

**Johnston County Regional Housing Committee**

**NC Balance of State Continuum of Care**

Conference Room – Johnston County Mental Health Center

521 N. Brightleaf Blvd, Smithfield, NC

**Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2016**

**In Attendance:**

Roxanne Curry, Johnston County Mental Health Center

Dr. Janis Nutt, Johnston County Mental Health Center

Tiana Terry, Volunteers of America

Bertha Byerson, Volunteers of America

Judy Brown, Smithfield Housing Authority

Teresa Wall, Johnston County Emergency Services

Melissa Payne, Johnston County Mental Health Center

Betsy Johnson, Carolina Outreach

Star Patino, Benson Housing Authority

Latifah Nixon, Benson Housing Authority

Cherri Swails, Johnston Recovery Services

Cheri Stocks, Johnston County Mental Health Center

Adrianne O’Neal, Harbor, Inc.

Rose Jones, Family Endeavors (Fayetteville)

**Introductions:**

Attendee introductions were made.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes were approved by common consent.

**BoS Steering Committee Meeting Updates from 03/01/16:**

**Short Meeting Summary**

* Two teams from Balance of State participated in the Rapid Results Institute Boot Camp to end veteran homelessness in February. March 1 is day 20 of a 100-day challenge for the teams.
  + The Rowan County team's goal is to house 10 veterans/month - 30 veterans in 100 days
  + The Onslow County team's goal is to house 12 unsheltered veterans in 100 days.
* The State ESG office published the list of 2015-16 BoS ESG awards: [ncceh.org/files/6734](http://ncceh.org/files/6734). The ESG Office is having two conference calls on ESG forms next week (same information on each call):
  + Mon. 3/7, 10-11:30 a.m. & Fri. 3/11, 9-10:30 a.m.
  + Call in number: [919-662-4657](tel:919-662-4657)
  + Contact Michael Leach with questions, [919-855-4991](tel:919-855-4991)
* BoS staff is in touch with CoC Permanent Supportive Housing grantees who did not meet standards on the PSH Key Elements section of the CoC Renewal Project Scorecard. Nine agencies did not meet one or more standards - staff will work with agencies to come into compliance.
* BoS Rapid Re-housing Subcommittee - Fri. March 18, 10:30 -11:30 a.m., [ncceh.org/events/958](http://ncceh.org/events/958)

**Coordinated Assessment Up-Dates:**

Angela Jones - Coordinated Assessment Lead, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action

1102 Massey Street, Smithfield, NC 27577, (919) 934-2145 or [ajones.jlhca@gmail.com](mailto:ajones.jlhca@gmail.com)

**Guest Speaker:**

Tiana M. Terry, Volunteers of America Carolinas Program Director

433 West Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

(919) 530-1100 or [tterry@voa.org](mailto:tterry@voa.org)

**Discussion:**

Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need to rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. Founded in 1896 by social reformers, Ballington and Maud Booth, Volunteers of America was envisioned as a movement whose mission would be to “reach and uplift all people, to go wherever we are needed and do whatever comes to hand.”

Tiana inquired about the needs in our community and stated she would discuss possible future endeavors with Volunteers of America Carolina President of Programs. Volunteers of America Carolinas is in a transition period, so early on in the transition no formal time frame could be discussed. Tiana expressed an openness to receive any additional ideas and partnership opportunities.

About Volunteers of America in the Carolinas:

At Volunteers of America our mission is to “reach and uplift all people” in answer to God’s call to transform the world through a ministry of service (More about VOA's Mission: <http://www.voa.org/our-mission>). Founded in 1896 by social reformers Ballington and Maud Booth, Volunteers of America is well-inspired to get the job done with integrity and fortitude. (More VOA history: [http://www.voa.org/our-history](%20http://www.voa.org/our-history))  
  
From its service beginnings in 1987, Volunteers of America of the Carolinas, a faith-based non-profit organization, made its own way to “go wherever we are needed, and do whatever comes to hand.”

Volunteers of America in the Carolinas provides housing through affordable living communities for seniors, families and those with disabilities in North Carolina and South Carolina. The opening of our first affordable housing program in 1992 spurred further development of properties which allows residents increased independence.

Volunteers of America in the Carolinas serves veterans needing residential stability in 27 North Carolina counties. Through its transitional housing program for veterans who are homeless and its employment service, VOA Carolinas seeks to empower one of the nation’s most vulnerable groups.  With the motivation of our Founders and the veteran-centric [Values of the Staff and Volunteers](http://www.voacarolinas.org/about-values) our Veterans Programs demonstrate a result-oriented focus to its services.  
  
Volunteers of America in the Carolinas provides health care and support for elders living in the home so they may remain living at home.  With Senior CommUnity Care of North Carolina or PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) elders living in the North Carolina counties of Wake, Durham and parts of Granville will receive the dignity and comfort they deserve.

Volunteers of America Goals:

The goal of the SSVF program is to promote housing stability among very low-income Veteran families who reside in or are transitioning to permanent housing by providing case management services and temporary financial assistance.

Eligibility requirements:

* Veteran with a discharge anything other than dishonorable a single person or family in which head of household, or the spouse of the head of household is a Veteran
* Very Low income <50% area median
* Currently residing in permanent housing in danger of becoming homeless
* Currently homeless
* Timing out of a transitional housing program

Volunteers of America Overview:

Many men and women who have served our country in the armed forces often face obstacles between being discharged from the military and starting a civilian life. Making that transition can be challenging enough but when veterans’ benefits don’t kick in right away, or when individuals do not receive training for civilian jobs, veterans can find themselves facing what seems to be insurmountable obstacles to stable living.

Many veterans have lost their civilian jobs due to extended tours in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere and upon returning home, find it very difficult to support themselves and their families.  Many who are not currently homeless are in danger of becoming so, especially in growing economic hard times.

While lack of income, disabilities, physical sickness, mental health issues and substance abuse all contribute to homelessness, the primary reason veterans are homeless is the lack of affordable housing.

Veterans Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255 Press 1

**Announcements:**

**Next Meeting – April 21, 2016 at 10:30 am**

**Johnston County Mental Health Center Conference Room**