**Balance of State Region 7 Committee Meeting**

**Sandhills Community College**

**Pinehurst, NC**

**January 25, 2018**

Donna McCormick welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. at the Sandhills Community College Logan Hall, Room 122. Members present introduced themselves.

Members Present: Donna McCormick – Sandhills Center; Karen Kennedy – City of Sanford; Shanita Harris – Family Endeavors; Tawanda Bennett; Jeffery Rawlings – Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc. (Lee-Harnett); Nina Walker – Sandhills Community Action Program; Robert Lawler - Asheboro Housing Authority; Tonya Greene – Therapeutic Alternatives; Catrina Martin – SAFE of Harnett County; Thomasina Wall, Anson County DSS; John Young, Montgomery County DSS; Al Anderson, Hoke County Open Door Soup Kitchen.

Donna McCormick welcomed all to the re-scheduled meeting and introductions were made.

Minutes – Nina Walker made the motion to approve the December 7, 2017 minutes, seconded by John Young as amended and the motion carried.

Balance of State-Update: Donna McCormick gave an update on the January 9, 2018 BoS Steering Committee Call/Meeting:

* Region 7 submitted its Plan to End Veterans Homeless and it was approved – the first region to have its plan approved.
* HUD will require each Continuum of Care to have a non-discrimination policy and NCCEH will provide a draft version for consideration.
* The Point-In-Time Count was discussed.
* The next BoS Steering Committee call will be held February 6, 2018.

Coordinate Assessment Updates: Tawanda Bennett reported the Region 7 Coordinated Assessment Plan was submitted and approved by NCCEH.

Grantee Updates:

* Friend-to-Friend: No one present.
* JLHCA reported they do not have contracts in place for ESG grants and there is no funding available. The new leadership in the NC Department of Health & Human Services said they would improve contract and payment management process; however, this has not occurred. There are still problems regarding the timing of grant reimbursements and program coordination with the state.
* Sandhill Community Action Program: Nina Walker reported they have one Permanent Supportive Housing voucher available.

New business:

Point-In-Time (PIT) Count: Debbie Cole, Region 7 PIT Count Coordinator was unable to attend but she did send all PIT leads important information and forms regarding the upcoming January 31, 2018 count. Donna summarized the information distributed by Debbie:

* The most important thing you can do, is make sure they use the correct forms for their agencies and that they understand what additional information is required if they use the HMIS.
* The main mistakes last year were people counted as unsheltered homeless that indicated on the survey that they spent the night in a motel paid for by someone else or a church temporary shelter.  Yes, they are homeless and whoever put them in a temporary shelter or motel needs to complete the sheltered count, but they are not unsheltered homeless.   The second biggest mistake was HUD funded agencies required to use the HMIS, did not submit the additional forms required, and third was not completing the reports.
* The actual count period will be from 6:00 pm Wednesday, January 31 thru Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Jeffery Rawlings with JLHCA recommended local soup kitchens be surveyed using the PIT Survey form. This should be completed on February 1 & 2, 2018.

Karen Kennedy reviewed the City of Sanford’s efforts to coordinate the PIT Count and this effort over the past six months generated over 50 volunteers.

Education Sessions Needed Each Month: Tawanda Bennett, JLHCA recommended Region 7 have an education session at each meeting to help members understand what needs to be accomplished for various program requirements (e.g. Coordinate Assessment, Point-In-Time Count).

Emergency Response Forms: Donna announced these forms have been changed and she will locate and distribute.

Agency Updates:

Sandhill Community Action Program (SCAP): Nina Walker reported the following:

* SCAP’s Section 8 waiting list is closed; but we’re actively pulling applicants from the list.
* The Self-sufficiency Program is always accepting applications.  The program has a goal of helping low-income people increase their income above the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.  We do this by helping the pay for short term training programs that will hopefully lead to gainful employment.
* SCAP is accepting applicants for the Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Program, in Anson County.  Applicants must be homeowners 62 and older, low-moderate income.  The program can provide up to $25,000.00 of essential home renovations that will allow the homeowners to age in place for a longer period of time.   SCAP is also currently working on two homes in Montgomery County.

Therapeutic Alternatives, Inc.: Tonya Greene reported the Hospital Transition Team receives referrals from MCO-Sandhills.  they meet with consumers while hospitalized for MH/SA issues.  Our team helps consumers to get linked with an outpatient treatment provider, see a psychiatrist for medication management, and purchase mental health medications.  A majority of the consumers who are referred to our team are homeless, and we accompany them from the hospital to local shelter settings.

Asheboro housing authority: Robert Lawler reported their Section 8 waiting list has been closed effective 12/29/17 due to long waits for housing.

Richmond County Schools:  Kim Childers reported we currently have 85 homeless students.  We provided Christmas for all of our homeless students with the help of the community in Richmond County.

Anson County DSS: Thomasina Wall reported Anson County DSS does not have any crisis money left and does not have any LIEAP money left.  The only funds available is EA (Emergency Assistance) but a child must live in the home to qualify.  We have one Social Worker position available.  That position will be posted on the website by the end of the month.  Anson County DSS is meeting with the architects on Friday January 26, 2018 to begin building design.  We hope to break ground September 2018.

Montgomery County DSS. John Young reported DSS is still assisting clients through the CIP & LIEAP program. DSS also has some job openings in the Medicaid dept. and a position in CPS is open. DSS is also assisting once a month with delivering Meals on Wheels for elderly citizens.

Moore County Schools: Casey Saunders reported they currently have 237 students that are in a homeless situation

Following the Agency Update session, the Region 7 Committee adjourned at 11:45 am. Due to the inclement weather in January and the re-scheduling of several Region 7 meetings the next meeting and location will be announced to the membership at a later date.

Submitted by Robert Lawler, Secretary