

Alamance County Interagency Council for Homeless Assistance
March 10, 2014

Present: Nikki Ratliff, BHA/BDC; Kim Braxton, RTSA; Jackie Sheffield, BPD; Shawna Tillery, City of Burlington; Heidi Norwick, United Way; Elizabeth Lockley, CHIN; Kim Crawford, ACAC; Robin Wintringham, Habitat for Humanity; Nicole Enoch, Ebenezer Church.

The meeting was called to order by Kim Crawford, Chairperson. The minutes of the February meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as distributed was made by Jackie Sheffield with a second by Heidi Norwick. The minutes were approved.

The March 3rd meeting was rescheduled to today due to an ice storm. Another, more severe ice storm hit on Friday, March 7th, which took out the power to most of Alamance County. For everyone's information, the City of Burlington emergency contact is Rodger Manuel and the Alamance County emergency contact is Dave Leonard. It was noted also that Fairchild Community Center is the only Red Cross certified emergency shelter in the county.

CHIN: The statewide HMIS Governance Committee has issued an RFP for management of the HMIS system. CHIN is submitting an application in response to this RFP. Regardless of who is selected for HMIS management through the RFP, the Balance of State will continue to require data entry into the HMIS system.

Elizabeth Lockley reported that there is no new APR today. The Client's Enrolled Report has been drastically redesigned and includes a lot of demographic information. All who have an ART license should be able to access this report which comes monthly.

Point in Time Count: We are still uncertain as to our official PIT count for Alamance County. CHIN doesn't collect the necessary information for the Point in Time Count. Data collected from the Project Homeless Connect was great! We were able to collect data on the imminently homeless that we've never been able to count. The count on the Rapid Re-Housing was 22 and 71 (people—individuals, families, veterans, etc) in Permanent Supportive Housing. Jackie is working on getting an overall count of the homeless in Alamance County. The focus of this year's PIT count was veterans. This year was very confusing given the guidelines given to work within. Information from the Alamance Burlington School System shows, including double-ups, at 419 children.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC): Heidi Norwick reported that, following the debriefing meeting from the PHC, the consensus was that we should do the next event in July (before the children are back in school). The event will be held this year on July 24th from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. The planning meeting in preparation for that is Thursday, May 8th, at the United Way office from 12:30 - 2:00 pm. It was noted that there may be a need to change the location if a more central location can be found, i.e., where would the homeless go if they could walk to the event? At this PHC, it is hoped that eye exams, dental services, etc., will be provided. Following the debriefing meeting, it was discussed that there may be a need for more private place for interviews. There will be a discussion of what information needs to be considered "private". Everyone should watch for Heidi's upcoming email regarding the PHC.

Shelter+Care: There was no representative for Shelter+Care present at today's meeting. Spencer Cook has resigned from his position with Cardinal Innovations with an effective date of April 1st. There may be more information on this to follow at a later date. It was noted that Graham Housing Authority no longer has Shelter+Care funding.

STEPS and HOPE: Nikki Ratliff reported that both programs remain at an occupancy of four. These participants are doing well with one just having been approved for disability.

Mebane Street Recovery Home: Kim Braxton reported that the Mebane Street Recovery Home is at capacity and the residents are doing well in their individual programs. The grant ended 1/31/14 and RTSA is waiting to hear regarding renewal funding from the latest HUD NOFA. The ice storm brought down some large tree limbs at the facility which are being removed.

ABSS: The school system is closed today due to ice storm damage so the school liaison was not present at today's meeting.

Homeless Fair Housing Workshop: Shawn Tillery reported that approximately 70 people were in attendance at this event sponsored by the Alamance County Human Relations Committee, the City of Burlington, and the United Way. This was a very good turnout and many landlords received information on things that they can and cannot do when renting properties. Some renters were present to receive answers to their questions. It is felt that increased publicity early-on and advertisement through the City water bills helped to get the large numbers of attendance. There may be another meeting in the summer on foreclosures.

Also, Shawna received an email last week that the President's budget contains significant cuts for both CDBG and ESG. They are moving along on the projects for this year—ACAC's awning and bathrooms projects and for matching funds for Nikki's grant. HUD auditors will be in the office in June.

United Way: Heidi Norwick reported that this year's Make a Difference Day project will be packaging 40,000 packages of macaroni and cheese to be done at the Mall. These efforts will result in local agencies having more food for the hungry in Alamance County. It will be held April 12th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. They are also involved in Stamp out for Hunger on May 10th (through the Post Office). This event will be at the First Baptist Church downtown. Heidi has been contacted by DreamAlign (Susan Shutt), a food resource in Graham which opened in late September, 2014, regarding food donations. Ruth Pruitt and Heidi are going for a site visit next week.

Ebenezer Update: Nicole Enoch has 4 transitional housing programs—men's program (focuses on substance abuse) with 2 openings, women's program with 4 openings, the HOPE House is currently full, and the Domestic Violence program has recently opened. They've received 2 referrals from Family Abuse Services to be interviewed for their program. They are hoping to work with Family Abuse Services to transition folks out to the facility that can house 3 families.

The discussion of the ByLaws has been tabled until the April meeting. It was noted that, in order to meet a requirements of the By-Laws, ACICHA needs a formerly homeless member. Members of the committee will check on potential formerly homeless members.

Announcements:

The United Way is looking for a Financial Coordinator.

Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC) is looking for a Shelter Advocate (overnight position). It was also announced that ACAC can accept no perishable food donations.

A motion for the meeting to adjourn was made by Nikki Ratliff with a second by Shawna Tillery. The motion was approved by common consent. The next meeting of the Committee will be April 7, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at the Habitat for Humanity Administrative Offices.