

Alamance County Interagency Coalition for Homeless Assistance

February 3, 2014

Present: Donna Hodges, ACAC; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Nikki Ratliff, BDC/BHA; Jackie Sheffield, BPD; Jan Bowman, ABSS; Heidi Norwick, United Way; Kim Braxton, RTSA; Kim Crawford, ACAC; Caroline Taylor, ACAC; Spencer Cook, Cardinal Innovations.

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed. Heidi Norwick made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Jan Bowman. The minutes were approved.

Point in Time Count:

Thanks to Jackie Sheffield for all her work on the Point in Time Count. Questionnaires are currently being entered into a survey monkey document for accurate tallying. It is felt that more unsheltered homeless were counted this year than in years past. Cardinal Innovations is using the CHIN report for their data. The entire PIT count is due to the Balance of State on February 14th. All individuals need to have their numbers to Jackie by 5P on Friday, 2/7/14. There were no Hispanics noted in the PIT; La Comunidad didn't report any homeless individuals. This is something we need to put emphasis on next year. At the March 3rd meeting, we will debrief on the data that we have regarding our PIT and will discuss the next dates for Project Homeless Connect planning meetings. The meetings will begin for actual planning of the next PHC in October, 2014.

Project Homeless Connect:

A special thanks goes to the folks at Hope Church. Kim Crawford thanked the United Way staff for all the work they did. More people applied for jobs in the Job Link trailer than at any other location they had taken their mobile unit to. He had 15 come through the mobile unit (25% of the people in attendance). It would be good to include a gift card for \$5-\$10 in each bag. Jan thinks that she could provide another product for the "stuff bags" through a grant she is writing. Volunteer hours were given to the volunteers as needed. The location was discussed as perhaps needing a location downtown. And, also need more transportation from the rural areas, i.e., pick-up at the food bank in the southern part of the county. Four questions were asked of participants to which they responded and provided feedback. There will be a specific PHC meeting for debriefing. The results from the providers will be ready before that meeting. A total of 61 Stuff Bags were distributed.

CoC Applications:

The ranking of the CoC applications was discussed. We, as a Regional Committee, have much room for improvement. All of our applications were ranked in the bottom half of the overall ranking. This led us to discuss, "What is ACICHA's purpose?" What are we going to do as a Regional Committee? We are the voice of the homeless in Alamance County. In the future, when ACICHA asks to see applications from those submitting grants in that funding cycle, applications must be submitted for review. We know that our applications are losing points because there aren't as many veterans in this area. One of the biggest issue for Cardinal was APRs. They lost 50 points of 50 points for getting APRs done. We have to do a better job of having correct APRs with better performance in outcomes. Elizabeth Lockley, from CHIN, offered to help to read APRs better and understand how to make the data cleaner and better. What are Alamance County's priorities? What can WE do to increase these scores? Not using "Transition in Place" term and other "terms" hurt applications when reviewers were not knowledgeable

about our programs. The only service our clients aren't connected to is housing. Case Management, other than Mental Health, is a needed service which the grants in this county provide. However, this is a service that the Balance of State does not wish to continue to fund. Who needs to be at the ACICHA meetings? Some of the services that ACAC provides might be able to help other agencies who are not at this table any longer. We need to demonstrate that, when we get the money, we are successful and are good stewards of the money. We are still considered a priority because we are in tier 1. The priority is PERMANENT housing. We need to be able to articulate why transitional housing is important to Alamance County. This needs to be included in the Community Assessment. Members should review ACICHA's Bylaws and the governing documents so that we are able to describe ACICHA to those who aren't aware of this Regional Committee.

Shelter+Care:

We should continue to send applications for S+C to Spencer. The Housing Subcommittee will begin to meet again in March after the ACICHA meeting. We can look at merging applications with the new Cardinal Innovations application for ease of use and streamlining of process. The applications could be scanned and emailed to review in advance of the meeting. Kim/Nikki/Donna Hodges will forward their application to Spencer to review and merge with his application.

BoS/HUD priorities:

Members are asked to review the Balance of State priorities and come to the March meeting prepared to discuss the needs of the homeless in Alamance County and how our priorities fit with the Balance of State funding priorities. We will be discussing goals that we want to accomplish in 2014, who needs to be at the table (besides participating agencies), etc.? Kim Crawford has a friend, Nancy Cashman, who set up the Affordable Housing Coalition who can come here to meet with us to help with our Committee's focus. The Committee will discuss the possibility of having Ms. Cashman come to assist with conducting a planning conference for a 10 year plan to end homelessness in Alamance County. Winston Salem has a very active Regional Committee and they evaluate their data constantly. The 10 year plan can create points of accountability to be considered. Holding a Poverty Forum would also help us with this planning. It could be helpful to have a Coalition of Landlords to provide fair housing.

STEPS and HOPE:

Nikki Ratliff reported that there are 4 families in STEPS, and 4 participants in HOPE. As a result of the Project Homeless Connect, she is expecting applications from the housing coordinator at ACAC.

Mebane Street Recovery Home:

Kim Braxton reported that RTSA has one opening at the Mebane Street Recovery Home.

Balance of State Update:

Kim Braxton provided an update from the last Balance of State Steering Committee conference call and noted that there will be a day-long Steering Committee meeting for regional leads and regional lead alternates. Kim Braxton will send Kim Crawford the agenda from the meeting.

ABSS Update:

Jan Bowman is in the beginning stages of the grant writing for the next 3 years. The grant is very interested in numbers and she intends to turn that focus to most of the money begin spent on shelter,

developing tutoring for our students, focus on the 0-5 year old population, and assisting parents with educational resources for children.

United Way Update:

Heidi Norwick reported VITA starts 2/11 except for Tuesday mornings at Goodwill. Also on 2/11 there is a Board Governance workshop. United Way will help with

Allied Churches Update:

Kim Crawford is having a meeting to discuss how to help families in shelter (planning/action meeting) February 13th at 4:00 pm at the Sellars Gunn facility located at 612 Apple St.

Shelter Care:

Spencer Cook is working with HUD regarding match data from the past several years. Graham Housing grant can now be closed out and those tenants transitioned to some of the other grants. We will be giving up the 8 slots that were in the GHA grant. Cardinal Innovations is working with HUD to create additional beds using the existing funding. MeckLink will be joining with Cardinal Innovations as of April 1st. Domestic violence cases can transition out of the area fairly easy whereas they cannot as easily transfer other homeless folks out due to CoC funding issues.

CHIN Update:

Elizabeth Lockley reported for CHIN that they are entering a contract with Focus Strategies to improve reporting and data management. There are new APR versions out there.

There being no further business, Nikki Ratliff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Heidi Norwick. The meeting was adjourned to meet again March 3, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Habitat for Humanity office.