

Southern Mountains Homeless Coalition (Region 2 Balance of State or BoS)
March 5, 2020 - Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS), Hendersonville
Eleanor Meloun Community Room, 9:30 AM

Facilitation was by Co-lead **Kristen Martin** in Hendersonville. She reviewed ground rules for the meeting: Personal conduct to be professional; disputes to be aired outside of the meeting.; only one speaker at a time.

Persons participating included Emily Lowery, Bree, Tina Willis, Grace with School Connections, Lisa with UU in Brevard, Trina Eklund of Blue Ridge Community Health, Brenda Ploss, Trina Rushing, Beth Branagan, Chris Berg.

February 6 meeting minutes: **Kristen** asked for review comments on the distributed minutes. None were offered. The distributed version was approved by common consent.

Alyce Knaflich reported that the Governors Institute had estimated about 6000 homeless women.

Stephanie reported that the Racial Equity subcommittee (of the NCCEH BoS) has organized to do a Wednesday March 11 webinar, a general overview, to be followed by a March 27 meeting in High Point. Jackie at Blue Ridge plans to be involved. They anticipate quarterly in-person meetings. More detail is expected next month.

Beth reported on the Schoolhouse Connection work for a Point-In-Time count of children and youth. It was structured to address both HUD standard count of homelessness, and McKinney-Vento eligible children. The McKinney-Vento effort included kids in Early Head Start. She offered their preliminary count:

Henderson County: 243 McKinney-Vento, 13 HUD definition, 256 total

Transylvania County: 76 McK-V, 12 HUD, 88 total

Rutherford County: 163 McK-V, 2 HUD, 165 total (questioned)

Polk County: no preliminary count

Other PIT info: Pre-K, Henderson 4, Transylvania 8, Polk 2

DSS in Transylvania is involved.

Beth said Schoolhouse Connections plans a March 20 meeting, this may change as there is not a host yet

Beth said Page Lemel is working with County Commission on a 'Get Set Initiative'

BoS Steering Committee call Tuesday: Kristen reported we need to choose a Scorecard representative – to serve BoS for its funding evaluation tool. That name is to be submitted by March 31. Please call Kristen if you are interested in serving.

BoS has an at-large group working on Coordinated Entry surveys. They will send us screen shots of this work.

BoS Steering considered and approved letters re projects in Robison and Lee counties.

NCCEH is still reviewing preliminary PIT count results with agencies. Our preliminary numbers 'not quotable' are Transylvania 18, Henderson 92, Polk 1, Rutherford 23

There is concern about expanding use, or current non-use, of HMIS.

Meetings are coming up: Coordinated Entry, 10 AM March 10; Racial Equity, March 11; Coordinated Entry Council, March 16, 11 AM.

Evaluation of Coordinated Entry: Kristen said the hope is to create openings by quicker resettlements. This faces the problem in all four counties of affordable housing. It isn't clear who is to verify homelessness. We do see our list is decreasing as 'quality' checks are made. One tactic is to organize community outreach to offer less-impacted cases a self-sufficiency program, to divert from homelessness. It was noted that Salvation Army has a program for very short-term interim housing; they plan to attend the Coalition in April.

Veterans: Brenda Ploss spoke of an interagency council (working on or offering) a webinar.

Today there's to be a Job Fair in Buncombe, at 48 Grove St, Asheville, till 7 PM.

General discussion: Kristen said that Alyce is on the Project Review committee, and might have an estimate of the time commitment to serve on the Scorecard subcommittee. A guess is 'a couple of Friday calls'... Chris Berg clarified that he had served on the Project Review subcommittee which uses the work of Scorecard.

Tina asked about whether people could suggest participants for a Rutherford County task force (for Schoolhouse Connections work?) Kristen said Suzanne Porter of United Way/Rutherford as well as Emily and she would try to help.

The NCCEH Bringing It Home annual conference is set for Raleigh on May 20-21. Beth Branagan will be a presenter. Kristen will forward a link for conference registration.

There is (some sort of) planning session at Isothermal Community College March 10. Tammy Phillips...

Jacob Holmes is concerned with N-95 masks...

The next meeting of the Southern Mountains Region 2 Coalition will be April 2, at 9:30.

Added Henderson information:

Pisgah Legal plans a Lunch & Learn on the homeless response system in April.

Blue Ridge Health is seeing new developments daily...the Health Department will send outreach workers.

With respect, Chris Berg, coalition secretary