Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 7/17/2014

Foothills Homeless Coalition

**Members present**

Sharon Osborne Yokefellow

April Davis Caldwell DSS

Larry McMullen VTAB

Lynne DeLuca Smokey Mtn. Center

Fran Johnson National Guard

Leila McMichael Kwanzaa Family Inn

Shari Wright Connections BWB

Angela Battle Dulatown Outreach ~ Kwanzaa

Michael Townsend American Red Cross

Julie Roberts Goodwill

Chris Davis Caldwell Co United Way

Gwin Laws Caldwell County Schools

Janeen Jones Alexander County United Way

Sharon welcomed everyone. Minutes were read and accepted and then introductions made for all attendees.

Anyone wanting to apply for funding must forward“Intent to Apply for Funding Letter”.

Subcommittee nominated to develop a scorecard for ESG Funding. Subcommittee: Sherry, April, Chris, Christy, Frances, and Larry.

No update from ESG. Balance of State has a Coordinated Tool Kit.

Agency Updates:

United Way has moved to 1st Baptist Church Building and allows more money for non-profits since no rent is charged.

April says that numbers continue to grow.

Julie is working with Goodwill, retail store, in coordination with CCTI to help people with job applications, computer skills, job interview skills, etc.

Gwen announced that Smokey has a 3 year grant for training and transportation. Lisa Lawson has resigned. There are 5 vacancies in Shelter Plus Care. Smoky Mountain has a Housing Loan Program for Deposits and Utilities.

Janeen talked about United Way of Alexander County.

Shari Wright discussed referrals for children for outpatient therapy. They are looking for a therapist to work with children. Adult population is increasing.

Lisa said that training on resume development by Ashely Bolick. NC works is scheduled, Vocational Rehab is on Tuesday, and assistance with housing and transportation is ongoing.

Larry updated on Veteran activities.

Frances discussed Operation Home Front for Children is on August 2. Working with schools, 1450th Transportation Company has their Family Day at Mulberry Recreation Center on September 7, and surveys for Teen Councils has been sent.

Mike, (Red Cross) covers 4 counties and they have a Swimming and Summer Safety Initiatives Activity scheduled. There have been 14 deaths due to drowning in the last 2 months. This training is available for youth groups. Regional Awareness Manager wants uniform information distributed; need to be proactive and prepared. There is a school program for swimming.

Sharon shared that House of Joseph, VA, brought 500 cases of food. Free food distribution to families at Whitnel Pentecostal Church. LEOS has an Open House on the July 22 from 5-6:30. Yokefellow is increasing in numbers of requests for help and distribution of food. $147,000 the first 6 months in rent and utility assistance, Helped 1400 families, and preventions of homelessness.