**Present:** Sandra McNeill, Sandy Cavanaugh, Kathleen Lambert, Marilyn Kaylor, Susan Maybin, Anthony McMinn, Tim Jones, Christine Craft, Muriel Hamilton, Rachel Stein, Emily Balcken, Jamie Martina, Brice Edson, Ruth Birge, Judie Sloan, Anita Oldham, Jane Zecher, Kristi Case, Sarah Lancaster, Trina Hill, Jenny Simmons, Troy Bradley, Missy Blackwell

**Introductions and Quick Agency Updates**

DSS - Trina Hill stated that Brian Alexander was not present, but that Jenny Simmons would be giving updates for the Steering Committee. Updates for DSS - funding for LIEAP funds are gone.

IAM - reports first time clients are up from last year 90, to 112 this year

CFRC - Rachel Stein introduced Emily Balkin, who will be replacing Rachel who is leaving to stay at home with her family.

Health Department/Care Coordinator for Children - announced that Steve Smith is the new Public Health Director for the HC Health Department.

United Way - announced that they are working full force on their annual funding campaign.

Smoky Mountain Center - offering Youth Mental Health First Aid, June 2 at CFRC all day 8:30-5:00, register at website, www.smokymountaincenter.com, and register under calendar of events.

Housing Assistance Corporation – Jamie Martina shared that she is participating in Bike & Build, a bike trip to raise money for affordable housing, and will be stopping through Hendersonville area in May. She needs $1000 to meet her goal. There will also be a Spin A Thon on March 30th to raise money and awareness. Brice Edson reports that April 25th will be the grand opening for Regal Oaks, a 22 unit housing development on Old Spartanburg Hwy for the elderly. Also reports there was an issue regarding zoning for the new affordable housing development. HAC still plans to move forward, but needs help and support. Asking for speakers for the May 12th Commissioners meeting. This will be the first family housing in Henderson Co. since 2006.

Susan Maybin, volunteer, stated she is still working with a family to support them after they were evicted. She and others are helping them with hotel, and camping supplies such as a new tent, sleeping bags, etc. Interested in connecting them with as many family resources as possible.

Loves Kitchen – Danny and Shawnee Case have stepped down, and Diane Hall and Bruce Miller are the new directors. Still open on Thursdays.

St. Josephs Outreach Ministries – Still moving forward with plans for a day center, but waiting on the city. Luncheon pushed back, and they will keep us updated when a new date is set.

Trina Hill noted that HCHC member, long time supporter of Homeless issues and president of NAMI WNC, Bill Kinschner passed away suddenly.

**Approval of March 2014 Minutes**

Co-chair Trina Hill asked for a motion to approve the March 2014 minutes. Anita Oldham made motion to approve, seconded by Sandy Cavanaugh. Carried by common consent.

**Balance of State Steering Committee Update (Jenny Simmons)**

Jenny announced that a state wide Cooperative Extension program, More In My Basket, is now serving in Henderson County. This is a USDA funded grant program that is designed to assist with how to make the most out of the SNAP program and how to qualify and apply for food stamps. For more information contact Renay Knapp at 697-4891

Regarding ESG funding – we will again need a subcommittee. Folks who do not have an application in can participate. HCHC will have a meeting mid-summer to explain the process more clearly so agencies are fully informed of the application process.

HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) is a HUD funded mandated database that is used state wide for homeless data. Currently, there is a RFP out for new applications. CHIN (Carolina Homeless Information Network) is the current operator. They plan to review applications in June, and make a decision in July.

NCCEH BOS is in the process of collecting PIT data, including Henderson County’s. HC PIT information was made available in paper copy to the HCHC members.

The role of regional lead and co-lead was explained.

BOS is requiring increased community participation in coalitions. Asking HCHC members to seek out additional members to come to the meetings, stakeholders include public housing, school liaisons, emergency providers, law enforcement, city leaders, and those who previously or currently experienced homelessness.

**Coordinated Assessment**

HUD is mandating a coordinated assessment system to allow for an easy flow of services for the homeless in the community. It will allow the community to be more familiar with resources and better direct the homeless to services. This is an unfunded mandate. HCHC has formed a Coordinated Assessment committee. The Balance of State will be in charge of the process through a type of steering committee.

The Balance ofState has rolled out a timeline. Flexible roles can be determined by the community, but HCHC will be starting from scratch. A toolkit will be available sometime in April or May with a focus on planning templates, informational materials, sample assessment tools, governance structure, and evaluation tools from the Alliance and a range of communities across the country. Each committee needs to elect a point person. By summer, regional workgroups can come together to work out how this will look, and Henderson County will need to send people to these regional meetings. By fall, plans need to be turned in. The plan is to have coordinated assessment in place by January 15th, 2015.

**Sheltering Services: Information Panel**

Hendersonville Rescue Mission – presented by Anthony McMinn and Tim Jones. Anthony and Tim have been with HRM for 22 and 13 years, respectively. The Mission has 77 beds serving the community for men, women and children. They also provide meals 3x per day, GED program and learning center, and have a new Hendersonville Christian Outreach Center, and the Good Samaritan Clinic.

