**Alamance County Interagency Council for Homeless Assistance**

**November 5, 2012 Minutes**

**Present**: Jan Bowman, ABSS; Kim Braxton, RTSA; Suellyn Dalton, Volunteer; Maseta Dorley, Cardinal Innovations; Donna Hodges, Allied Churches; Wendy Lewis, Salvation Army; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Allison Merrill, Burlington Police Dept.; Heidi Norwick, United Way; Lynn Rousseau, Family Abuse Services; Jashella Sessoms, Psychotherapeutic Services; Jackie Sheffield, BPD/W&S; Clara Trollinger, Volunteer; Leo Welsh, Allied Churches.

**Guests**: Racquel Hughes, Caswell Co. DSS; Shanna Poole, Caswell Co., Family Services; Tinesha Smith, Piedmont Health; Angy Turner, Caswell Co. Section 8 Housing.

Our guests from the Caswell County agencies present were in attendance to get a feel for ACICHA—it’s purpose, meetings, etc.—so they can decide whether to create their own committee, similar to ACICHA, or to “piggy back” onto ACICHA. There was discussion regarding Caswell County becoming part of ACICHA. Suellyn Dalton pointed out that Caswell County members had been part of the ACICHA group in the past but, when we joined the Balance of State CoC, Caswell chose not to join a CoC.

The **minutes of the October 1st meeting** were distributed by email prior to today’s meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heidi Norwick with a second by Lynn Rousseau. The minutes were approved.

Wendy Lewis of the Salvation Army asked for a brief overview of ACICHA’s purpose. It was stated that one of the primary functions of this committee is to work to decrease homelessness in Alamance County and to act as a Regional Committee for the NC Balance of State which approves and prioritizes grants for federal funding.

**Regional Committee:** The following business concerning the Regional Committee was conducted:

Subcommittee Meetings: November is the month for quarterly Subcommittee meetings so those who are on the Transitional Housing, Permanent Housing, and CHIN Data Quality Management subcommittees should plan to attend.

Webpage for ACICHA: The Balance of State would like to have a webpage for each Regional Committee. We wanted to make sure to remind people that the Balance of State no longer does reminders of when quarterly reports are due. The minutes of our meetings will be posted there. Also, the CoC goals and action plan were discussed as things to include on our webpage.

**FROM THE BoS CONFERENCE CALL:**

2013 Point in Time count: A suggestion has been made, from NCCEH, that homeless individuals ages 18-29 be trained to conduct the count and to access areas on the night of the PIT count where unhoused homeless individuals stay.

“Intent to Apply” for 2012 NOFA funding: There are two potential applications coming from ACICHA agencies:

Cardinal Innovations intends to apply for 26 Shelter+Care vouchers which would increase the current number of 36 S+C vouchers to a total of 62 vouchers. Questions were raised and discussion ensued as to whether we have a need for the additional beds. Maseta Dorely used data from Allied Churches and the current Shelter+Care program to show where, with the change in match next year from 100% to 25%, and the decreased compliance requirements, there will be a need for these additional vouchers.

RTSA intends to apply for expansion funding for their currently funded Alamance Women’s Permanent Housing project to include staffing for weekends, the purchase of a new vehicle for the project and lawn maintenance at the facility.

**Updates from Regional Committee grantees:**

Shelter + Care (S+C): While Cardinal Innovations remains the grantee for S+C, and the application pro cess is the same, Donna Hodges, the new coordinator at Allied Churches, will handle all landlord/tenant issues. All the slots are filled but they could “fit in” 5 more. The goal is to have 100 vouchers. Shelter+Care housing has been transferred to Cardinal Innovations; Graham Housing Shelter+Care is in the process of completing the transfer of their S+C vouchers to Cardinal Innovations. In the interim, Maseta will do housing inspections. It is believed that Graham Housing will agree to do the inspection process once the S+C vouchers have officially moved to Cardinal Innovations.

STEPS: There is one slot available.

HOPE: There is one slot available.

PSH @ RTSA: There are five women currently housed with one application in process. Additionally, RTSA’s bed count in CHIN should be: 8 emergency shelter beds, either male or female; 17 transitional male beds; and 6 permanent housing beds for females.

Family Abuse Services: All Emergency Housing and Shelter beds are full. They have new Residential Services Director, Calveta Watlington.

CHIN: Elizabeth brought and distributed a Data Quality report. It is nearing AHAR time and it is important for agencies to work to improve their Data Quality. CHIN has devoted one staff person to this effort. There are also quarterly CHIN Data Quality subcommittee meetings.

Allied Churches: They are averaging the same numbers served as those reported at our last meeting. They have a source for new flooring, approximately 1310 sq. ft., and will be seeking CDBG funding for the foundation of the southeast corner of the building and for parking lot repairs. Additionally, the bed count in CHIN for Allied Churches should be adjusted to: 46 male beds, 24 female beds, 28 beds for women and children. Share the Warmth is at capacity.

**Regional Committee participants:**

Habitat for Humanity:­ Mike Holland has approached Robin Wintringham about the possibility of putting temporary, portable “shacks” in “tent communities” to provide more stable housing for the homeless. It was suggested that Mr. Holland attend the next ACICHA meeting for more information. Robin will contact Mr. Holland regarding this.

Alamance Burlington School System: There are currently 440 homeless students (including double ups). Jan Bowman attended a conference recently where a presentation was made that explained the parallels between McKinney Vento funding and HUD funding. There is a movement towards making the definitions between McKinney Vento and HUD terminology “match.”

Sustainable Alamance is a program started by Phil Bowers to assist ex-offenders in becoming employed. Most of the individuals he serves are not homeless as they are moving in with individuals who are receiving housing dollars, which is against housing guidelines. He is working to identify those who are “doubling-up” which, it is believed, is causing re-entry into the prison system due to domestic violence charges stemming from the double-up with girlfriends, etc. Phil’s contact information is: Phone: 336-213-3505; and, Address: PO Box 298, Alamance, NC 27201.

Shanna Poole, Director of Family Services in Caswell County, one of today’s guests, stated that she has beds available for women/children with domestic violence issues and/or those who are homeless. Her contact information is: Phone: 336-694-5655 or 336-694-5750.

Cardinal Innovations—Services Case Manager meeting: Maseta Dorley has arranged for a panel of individuals dealing with available homeless housing resources to meet with Case Managers from various service organizations to familiarize them with the types of housing available and the requirements for participation. The panel consists of Nikki Ratliff, Robin Wintringham, Donna Hodges, and Frances Yancey. Libby Stanley, Sr. CPD representative from the Greensboro HUD office will be in attendance as well. Maseta will send the meeting flier to the United Way office so this information can be sent to the Community Council listserve.

**ReHousing**

There are grants available from United Way for rental assistance to use as bridge money for those individuals in danger of becoming homeless. A motion was made by Jackie Sheffield and seconded by Lynn Rousseau that a goal of the ACICHA agencies is to, within 3 years, rehouse homeless individuals within 30 days of becoming homeless.

The meeting was adjourned to meet again December 3, 2012 in the conference room of Habitat for Humanity’s office building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Braxton, Secretary