**Alamance County Interagency Council for Homelessness Assistance**

**July 1, 2013**

**Present**: Kim Braxton, RTSA; Kim Crawford, Allied Churches; Suellyn Dalton, Volunteer; Maseta Dorley, Cardinal Innovations; Donna Hodges, Allied Churches; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Heidi Norwick, United Way; Nikki Ratliff, BDC; Shawna Tillery, City of Burlington; Calvetta Watlington, Family Abuse Services; Robin Wintringham, Habitat for Humanity.

**Guests**: Amy Starr and Rev. Tadd Grandstaff, both of Pine Ridge Church.

**June Meeting Minutes**: The minutes of the June 3, 2013 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Robin Wintringham made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed with a second from Heidi Norwick. The minutes were approved.

**Homeless Project**: Amy Starr, a hairstylist, attended today’s meeting as someone who has previously participated in a Project Homeless Connect event in Durham County. She has been interested in holding a similar event here in Alamance County and took her interest to her church, Pine Ridge Church. She and her pastor are here today to see if we are interested in partnering with them on this event. This event provides access to services--doctors, hair stylists, DSS to assist with access to benefits, the Y that was open to provide shower facilities, assistance with access to employment—to the homeless population. This could be called “Hope for Alamance,” a one stop shop for those who are in need (homeless and others) for assistance with resumes, clothing access, food, etc. These folks often feel hopeless and never “catch a break.” This event could help get them on their feet and provide access to some of the folks who are available to help. Pine Ridge is interested in bringing faith-based groups and others together to “do what we do.” We know what works, what’s available, etc. This could be held once a year to start with. There’s currently a well-advertised and well-attended dental clinic, usually held at the Church of the Holy Comforter, that could perhaps dove-tail with this event. It could also be “partnered” with Make a Difference Day or center around the Point in Time count. Volunteers from this event could assist with counting the PIT folks. Suellyn pointed out they currently do a couple of health fairs already this year. The Goodwill location in West Burlington does similar things. This can provide connections to folks in need. It was discussed that perhaps several other congregations may want to participate—may be able to create care packages, i.e., hygiene products, gift cards for food, etc. Nikki Ratliff made a motion to create a subcommittee to discuss this event further, with a second by Elizabeth Lockley. The motion passed. Volunteers for the subcommittee include Calvetta, Nikki, Heidi, Kim B, Kim C, and Robin. Kim Crawford will do a meeting wizard for a date for the “Hope for Alamance” event. We’ll send a note to the entire committee to see if anyone else wants to serve on this subcommittee.

**Recent Regional Lead Meeting**: Kim Braxton gave an update from the Regional Lead meeting held June 25, 2013, at the HUD office in Greensboro. Maseta Dorley was also in attendance at this event.

* Copies of the NC Balance of State Governance Plan were distributed, one per agency attending, for review and discussion. This document will be reviewed at the July 2nd Steering Committee meeting (via conference call) and perhaps approved as a final document.
* The Balance of State will be paying for some CHIN licenses for the 2013-13 fiscal year—which ones and how many will be determined.
* It was discussed that HUD is moving away from the “10 Year Plan.” We should understand that, when we do coordinated intake, we will want to work on this as a strategy.

ACICHA has no strategic plan. Kim Crawford discussed that a strategic plan mirroring the federal plan would help us in Alamance County to determine who’s doing what, how, etc. We must identify the partners who we need at the table. The Strategic Plan would help us to identify those partners. Everyone should pull the Federal Strategic Plan and review for the August meeting so we have a place to start. Also at the August meeting, we should be prepared to pull together an ad hoc committee to work on this. Kim Crawford will be the designated alternate for attending the Steering Committee meetings when Kim Braxton is unable. Kim Braxton will email NCCEH with this information and will email Kim Crawford with the contact information for tomorrow’s call as she will be attending in Kim Braxton’s place.

**ACICHA Focus on Data**: The Balance of State has a, HPRP, PSH, and Data Quality subcommittee meeting each quarter. We in ACICHA need to focus on the data we have. Without data, how can we know, and tell others, what’s going on in Alamance County? What are all the agencies doing? We don’t have a real picture of what the homeless look like in our county. We need to be able to access aggregate data for Alamance County as a whole. Elizabeth Lockley pointed out that CHIN can allow for custom reporting and will allow for “all Alamance” data collection and reporting, if all participating agencies give permission for access to their data. Those doing centralized intake are participating in CHIN. CHIN may be able to do an electronic data dump into an alternate system. We need to consider community partners—the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, etc.—and their participation.

We may need to have a handful of the Strategic Planning committee to work on data, another subcommittee to do services, etc. Suellyn Dalton said that Alamance Community College has a researcher/statistician who can assist us with this data collection/analysis, etc. Kim Crawford said that 43% of the people seen from February until now have a High School diploma or less. Kim can’t get that information from CHIN. Allied Churches alone would need 8 licenses to be able to use CHIN as their data collection program. Kim wants to know what the questions are—what data she might need to collect. Kim can’t currently analyze trends. There are some really cool, innovative things going on across the country that we need to learn about and access. How many people can we serve? Without real data, we don’t know. We need to know who is living on the margins.

**Updates**:

HOPE & STEPS: June30, 2014 is IT! We need services for those who are just homeless—not chronic, not disabled, etc. Do we want to continue this? Is there an agency that wants to step-up and say they’ll take it over? BDC/BHA is releasing this because of the matching money requirements. HOPE is $70ish as is STEP annually (there are one year, annually renewed). These programs are not tied together but could go separately to different agencies. There are 10 families—4 families for STEP, 6 individuals for HOPE—who can be served. These are housed through private landlords. Be thinking of whether we want to absorb these elsewhere. STEPS has 3 families. HOPE has 4 individuals. Openings are available and are taking applications as of today.

RTSA: There is one opening for a homeless female with substance abuse and/or mental illness issues.

Family Abuse Services: The shelter is really full right now with no one expected to move out. The Electronic Protective Order rolled out Monday—everything can now happen in one building. Forms are auto populated, judge sees them there, and the 50B is in process and the victim goes to court in 10 days. They are also notified if the abuser is released from incarceration and officers can pull this info in their car so that they will know what they are dealing with. We are the only one in the state—and potentially the only one in the nation—doing this!

Shelter + Care: Shelter +Care is taking applications but they are currently full.

City of Burlington: There is an Urgent Repair program available for those who qualify. The application dollar limit is $5,000 and applications will be taken through September. Interested individuals can email or call Shawna for applications.

The meeting was adjourned to meet Monday, August 5, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. at the Habitat for Humanity office.