Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 1/17/13

Members Present  
  
Shari Wright BWB Connections  
Heather Pack CCC&TI  
Larry McMullen ATAB  
Frances Johnson National Guard

Sharon Osborne YokeFellow  
Vickie Basinger Kwanzaa Family Inn  
Angela Bell Kwanzaa Family Inn  
E.P. Freeman Dulatown Housing  
Sarah McBrayer Smoky Mtn.   
Mindy Watson McDowell Mission  
Bill Warren McDowell Mission

# Introductions: Shari Wright asked for Introductions.

1. **Review of Minutes:** Shari W. asked for everyone to review December minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Larry McMullen and seconded by Sharon Osborne.
2. **Announcements/Discussion:**
   1. Point in Time Count-Jan. 30-31st. Bill Warren is heading up count in McDowell County. Shari W. reported that the numbers for Caldwell County last year were grossly under-reported. Shari W. recommends handing out business card size advertisement instead of flyers which are more cumbersome. Cards should be given to agencies and individuals to help get the word out. Larry McMullen suggested adding the locations of the count on the cards. For Lenoir, the shelters and the Soup Kitchen are going to be the locations for the count. Shari W. emailed the business card Word to everyone and asked everyone to print/copy their own. Shari W. will take care of mental health agencies, Frances Johnson will take care of Crossroads church and their thrift stores, MLK Center, and Salvation Army, Larry M. will take care of veterans and talk to Foothills Radio, Sharon Poarch will do the shelters and possibly the Sherriff’s Dept., and Sharon Osborne will cover LEO’s Place, soup kitchen, Lenoir PD, Editor of NewsTopic, and use 2 individuals that are comfortable approaching individuals. Very important to ask the person is someone has asked them these questions before so we don’t double-count. Vickie Basinger will contact Mulberry Rec and Goodwill. Heather Pack will head up at the college. As long as we get Initials, DOB, and gender, we can count them.
   2. LEO’s is now open for the winter and there are guests. Heather P. will take care of putting flyers about LEO’s on cars of students at the college. We also need to let those sleeping in cars at Wal-Mart know as well about LEO. McDowell, people might be staying at truck stops.
   3. Hunger and Homeless Awareness week in the fall. Larry M. suggested that we focus on that to help with the next PIT.
   4. ESG Grant-WPCOG cannot be our fiscal agent. Bill Warren and Sharon Poarch shared the responsibilities for putting together the grant. Next year we are required to have a fiscal agent to be in compliance for the grant. Right now the state disburses money, but next year the fiscal agent will be in that position. If we find someone, we don’t know if they can be temporary. We need to ask if possible. Smoky Mtn. or the county appear to be our only options. Shari W., Sharon Poarch, and Larry M. are going to speak to the county commissioners to see if they will help. Bill Warren said the fiscal agent could be someone who is receiving funds and confirmed that there is a small administrative fee for the fiscal agent. May be too much for any of our agencies to take it. Sarah McBrayer will ask her supervisor if there is someone at Smoky Mtn. will do it. Bill W. may be willing if approval is given. The fiscal agent will be responsible for delegating money/funds, but also will need to collect reports from agencies on how they spent the money for ESG activities. Bill W. doesn’t want to give up on the idea of getting someone else to do the job, especially since there is a small amount of money to pay them. We need to identify someone by June 1st. Larry M. asked if 2 CoC’s could have the same fiscal agent. Larry M. is going to check with Catawba’s county’s fiscal agent. Bill W. pointed out that it’s also possible for CoC’s to merge and become one. We’ll wait to hear back from Sarah M. to see if Smoky Mtn. would be willing. There should be someone in Sharon Poarch’s office by the end of next week that will be a contact for Rapid Rehousing. Bill W. will send email when it’s in place. Applications will be taken on Tuesdays. Then they will be reviewed and confirm homelessness. The money can be used for utilities, utilities deposits, rent, or rent deposits only. It can be paid for up to 2 years per person. It is 1st come, 1st serve by time and date between Caldwell, Alexander, and McDowell.
3. **Agency Updates:**
   1. **McDowell Mission**- received grant to do remodel.

Next meeting Feb. 21st.

Minutes submitted by Heather Pack.