The Clinic is open on Thursdays from 1:00-5:00 (ish), appointments or walk-ins, for one time medical care and prevention services. They have found that simple access to a doctor for homeless makes a big difference. Referrals are made to the Free Clinics for ongoing medical care. HRM also partners with Blue Ridge Community Health Centers for mental health and homeless related illness screenings.

HRM also has transitional housing, called Ann’s Place, located on 9th Ave. for women and children. The target is 3 weeks to 6 months in order to allow family to gain self-sufficiency.

The new Outreach Center is a drop in day center available to anyone who needs a shower, phone, TV, restroom, counseling, information, to get warm, etc. They also serve coffee, donuts, and biscuits and hope to evolve services over time. Currently, center hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8:00am-11:00am.

The overnight shelter is separate from the drop in center, and provides more than a place to sleep. Check in is at 4:00pm, with a curfew of 7:00pm, although they remain flexible to accommodate jobs, court orders, etc. There is a 5:30am wake time, when they can do chores, eat breakfast, etc. Again, they remain flexible when children are out of school, inclement weather, illness, etc.

HRM focuses on "whole life restoration" for the homeless, and looks to partner with HCHC in all ways possible believing that we can work both ways to serve the homeless in Henderson County. HRM works with clients on case management plans, and requires them to follow through with these things during the day, working with a case manager in the evening to follow up.

HRM offers "code grace" (same as “code purple”) where they relax rules and bring those in for shelter at 38 degrees or below. This is beneficial also as some folks come in that have never been to the shelter before, and helps folks that might not otherwise receive it. The question also came up regarding clients with dogs. It was reported that although it’s rare, The Humane Society does work with them to board pets if there is space.

HRM sees a lot of mental health as reasons for homeless. Ages for drug addiction have also gotten younger, avg. is 26-28, with an increase of meth and Rx drugs, as well as synthetic drugs. There is also a recovery program for men, in partnership with Pardee. HRM also partners with Goodwill to help with job placement and training programs. HRM does see some Veterans, although Asheville sees a bulk of them.

HRM does not take violent or sex offenders, although they do take those who have been released from jail with nowhere to go. The focus on clients is those coming from Hendersonville, Polk or Transylvania Counties, with the intention of keeping clients close to local resources, reconciliation with families, and repairing relationships.

Mainstay – presented by Missy Blackwell. Mainstay is a domestic violence family shelter for women or women with children, although they do offer outside services for men. The shelter started with only 10 beds, but has grown to 45 beds. They offer services from one end of the spectrum to the other, from crisis only to major comprehensive services. Services are time limited from about 30 days to upward of 120 days. There is also a transitional house that has four, 2br units. Spanish services are available, and Mainstay will work with other surrounding counties to serve abuse victims. The mission is on breaking cycles and rebuilding families.

Mainstay has two tracks – shelter and outreach, with self-sufficiency as the end goal. Mainstay addresses sobriety and sanity; offer a job training program at the Dandelion Café for all community and MS clients. (great place for lunch!)

Domestic violence is a societal issue, and MS deals with both victim and perpetrator services. Counseling is available for both mental health and substance abuse, MS has 4 counselors, works with social workers, partners with Blue Ridge Community Health Center, provides intense case management, jobs, education, addresses housing barriers, addresses criminal history and care for the family as a whole. MS wants their clients to focus on empowerment, options and resources.

A men’s group is available for family violence prevention in an attempt to change behaviors that have affected the family. There are also non-traditional support groups such as Seeking Safety, healing trauma, PTSD, dialectical behavior therapy, skill building, parenting groups, nurturing parents, and building a support network in the community.

Mainstay also reports a lot of issues surrounding drugs and mental health issues. Provide youth services, violence prevention and intervention, court advocates, specialized services for elder and younger individuals.

Next to the shelter is the Purple Ribbon Thrift store, where you can donate and shop, and the shelter receives a ¼ of their funds from those donations.

A daycare is available on site for part time drop in care for clients who are accessing the program and/or working at the Dandelion. Clients can also access the daycare if they have job interviews, appts. Etc, if they have group meetings, or for anyone who is attending the Incredible Years parenting class offered by CFRC. In collaboration with the public schools, tutors are available to work with school age children on site 2X per week.

Missy explains that the main causes of violence is lack of skills, inappropriate skill base, cycle of abuse, lack of rules or accountability, drugs, mental health, and is not based on poverty or economic status. The core issue is about power and control, and we need to try to shift the focus away from the victim. 1 in 3 have witnessed or been affected by domestic violence. The average time a victim tries to leave his or her abuser is 7 times. It is the barriers that usually keep them from being successful. It is our job to plant seeds, nurture growth, give options and don’t judge.

**Next meeting is May 13th, 2014**

Respectively submitted by Christine Craft, 4/25/14