**Present:** Brian Alexander, Troy Bradley, Trina Hill, Hope Pace, Kathleen Carr, Michael Absher, David Jacklin, Marian Lowry, Marilyn Kaylor, Rachel Stein, Jenny Simmons, Jane Zecher, Chris Berg, William Kinschner, Mary Murray, Lois Decky, Christine Craft

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Brief introductions were made by all present.

**Approval of May 2013 Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes were approved unanimously by common consent.

**Quick Agency Updates:**

Christine Craft shared that the HELP program identified 297 students who were eligibile for McKinney-Vento services. Of those, 90 were unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) and a total of 20 seniors (both UHY and with family) are going to college in the Fall. The HELP program’s College Assistance Fund was donated $7,500 by a Fletcher United Methodist member in late May.

Brian Alexander informed the coalition of the progress Homeward Bound is making in Henderson County with the ESG Rapid Re-Housing monies. Their original goal was to house 15 households by September of 2013. Since contracts started in November of 2012 they have housed 9 households with a total of 22 individuals. Robin Hellman is now spending Tuesdays at the Rescue Mission interviewing referrals for their current program. They are at capacity with referrals; however, continue to refer people in case the person ahead of them does not work out. They are waiting to hear about final approval for rapid rehousing monies from the HOME Consortium. This would allow them to serve individuals at or below the 50% poverty guidelines with the $25,000 they have applied for. Also, they have undergone a name change to reflect Homeward Bound’s goal of collaborating with neighboring counties. They are now known as Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina.

Michael Absher advised the agencies to pay attention to the new taxation laws being considered at the state level for non-profits.

Lois Decky announced the Storehouse is having a food drive at Ingles on Howard Gap Rd. Also, Tuesday, June 18th, several restaurants in the area will donate a portion of a night’s sales to the Storehouse. More details to follow.

David Jacklin announced United Way’s Open House, June 18th, from 4:30-6:30. Please RSVP at 692-1636. Their new offices are at 32 Smyth Ave Suite 100 in the Kimberly Clark complex in Balfour.

Jenny Simmons shared that Western Highlands is in the process of participating in a state program to help transition those in assisted living placements to independent living. 30% of the individual’s disability income will be used for rent with the rest being covered by monies from the Department of Social Services and the State of NC. This work will extend to WHN’s 8 county region.

Chris Berg shared their will be a Community Conversation on June 29th from 10-4pm at 301 S. Main St.

**Balance of State Steering Committee Update:**

Brian Alexander stated the steering committee call for this month had been postponed until the meeting of all the regional leads in Greensboro later in June. Most likely the ESG subcommittee will need to start meeting again to prepare for the upcoming grant cycle. More information will come at the coalition’s next meeting on July 9th.

**Western Highlands Update:**

Marilyn Kaylor shared with the coalition about the changes coming to Western Highland Network (WHN). Their ability to manage Medicaid was terminated by the state in April; however, they have an extension until September 30th so the process will be the same until then. They are in the process of partnering with Smokey Mountain LMC to help strengthen their ability to continue serving the 8 county region they have been working with. Currently, the partnership is evaluating staffing needs before they move on to the programmatic details of the partnership.

Questions are welcome and FAQs can be found on Western Highland’s website, [here](http://www.westernhighlands.org/partnership.html). Some questions were raised by the coalition: will people lose services?-the goal is for that not to happen, How will the services continue? What will it look like?-those details will be worked out in the coming months. Brain Alexander reminded the coalition that advocacy for their client’s interests would be important as the partnership is forming. Marilyn Kaylor echoed his advice.

Bill Kinschner, of NAMI, shared he learned that approximately 30% of WHN and Smokey Mountain’s providers are already shared between the two.

**Subcommittee:**

Brian Alexander reported on the PIT committee meeting which was held just before today’s coalition meeting at 9 AM. Tracy Edmonds, leader of a PATH team with Homeward Bound, shared with the committee about their experience and successful strategies to improve the impact of our own PIT count in September and January. Tracy shared several things the committee will focus when organizing the event such as, identifying areas to serve, campsites, get a map of the areas, gather resources around the county, schedule a volunteer training just before count, create a resource card to hand out, connect with police department, identify non-street count locations (i.e. hospitals, jails, etc), and reach out to business owners. Several other suggestions were offered by the HCHC members at large such as, doing a PSA on WHKP or TZQ radio stations to get the word out about the count as well as a press release and posters to educate the public. The PIT committee will meet on July 9th at 9 AM just before the HCHC meeting at Blue Ridge Community Health.

Christine Craft reported on the Mission, Vision, and Values committee which was scheduled to meet before the coalition meeting today; however, no one was able to attend to various scheduling conflicts.

Brian Alexander shared about the Data committee progress. They continue to work on important outcomes, which align with Balance of State CoC goals. They have reached out to the shelters and housing providers to help set a baseline and set goals for 2014. They have identified 5 outcomes for the county:

1. Create new permanent supportive housing beds for chronically homeless individuals.
2. Create new rapid re-housing beds for the general homeless population.
3. Decrease the number of homeless households with children.
4. Increase the percentage of persons employed at program exit.
5. Increase the percent of individuals receiving mainstream benefits at program exit (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid, etc.).
   1. Currently set the percentage of 20% based on BoS guidelines.

Respectfully Submitted: Troy Bradley