Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 3/20/14

Foothills Homeless Coalition

Members present

Sharon Osborne YokeFellow

Sharon Poarch Shelter Home
Larry McMullen VTAB

Frances Johnson National Guard

Heather Pack CCC&TI

April Davis Caldwell DSS

Jennifer Beaty Family Services of McDowell Co.

Savannah Honeycutt Family Services of McDowell Co.

Lisa Lawson Smoky Mtn. Center

Lori Watts Smoky Mtn. Center

Kristi Case Smoky Mtn. Center

Don Bushman Caldwell Healthnet Collab.

Timothy Brulet VA Services, Salisbury

1. **Introductions**: Sharon Osborne welcomed those present.
2. **Review of February Minutes**-
3. **Who is FHC**?-There was a discussion to update the email list.
4. **Future Meeting Time and Place**-Discussion about changing the meeting time to accommodate more people. Also, changing the location to encourage more participation by other counties/members. We also need to have a location that is larger and allows for growth in the group. Next month’s meeting will be at 1 p.m. instead of 10 a.m.
5. **Shelter + Care Presentation**-Lori Watts explained that Shelter + Care effects McDowell, Caldwell, and Alexander counties. It is a program for those who are homeless according to HUD’s Definition. Also, a person has to have a disability/mental illness that could be verified by a licensed staff. There are referral agencies in the area, which is how people are accepted into the program. The main focus is substance abuse and mental health population. There are 5 grants in total. There are 56 units when fully occupied for families and singles. Focus is on chronically homeless, veterans, and families. If no one fits that category, they look at singles and others. They are required to participate in services to receive shelter and they must match services per the dollar amount being spent. If only mental health, they must be in services for 30 days before a referral is made; if substance abuse as well, 60 days before referral. The application contains verifications from various people and current assessment. How long someone is in the program depends on the grant; there are no guarantees. They encourage participants to get on the Section 8 list and take advantage of other resources. There is no time limit for the participant. RHA has started classes specifically for their Shelter + participants. They have to show documentation of utilizing services (medical, mental health, substance use groups, etc.). More information can be found on Smoky Mtn.’s website. School age children living in the home must be enrolled in school. Adult (18-21) children can also live in the home as long as they are a full-time student. Lisa Lawson manages the grants for this area.
6. **Other information**-Sharon O. asked if anyone has other needs that we should discuss. Transportation (Greenway) is a big issue. Sharon O. will invite Greenway to come and share information for April’s meeting.
7. **Agency Updates**-
	1. **National Guard**-Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. Just had some soldiers return recently and a DoL representative came and presented job searching/resume information.
	2. **Shelter Home**-Has been at capacity (of 40) since December without increasing staff. Has been able to see the gaps in services. Sharon P. sees that those with disabilities and non-English speaking are in need.
	3. **VA**-Stand Down April 10th in Winston Salem; April 25th in Catawba County. Foothillsstanddown.com for information as well as My Free Taxes for anyone if you don’t make over $50k. If enough people utilize, VA will be able to apply for a grant to help veterans this way.
	4. **DSS**-Placement has become almost impossible. Have worked frequently with Shelter Home. Had some successful stories. Currently working on Celebration of Life (event for Sr. Citizens) May 16th and Mtn. Grove Baptist. Completely funded by donations.
	5. **Smoky Mtn. Center**-Lisa Lawson is central region housing coordinator. Five vacancies with Shelter + Care program.
	6. **Caldwell Healthnet Collab**.-(Don Bushman)Pathways program at Yokefellow. Also St. James Episcopal Church Care Committee; new LEO’s
	7. **Family Services**-Recently lost direct; Jennifer and Savannah are dual directing. Trying to get out to meet people and services. Separate from DSS; don’t have to be from McDowell County to utilize services.
	8. **VTAB**-
	9. **Yokefellow**-LEO is closing Mar. 31st; hopefully working out with city for a more full-time shelter next year.

Next meeting scheduled for April 17th at 1 p.m. location will be

Caldwell Health Services building, 3rd Floor Training Room at 1 pm.

Minutes submitted by Heather Pack