**Alamance County Interagency Council for Homeless Assistance**

**September 9, 2013**

**Present:** Kim Braxton, RTSA; Suellyn Dalton, (ACC) Volunteer; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Heidi Norwick, United Way; Nikki Ratliff, BHA/BDC; Lynn Rousseau, Family Abuse Services; Jackie Sheffield, BPD; Ashley Taylor, The Salvation Army; Calvetta Watlington, Family Abuse Services; Robin Wintringham, Habitat for Humanity.

With the grand opening of the new food bank at Allied Churches, and the additional responsibilities involved with that, President Kim Crawford was unable to attend today’s meeting. In her absence, Nikki Ratliff called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the August meeting were distributed by email and the minutes of the Called Meeting for the ESG grant approval were distributed today for review. Suellyn Dalton made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, with a second by Elizabeth Lockley. The minutes for both meetings were approved.

**Program Updates**

Nikki Ratliff gave an update on the **HOPE and STEPs** programs. HOPE (chronically homeless program) has 4 participants currently and STEPS has 3 families participating at the present time. Nikki has confirmed the information on the GIW and has notified the Balance of State that these programs will not be continued after June 30, 2014 due to lack of match dollars. Their agency is funding the match dollars at this time.

Calvetta Watlington stated that the **Family Abuse Services** shelter is completely full. She noted that almost every Domestic Violence shelter in the area is full which is causing an issue at this time. They completed the 75th 50B efiled order on Friday with no major problems. This has been a very successful program.

There was no one present from Cardinal Innovations present to discuss the **Shelter Plus Care** program.

Kim Braxton reported that the **RTSA Recovery Home for Women** on Mebane Street is full at this time and she has completed their GIW for this program.

**Balance of State**

Kim Braxton gave an update from the Balance of State Steering Committee conference call , the notes of which, written by Corey Root of the Balance of State, were distributed to the ACICHA email listserve.

**CHIN**

Elizabeth Lockley gave an update from CHIN including information that several meetings have been held lately to address data uses, etc. They studied Winston Salem who is within 1-2 years of ending homelessness, i.e., having no one who is homeless for longer than 30 days. They’re only addressing homelessness—not poverty, mental illness, etc. People still lose housing but are rehoused within 30 days.

**Feeding the Hungry in Alamance County**

When the announcement regarding Loaves &Fishes closing was made, people wanted to do something to ensure the hungry in Alamance County would still receive food. There was a community meeting on August 30th to brainstorm on how many hungry, what agencies can serve, etc. They broke off into committees to deal with the various aspects of feeding the homeless. The Salvation Army has agreed to be open every day and distribute food in the a.m. and p.m. Allied Churches has opened today to distribute food to the hungry. They are also now offering a dinner meal open to the public, not just residents of the shelter. There will be set menu offered each day to assist in having necessary food stuffs on hand. The distribution models are being reviewed at this time.

Salvation Army is tracking how many folks are coming to them that used to receive food from Loaves &Fishes. They are serving approx. 35-40 food boxes a day. Individuals can receive a food box 1 time every 3 months. Allied Churches needs donations, cash, people to make pick-ups and deliveries, etc.

Robin distributed the current schedule as of this morning entitled, “Feeding the Hungry in Alamance County”. The handout—when finalized—will go out to libraries and will be sent home with children at schools.

United Way has set up a fund, *Feed the Hungry*, where individuals can donate funds but it is preferred that donations be made directly to ACAC, FAS, Salvation Army, etc. Information will continue to flow through Community Council as it become available.

An air-conditioned site, the Garrison Joyner building, has been designated as a central drop-off for food donations. With this central location, other pantries can come there as well, not just the Salvation Army, Allied Churches, etc. There are 5 churches meeting tonight who have been doing food collections to determine whether they will work independently or collaboratively with others.

Suellyn Dalton reminded us that ACC has a food pantry that is unadvertised that is just for ACC students. This is mostly supported by the staff of ACC. Lamb’s Chapel also has an unadvertised food pantry for church attendees/members. Eastlawn has an in-school food pantry to serve their students’ families. It was noted that Martha Kroll can translate materials that folks have into Spanish.

Suellyn also noted that ACC is getting a new president, Dr. Algie Gatewood, who is originally from North Carolina. Dr. Gatewood is very outgoing and loves public speaking and meeting people. He has spoken of the 2 parts of the college—academic and continuing education. Dr. Gatewood has worked in the Continuing Education side of the college which is most often overlooked. He begins work at ACC the first of October. Suellyn will invite him to Community Council.

Jackie Sheffield brought a “hot of the [email] presses” memorandum regarding NC FAST and the food stamps program. As of October 1, 2013 there are beween 11,000 and 12,000 individuals who will have to choose a health plan. They have have from 10/1/13-3/1/13 to enroll. DSS for Food Stamps has set up computer banks in their lobbies. See the handout Jackie brought for additional information.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Heidi Norwick. The ACICHA group will meet again on October 7, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Braxton

Secretary, ACICHA Regional Committee