our region (Family Endeavors and Volunteers of America). VOA has the larger bite of the region. Ken stated that they have been keeping the By Name list and he has been helping them. Ken stated that they would like to see the region have a system in place to get Veterans out of homelessness within 30 days. They are working on the by name list. There has been turnover in VOA. Tina is no longer with the agency. Jim has reached out to the leadership there regarding participation in meetings. We need representation from SSVF providers at our monthly meetings and at the Housing Stabilization committee meetings. We need to ensure that we are working together as a team.

### **Coordinated Assessment**

We are mandated to have a Coordinated Entry System. Lynne was the Coordinated Assessment lead last year and has offered to serve as lead again this year. Lynne thanked everyone involved in developing the CA plan for the region. She brought a copy to the meeting in case someone wanted to review the information. She will email a copy of the Coordinated Assessment plan out to everyone that attended our meeting. Lynne explained that there needs to be standardized way to receiving housing services. There are things we need to work on. We have gaps in our system. The Balance of State would like our CA system to be at 24/7 operation level. The Balance of State provides guidance for the regional committees. We are in the process of trying to work with law enforcement to see if that is a starting point for that to happen. Lynne made a recommendation today that high priority is placed on chronically homeless. Lynne recommended that our plan state that we will prioritize chronically homeless. She also recommended that we evaluate our plan on an annual basis. The third thing she recommended was that Trillium Health Resources be added as a Rapid Rehousing provider in the plan. Lynne clarified that 24/7 coverage means that we provide help (not just administer the screenings). Examples of this include providing placement, offering mediation, etc. Pastor Coles noted that we really need to work on ensuring that there is 24-hour coverage and that people are being served in the most appropriate way. The police or answering service can help in some ways. However, there will be limitations. Major Ken Morris inquired about transportation and how we will get people where they need to go. This is still a gap in our system. Lynne stated that our job is to make resources available. We need to make people aware that there is a system available. We need to provide education and engage counties. Lynne requested a motion regarding her recommendations. Evan Lewis made a motion to approve the recommendations with James Rhodes seconding the motion.

### **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Local Process: Update**

This will be the first year that our entire region will be covered in regards to Rapid Rehousing. Talaika Goss Williams provided an update regarding the RR program. Pitt County has Rapid Rehousing, so Trillium's grant will cover Beaufort, Bertie, Martin, and Washington Counties. We are looking at starting

the RR program in February. James inquired about where the funding would come from if someone goes to the shelter in Greenville from Washington County and decides to stay in Pitt. The committee will have to work out details pertaining to situations like this. All of the counties in our region will have access to funds. Talaika stated that we just got approval from the Executive Team to administer the VI-SPDAT through the Trillium call center. We will administer the screening tool in 22 of our 25 counties. We are hoping to have 24-hour coverage. VI-SPDATS will have to be screened through the housing committees.

### **Point in Time Count**

The PIT count will take place on Wednesday 1/31/2018 starting at 600pm. There will be a service count 7 days post. Linda provided an overview regarding the Point in Time Count. Linda stated that we have not been successful in the past going out at night. We have had greater success with following up at service agencies. Hope station will assist us with completing questionnaires this year. All of the information is available on the NCCEH website. Linda stated that all of the forms are posted (shelter and unsheltered). Pitt County will go to the Joy Soup Kitchen, Oakmont Baptist Church, and the Salvation Army. She is going to have police take around flyers and hopefully individuals will show up at the places where we have volunteers. Police officers have assisted in the past; however, they are no longer going out. Once all the questionnaires are completed they will be submitted to Jim Cox to compile all the data. It does not stop with PIT, this gives us the opportunity to find people and get them in our homeless system. Linda noted that the forms are easy to complete and straightforward. Linda reported that Pitt County would be providing backpacks to individuals who meet with us and complete the surveys. Things that are in the backpacks (food, snacks, gloves, scarves, paper, pen, socks, hand warmers, etc.). Linda suggested reaching out to churches for assistance. Individuals in shelters will be counted by HMIS. We are trying to identify unsheltered homeless people. If they are in shelter, you do not have to do a survey. You should ask "Where were you on the night of Wednesday 1/31/2018?" Jim noted that the further you get out from the January 31 date, the harder it will be to recall where you were. Individuals can be counted if they are in a hotel paid for by a community agency. Jim stated that he would only be responsible for the unsheltered count. Linda will serve as a resource for others. Please contact her if you have questions.

### **Announcements**

**GHA-Tujuanda** reported that Greenville Housing Authority would provide PSH to the entire region. They will be attending meetings in Pitt, Beaufort, and they will attend the Tri-county meeting. Tujuanda provided handouts regarding Permanent Supportive Housing and HOPWA. Ashley provided an update regarding Honor Ridge. There are 21 units in phase one being built. There is an application available for Honor Ridge. Some units will be converted to project based, which opens up vouchers for others.

**SOAR Updates**-Linda Mandell provided an overview regarding the SOAR program (Social Security Outreach, Access and Recovery). The Soar program is a national program. It was started because people were applying for social security and they were literally dying before approval. SAMSHA went to the Social Security Administration and they collaborated to develop people navigate the system and obtain benefits in a timely manner. Linda is the only SOAR caseworker in Pitt County. There is a

screening process. Linda helps individuals through this process. You can go to the Social Security website and review information and eligibility requirements. Linda assists with appointments and with getting to doctors that the SSA wants individuals to see. Linda can represent at a hearing. She can assist with initial requests and reconsideration. Linda collaborates with a local attorney who can assist with cases that she cannot assist with. The success rate for SOAR is a 70% approval rate. The program is specifically for homeless individuals. There is a training in Winston Salem coming up but it is already full. She noted that there is training every few months. Disability Advocates and Resource Center assist with disability applications also. Linda stated that it would be beneficial to have SOAR caseworkers in other regions. The training cost is \$90 for members \$110 dollars for nonmembers. There is a 25-dollar membership for NCCEH. This would be a good resource for our counties.

**Churches Outreach Network-** There will be a webinar on 3/16 at the Salvation Army about Charity Tracker. Pastor Coles will do a presentation on 2/6 for Pitt Resource Connection.

**Salvation Army-** Salvation Army will be moving to Memorial. The new building should be ready on 2/22.

**Pitt County**  
**Next Meeting: February 12, 2018 @ 9:00am**  
**Multipurpose Room-Greenville Housing Authority**  
**1103 Broad Street, Greenville NC**

**Beaufort County**  
**Next meeting: February 8, 2018 @ 2:00pm**  
**Beaufort County Health Department**  
**1436 Highland Drive, Washington, NC 27889**

**Bertie, Martin, and Washington County (TriCounty)**  
**Next meeting: January 30, 2018 @ 10:00am**  
**NC Tele Center**  
**415 East Blvd. Williamston NC**