**Johnston County Regional Housing Committee**

**NC Balance of State Continuum of Care**

**Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2013**

**In Attendance:**

Keri Christensen, Harbor

Teresa Gardner, Johnston County Department of Social Services

Warren Grimes, Smithfield Housing Authority

Ragan Ham, Johnston County Department of Social Services

Margaret Hinnant, Johnston County Mental Health Center

Tonia McCormick, Johnston County Health Department

Sandra Norris, Johnston County Housing Assistance Payments Program

Tina Ray, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action

Kim Robertson, Johnston County Emergency Services

Cherri Swails, Johnston Recovery Services

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

**Introductions:**

Attendee introductions were made.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motion was made by Sandra Norris and seconded by Warren Grimes to accept the minutes from the January 17, 2013 meeting with no corrections being noted.

**Point In Time Count:**

Sandra Norris reviewed a handout of the results of the Point in Time Count and shared her experiences at the Library services based location. Tonia McCormick and Tina Ray shared information on their experiences at the services based site location at Temple Baptist Church, First Baptist Soup Kitchen and Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action respectively. The committee discussed the stereotypes of what a homeless person looks like and how they don’t want to make people feel uncomfortable and how to be respectful of their situations. The committee discussed lessons learned from this year’s count to apply to next year’s count. It was recommended that we have more visible signs at the sites to indicate what our purpose is and also to expand the care packages that were given away to include food items. The committee is appreciative of all those that donated items for this year’s care packages.

**Emergency Solutions Grant:**

Marie Watson gave an update on the ESG grant. A copy of the referral form was emailed to committee members prior to today’s meeting and a copy was given at today’s meeting. She stated there have been 22 applicants. 10 have been approved for the program and some have been placed on a waiting list. Some have received the assistance for three months. Tina Ray discussed how utilities for some companies have a graduated deposit methodology based on a client’s credit history and several clients have been required to pay large utility deposits. Tina stated it would be helpful to have more landlords to participate in the program. The group discussed the difficulties of finding landlords that provide decent, safe and affordable housing.

**BoS Steering Committee Meeting Updates form 2-5-13**

Ellen was unexpectedly absent from the meeting today and could not discuss the updates. Handouts were given with the 2012 CoC Application Summary and the new schedule for the 2013 subcommittee meetings.

**Targeting Program:**

Margaret Hinnant reviewed the suspension of the targeting program from February 21, 2013 to March 12, 2013. The state is transitioning to a new system during this time.

**Announcements:**

The poverty simulation scheduled for February 23, 2013 at FB Church in Smithfield has been cancelled. There will be a poverty simulation on March 6, 2013 at the Johnston Health Medical Mall. Tina Ray encouraged everyone to participate.

**Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2013 at 10:30 am at the Johnston County Mental Health Center Conference Room.