

AHRMM MEETING
September 17, 2013
Richmond County DSS

In Attendance:

Regional Chair: Susan Bellew, Family Promise; Regional Vice-Chair: Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center; Secretary: Mary Pat Buie, Sandhills Center; Carol Brown, Family First and Golden Care; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Faye Hardy, Moore County Schools; Rasheeda Sturdivant, Trinity Services, LLC.; Phil Hewett, Sandhills Center; Anne Friesen, Friend to Friend; David Richardson, Legal Aid of North Carolina; Jessica Ledbetter, Food Bank of NC; Kelly Hutchinson, REFORM; Ann Bowen, RHA; Linda Collins, Richmond County DSS; Cynthia Cox, Anson County Schools; Nina Walker, SCAP; Angela Barnes, Rockingham ACTT; Richard Evers, Montgomery County DSS.

The meeting was called to order by Susan Bellew. She welcomed all attendees.

Introductions

Attendee introductions were made.

Approval of August 2013 Minutes

Anne Friesen made a motion to approve the August 2013 minutes, second by Donna McCormick. Minutes stand approved.

Balance of State Steering Committee Update

Susan Bellew reported on the Balance of State meeting.
(see notes attached)

Report from SCAP

Nina Walker reported one vacancy in each of the following locations: Rockingham, Wadesboro, and Pine Bluff. She said that two families are moving out of the transitional house in Pine Bluff in October.

Report from Sandhills Center LME/MCO

Donna McCormick reported that the Shelter Plus Care recipient is doing well. She said that Sandhills Center's management team is negotiating with the state about the future of the grant.

Report from Friend to Friend

Anne Friesen reported that they now have a certified SOAR worker and that two individuals are in the process of receiving assistance with applying for disability. She reported a collaborative meeting that she attended involving The Haven (a domestic violence shelter in Lee County) that closed because of a lack of leadership and funding. Anne said that she had been working on the AHRMM committee goal to end homelessness.

Agency Updates:

Golden Care/Family First

Carol Brown stated that housing is a big need for the individuals she is working with. She continues to be very busy with her Golden Care consumers.

Trinity Services, LLC

Rasheeda Sturdivant reported that Trinity Services has started their Substance Abuse Outpatient Program (SAOP) and has added Intensive In Home services for adults and children. She said that Trinity provides services in Anson, Richmond, Scotland, Hoke, Cumberland, and Guilford counties.

Anson County Schools

Cynthia Cox reported that Morven Elementary School has 99% poverty. Most of the students receive a free lunch. These students are also sent home with a backpack with food supplies for the week-end. Kam McDonald reported 3 homeless children.

Hoke County Coalition Against Homelessness

Martha Beatty was unable to attend but sent a message that she is in need of a refrigerator for her shelter.

Friend to Friend

Anne Friesen announced the Candlelight Vigil for victims of domestic violence that will be held on October 15th at 6:30 at the park downtown in Southern Pines. She said that she would attend a meeting today to collaborate on a Sexual Assault Taskforce. Anne volunteered to attend the Rapid Housing sub-committee meeting on September 24th and report back to AHRMM.

Sandhills Center

Donna McCormick reported that she and Mary Pat Buie had attended the Quarterly Housing Meeting in Greensboro on Monday, September 16th. She reported that the lead based paint problem in the house for the Shelter Plus Care recipient had been cleared up. The inspector had gone to the wrong house. She said that HUD was working with the Public Housing Authorities to have housing choice vouchers for our homeless population.

Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.

David Richardson reported that they have opened a new office in Rockingham at 225 E, South Hancock Street. They have also hired two new attorneys in Richmond County. David announced that they had received a grant to use Navigator for healthcare exchange with the new law. He offered for one of the attorneys to present at one of our AHRMM meetings. He said that they also have attorneys that are bilingual.

Richmond County DSS

Linda Collins reported that their transition to NC FAST has had several glitches which resulted in 130 families waiting for their August benefits. She said that churches had been helping out with these folks. She mentioned that several crisis programs are starting to help. She said that the community was working together to find a new location for the shelter that burned.

Montgomery County DSS

Richard Evers reported that their transition to NC FAST has been smoother but still has some flaws. He said that Work First is taking applications now. He said that Child Protective Service intakes have increased and they have received more complaints about group homes. Richard said that the County Manager was the head of Montgomery DSS now instead of the board.

Moore County Schools

Faye Hardy reported that they are utilizing the McKinney-Vento Act to help identify homeless students. She said that the bus schedule had been a challenge.

SCAP

Nina Walker reported that they are still taking applications for the Self Sufficiency Program. The program includes job skill training.

Rockingham ACTT

Angela Barnes reported that they had served 64 individuals with “Mental Health on Wheels” in Anson, Richmond, Hoke, and Moore counties. She reported one individual that has been referred for Targeted Housing at Cameron Grove Apartments.

REFORM

Kelly Hutchinson reports that they are still looking for resources for men and boys with criminal backgrounds.

Food Bank of NC

Jessica Ledbetter said that they were encouraging folks to wear orange on Thursdays during the month of September. There is a bread giveaway every second Tuesday in Robbins at the First Baptist Church at 10:30. She mentioned that the cost of obtaining a GED is increasing quite a bit in the future. For individuals with that need, it would be a good idea to do it now. There will be 25 cent hot dogs at the Kangaroo Express in Southern Pines this Friday. The food drive will be held in October. On September 24th, Southern Middle School is having a food drive-wear orange! Jessica said that their website had been updated.

Family Promise

Susan Bellew reported that they have received a small grant for homeless prevention and rapid rehousing. Referrals must be from agencies and not from individuals that are requesting help.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 9:30-location to be determined.