**Lee-Harnett County Regional Housing Committee**

**NC Balance of State Continuum of Care**

**Meeting September 16, 2015–11:00 am**

**Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.**

**225 South Steele Street, Sanford, NC 27330**

**(919) 776-0746**

**In Attendance:**

Tameika Prince, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.

Fredrika Cooke, Family Promise of Lee County

Tina Ray, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.

E. Marie Watson, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.

Becky Surles, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.

Larry Lingenfelter, NC Dept. of Commerce

Pamela Munger, Sandhills Center

Dr. Johnnye Waller, Lee County Schools

Shannon McLean, Sanford Housing Authority

**Welcome and Call to Order**

E. Marie Watson welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

**Introductions**

All in attendance introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

T. Ray approved the minutes and F. Cooke seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Balance of State**

CHIN has been changed to HMIS. Each client will be assigned their own unique ID number to be used in conjunction with the Rapid Re-housing Program. Alias names may be created in the event that the client is a domestic violence victim and needs to remain anonymous in order to ensure their safety. The new regional committee structure survey will be completed on September 30th.

**Rapid Re-Housing**

RRH for Lee County has housed another client since our last meeting. There are currently two people on the waiting list to be approved.

RRH for Harnett County has also housed another client since our last meeting. Money for Harnett County has almost been expended at this time. Becky Surles is working on creating a resource list of landlords for Harnett County.

**Coordinated Assessment Report**

F. Cooke stated that Family Promise will be sending the final changes for the Coordinated Assessment for Lee-Harnett County Regional Housing Committee in on Friday. Changes had to be made to the plan once Harnett County was added to the program. She said the committee should be able to vote on what they want to use the funds for in the October meeting.

**Announcements**

S. McLean stated that Sanford Housing Authority is doing reorganization within their agency. They currently have some openings for some new team members. SHA has implemented a plan to turn the old head start building on Linden Ave in to a residence for 3 or 4 homeless families. This change has already been approved by the board and is awaiting approval from HUD. She said there have been 741 vouchers authorized and 648 leases have been signed. Their new admin guidelines have been revised and now include special provisions for housing for homeless veterans, people who have been involuntary displaced, single elderly and chronically homeless people, people with disabilities that are chronically homeless, and families with minor children who have been identified by a social service agency or law enforcement as homeless. These provisions will be based on HUD’s definition of homelessness. They are currently working with their software vendor in order for their system to reflect these preferences. SHA is moving all files to Lee County for right now while they seek office space to rent in Harnett County. If anyone knows of any spaces that may be available for them please let Ms. McLean know.

Dr. Wall stated that Lee County Schools social workers have been trying to make sure that all paperwork is in and as many needs are being met with their homeless families as possible.

Kevin Hines, a motivational speaker and mental health advocate will be in Lee County on October 10th at 6:30pm at the Lee Auditorium. He will share his story about surviving after he jumped off of the Golden Gate Bridge. This event is free.

Marilyn Gilliam with LEECAN is working on enhancing collaboration and partnerships for Project Lazarus. Project Lazarus is a program developed to help educate people in order to reduce the number of deaths from overdose. The group meets on a monthly basis. Please contact Ms. Gilliam at the Health Dept. if you are interested or would like more information. There will also be a Disability and Mental Health Transition Fair in Harnett County for high school students who are transitioning out of high school. There will be speakers and vendors at this event.

L. Lingenfelter stated that he works with approximately 12 veterans per year. He partners with Veteran Affairs, Family Endeavors, and Volunteers of America in order to try to help them meet their needs.

T. Ray stated that their CSBG program is seeking applicants for the STARS program. The STARS program is a self-sufficiency program designed to help clients with employment, education, housing, budgeting, etc. In order to apply they must bring their picture ID, social security cards for everyone in the household, and proof of income for everyone in the household. This program is available in all 3 counties.

F. Cooke stated that Family Promise will have a booth at the No Scare Fair being held on October 24th from 9am-6pm at the Stevens Center located at 1576 Kelly Drive in Sanford. They are currently looking for volunteers to help with this event.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business a motion was made by T. Ray to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by S. McLean and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held at Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, 225 S. Steele Street, Sanford, NC on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.