**Neuse Trent Housing Alliance**

**February 5, 2014**

**United Way Board Room**

**Present: Tharesa Lee, Neuse River CDC**

**Juliet Rogers, RCS**

**Lovay Singleton, Veteran’s Gardens**

**Beverly Heine, Craven Co. DSS**

**Bill Barrows, Wellness City**

**Sue Steinhauser, City of New Bern**

**Richard Hansen, NC Commerce**

**Holly Willis, Community Advocate**

**Franchena Ganus, Community Advocate**

**Ron England, CarolinaEast**

**Deidra Moore, Water Oak Manner**

**Sandra Phelps, United Way**

**Lt. Linda Godette, NBPD**

**Mike McMillan, RCS**

**Tharesa Lee opened meeting and minutes from last month were approved without exceptions.**

1. **Juliet Rogers from RCS enlightened the group about the ongoing mental health crisis that she was experiencing with shelter residence and their lack of options for help.**
2. **Ron England added that his staff at Crossroads was only able to house participants once they were stabilized and then they had to let them go. This created a problem with the revolving door for people who were finding themselves in mental health crisis every other week. The hospital is having a hard time placing patients once they leave the facility.**

**Bill Barrows, Wellness City, stated that the DOJ lawsuit solved the mental health problem but failed the individual. The degree of structure needed for mental health patients is not available any longer from the state. As an individual fails there community support fails as well.**

**We as a community must work to find resources to begin rebuilding our mental health services for individuals living in Craven County.**

1. **Tharesa Lee explained the importance of the Continuum of Care and why it was so important of our agencies to continue meeting so that we can get grants for our individual agencies.**
2. **New Bern Housing Authority received a 400,000.00 Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant that will be used to implement a plan to relieve distressed areas, provide education and jobs, and create affordable housing in Five Points. The grant could be in upward of $30 million. Tharesa spoke of the importance of including Neuse Trent at the table, during these planning sessions. The planning board’s goal is to encourage non-profits to submit comments and proposals to the CDBG staff and we need to have a voice regarding this process.**
3. **Where do we go from here? Tharesa spoke of the need of a 10 year plan to end homelessness which larger cities like Wilmington NC have adopted. She asked members to Google the plans and come back to the meeting in March ready to respond. We need to bring banking, human services, and business to the planning table.**
4. **The VA is leading the initiatives to end homelessness and gaining traction in this area, and could also be used as a model.**
5. **Tharesa stressed the importance of a resource guide to be able to educate the public on what we do to provide individuals services.**
6. **Mike McMillan added information on the Emergency Solutions Grant that RCS and Coastal Women Shelter participate in. He stressed to the NT group that the government grant administrators were looking for people to apply for transitional housing solutions grant money. Case workers would need to follow up with people who were in the program. HUD views shelters as the way of the past and look forward to putting people up in permanent supportive structures. If anyone needs information on the grant or how they can apply they need to contact Mike.**
7. **Sock drive for the Point in Time count went amazingly well. Special thanks to the following agencies who helped pick up socks: New Bern High School, Social Security Department, and the Salvation Army who allowed us to store the socks and put together bags for homeless.**

**Next meeting will be held at the United Way on March 5, 2015.**

**Meeting Respectfully Submitted,**

**Juliet Rogers**