**Alamance County Interagency Council for Homeless Assistance**

**March 4, 2013**

**Present**: Kim Braxton, RTSA; Kim Crawford, Allied Churches; Suellyn Dalton, Volunteer; Maseta Dorley, Cardinal Innovations; Donna Hodges, Allied Churches; Wendy Lewis, Salvation Army; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Jason Martin, Alamance County; Heidi Norwick, United Way of Alamance; Lynn Rousseau, Family Abuse Services; Jimmy Taylor, Salvation Army; Shawna Tillery, City of Burlington; Calvetta Watlington, Family Abuse Services; Leo Welsh, Allied Churches.

The minutes of the February 4th meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Heidi Norwick with a second by Lynn Rousseau. The motion passed.

**Old Business**:

It was noted that the Point in Time Count tally was completed and submitted by Jackie Sheffield. The ACICHA members are grateful for Jackie’s investment of time and effort into the conduct and completion of this project.

**Agency Updates**:

Allied Churches:

They are currently serving 43 men, 10 women, and 20 women & children together. Attendance is sketchy this tax season. They are evaluating these numbers with regard to assigning beds, lengths of stays, etc. It was noted that the weather has not been too cold this year. There have only been a few nights so cold that the doors were open to anyone. They’ve not turned anyone away. The ESG quarterly report is due in March. Sequestration is projected to cause a 7% decrease over 9 months instead of 12 months which will feel like 14-15%.

United Way of Alamance County:

United Way is on target for funding this year. There may be a bit more funding available for awards this year. The deadline for letters of intent is today. Heidi will review the letters of intent to make sure things are in order and may ask for more information, etc.

Salvation Army:

They are very busy picking up lots of Loaves & Fishes families—up from 40 to over 100. (Loaves & Fishes is still not open.) The Salvation Army is distributing food 5 days a week now instead of 2 days. They received grants recently to continue. Spending of the EFSP 1st half is complete with the 2nd half of funding coming tomorrow. This money has been extremely helpful and was used in a matter of weeks. They just received $10,000 more for their Share the Warmth program. The need has increased and they are serving more people now than they ever have. There was a question regarding what is most needed. While storage of food is a consideration, there is a need for a lot of dry goods—Mac & Cheese, rice, beans, pasta, cereal, etc. Wendy will send Heidi an announcement regarding this to send to Community Council. Their food services can be accessed 1 time/quarter resulting in 4-5 days of food per person.

RTSA:

The Mebane Street Permanent Housing Unit is full. The 2nd year of the grant has just ended. RTSA will seek renewal funding in the fall 2013 NOFA.

Cardinal Innovations:

There are group homes that have to shut down—up to 3000 people from across NC will need housing. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is training individuals across the state regarding which housing each displaced person will need. The state has a very short turn-around for completion of rehousing. The DOJ is directing them to do landlord outreach. The MCOs and DSS are responsible for the prompt relocation of these individuals. Housing relocation money will be provided to assist them. Cardinal Innovations has had 2 individuals affected thus far. Other counties may call our MCO to work together to house these individuals within 3 days of disposition. Also, the Shelter+Care program will be undergo a HUD audit in April. These are currently filled at 35 and have 2 new applications. Michael Johnson has given them permission to do carry-over funds into the next funding year.

CHIN:

Elizabeth Lockley distributed DQ reports. They are still working to exit all those who need to be exited. Daniel may be contacting individuals trying to get their HMIS percentages up. The ESG report is something they’ve dealt with a lot in the last week or so. PIT is done now. AHARs are done. They are getting into the part of the year where time allows for getting data under control.

Family Abuse Services:

Lynn Rousseau discussed the electronic filing of emergency protective orders. The program is just about ready for testing. It has taken a bit of time to get here but believe the finished product will be worth the wait. The new process will allow a much safer filing of 50Bs. It is anticipated that they’ll have the final product in their hands by June 1. Officers will have access to this information when they go on calls. The Crisis & Court Advocacy program serves an average of 700 victims per year (not counting children). Family Abuse Services is exploring options for relocation. The current facility has 6 bedrooms/4 baths with $300/month rent. Finding a comparable location will not be easy. Family Abuse Services would like to have something closer to the Family Justice Center. A new facility would required 5-10 more beds to keep current with need. Also, there are currently openings in the program.

Alamance Community College:

Suellyn Dalton reported that cost for taking the GED exam is currently $7.50, is projected to be $35 next year, and will be $120 the year after that. The difference is a profit-making company will be running this at that time. ACC is assisting approximately 90% of the 1000 people each year who take that exam. Without the GED, individuals have very few employment options. A person in Suellyn’s program can do either GED or the adult high school program track. She has been writing grants to large companies asking for help. For those who are taking tests now, they need to complete these under the current fee. In the future there will also be a re-test fee. It will be online, a new test, and you pay an additional fee to take the test again. It is anticipated that these tests will be more difficult. There is a program called Career College for anyone with a 3rd grade reading level or higher seeking to get into a certificate program allowing them to do certain things, such as auto mechanics assistant, health care assistant, soon, the horticulture assistant, and shortly thereafter, the Culinary assistant. Contact Monica Isbell for more information. Individuals must be 18 or older, with the exception of 16 year olds with permission from the school system.

Non-profit status:

Some of the things done by ACICHA are currently done by Alamance County. In the state of NC, non-profit agencies and their boards, who are unpaid, are covered and are not liable. It was noted that, as fiscal agents, they \*are\* responsible for negligence. The reason ACICHA needs to be a non-profit is that we are trying to make sure that we can receive grants or provide oversight of grants when they are not spending appropriately. Discussion of continuing the pursuit of 501c3 also included that we would need a coordinator/staff person to do the actual work. Suellyn stated that we applied twice for money to complete the non-profit process. Non-profit filing fees are approximately $500. Previously, a donor had offered to pay these fees. It is believed that this money would be available again if we pursued this.

HPRP:

Heidi stated that HPRP served 155 families (from the documentation available). United Way actually lost $73,000 on this project. A lot of work has been put into the settling of this grant. United Way has a committee to meet who will come up with “best practices” should this type of grant funding become available again. HPRP monies are now rolled into ESG monies. Monies available now under HPRP will serve 12-15 families over 18 months. Guidelines for spending that money are still forthcoming.

**New Business**:

At the request of ACICHA, Robin Wintringham invited Jason Martin, with Alamance County, in charge of planning for the county, to our meeting today. He administers the CDBG grants for the county. They hire a third party consultant for the administration of the grant and inspections of the projects. They are in the process of acquiring additional grant funding including an urgent repair grant and a single family housing grant. Jason is working with Piedmont Triad Regional Council to manage these grants. The County has done several CDBG projects, i.e., infrastructure (250K) for the Ben Court Habitat project. It is hoped that Jason will join us at future ACICHA meetings.

**Announcements**:

Allied Churches: There is an upcoming golf fundraiser to be held at MillCreek by Elon.

Family Abuse Services: On April 27th, they will hold their Purple Ribbon Gala with silent auction, cocktail hour, etc.

RTSA: The speaker for their upcoming Annual Banquet held May 8th at the Alamance Country Club will be Steven Ford, son of former President Gerald Ford and Mrs. Betty Ford.

The meeting adjourned to meet again April 1, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. at the Habitat for Humanity Administrative building.