**Neuse Trent Housing Alliance**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**8 AM**

**August 5, 2015**

**United Way Building, New Bern**

Present:

Amanda Cabandon, Family Endeavors

Jackie Dees, City of New Bern

Alison Dunn, Promise Place

Ron England, CarolinaEast Health System

Jeanine Ethridge, RHA/RLM

Danielle Frisoli, Community Care Plan

Clayton Gaskins. Community Care Plan of Eastern Carolina

Lt. Linda Godette, New Bern Police Department

Beverly Heine, Craven County DSS

Tharesa Lee, Neuse River CDC

Susan Lucas, Coastal Women’s Shelter

Lovay Singleton, Veterans Organic Base Camp and Organic Garden

Sue Steinhauser, City of New Bern

* Jeanine opened the meeting; Juliet was out due to a family emergency.
* The June minutes were approved.
* Representatives from the City of New Bern described the Round Up Program. This program benefits the less fortunate by keeping electricity on as well as water and sewer services. The donation program is done directly from the electric bill; those wished to participate can specify an amount they wish to donate or round up the bill to the nearest dollar. The City of New Bern is the financial steward and RCS distributes the money. Interested donors should contact the customer service department of the Utility Business Office. Donations may or may not be tax deductible; interested donors should consult with their tax professional. The January bills provide the amount a person contributed for the previous year. $2861.67 has been distributed to date and the City of New Bern provided $8651.49 as seed money.
* Jackie provided information about Customer Appreciation Week at the City of New Bern Utility Office, October 12 to 15. This is an opportunity to reach members of the community who might otherwise be unaware of the services provided by our agencies. Contact Jackie if you would like to participate.
* Kelly Walker, director of CARTS, described the changes they have experienced. With the 2012 designation of New Bern as urbanized, CARTS’ funding was negatively affected. Some federal funding is available. On Monday, the county commissioners approved a transportation development plan and a new fee structure. Fees are necessary for the program to continue to operate with the loss of funding. A fixed rate is available for the Loop as well as for elderly and disable. There is also the option for people with disability to access the van within a “bubble” around the Loop. On demand ride fees are based on distance. Carts is not required to provide on demand service but will continue to do o=s. They have provided the 30 days notice to the customers that is required. For the rural areas and Medicaid patients there are no changes. Kelly said that CARTS is receptive to feedback and ideas, although not all suggestions may be actionable.
* Lovay reminded the group that the Veterans Stand-down will be on September 18 in New Bern and September 19 in Havelock. If anyone is interested in participating, please let her know. Each organization will have 5 minutes to tell veterans about their services.
* Sue reported that the Salvation Army had to decline the $30,000 Community Block Grant and that RCS will take it over.

**\*\*\*\*\*NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 2--8 AM\*\*\*\*\***