

**Kerr-Tar Coalition to End Homelessness/Regional Housing Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions, Five County COC**

**134 S. Garnett St., Henderson, NC 27536**

**July 28, 2015**

**Attendees:**

1. Arlen Penny Coleman-CCNC
2. Ben Foti-Kerr-Tar WDB
3. Cassandra Hart-VC DSS
4. Cherrell Kearney
5. Dwan Alston-Securing Resources for Consumers
6. Kim McGowan-ARC-ACTT
7. Jeanne Variano- Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions-Admin
8. Joel Rice-Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions-Housing Specialist
9. Lavonge Manley-Oxford House
10. Lequetta Deshazo-securing Resources for Consumers
11. Marvin Peace-Oxford House
12. Olayide Olaniyan-PETER-ELIST, LLC
13. Richard Stewart
14. Rudolph Bailey-DSE Healthcare
15. Stephanie Harper-Strategic Interventions
16. Tonya Richards-Infinite Possibilities

Joel Rice opened the meeting by welcoming those present. Introductions were made.

Minutes from the June 23rd, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Stephanie Harper made motion to approve the minutes; the motion was carried by Lavongue Manley.

**Updates/Reports:**

1. **Updates from the Balance of State Steering Committee:**

* Joel shared the FY1516 grant competition has begun with Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions (CI) positioning themselves to apply. HUD has still not announced the NOFA. Once announced there will be 6-8 weeks to complete the application process.
* Due to a job change, Stephanie Harper will not be able to represent the Kerr-Tar Housing Committee on the BoS Project Scorecard Committee. Lavongue Manley has volunteered to take her place. Duties include participating in 2 conference calls regarding projects.
* Lequetta Deshazio is the designated webmaster and will be responsible for posting minutes and announcements to the Kerr-Tar Coalition website.

1. **Updates/Announcements from Committee Members:**

* Joel announced there was a Targeted Program unit available in Vance County at the Woods ll apartment complex. This is a non-handicap unit. Applicants can qualify if they meet the following criteria:
* Head of household must have a disability with permanent disability income
* No criminal record
* Clean credit history
* Other criteria include the ability to pay utility and rental deposits and first month’s rent. The required paperwork should be submitted to Joel. He will submit the information to the state. Once the state approves the information, then an application and processing fee should be submitted to Joel who will forward to the state. Upon approval, the state will fund the security deposit for this unit. There is a time limit (30 days) to apply before this unit will be offered to the mainstream public. Joel asked the committee members to be mindful of the applicants they are referring. If they do not meet the required criteria it could hinder the approval of their application.

1. **Other Housing Issues-Open Discussion (see attached draft):**

* Joel announced that as of July 27th, 2015, all Community Capacity Funds (non-UCR Funding) have been temporarily suspended until a more defined criteria for their use can be out-lined. He explained that during an audit, it came to his attention there were instances where these funds were being used for recipients that were not in the CI system of care. He emphasized the Community Capacity Funds are used for CI members only and would need to be verified with a Person Centered Plan (PCP) that has been written and signed by a licensed clinician. He emphasized that only clinicians can determine an individual’s disability.
* One-hundred and sixty individuals were served with Community Capacity Funds last fiscal year.
* Attendees were reminded Community Capacity Funds are to be used for emergent situations only; they are not designated for recurring monthly bills, such as rent.
* Joel believed the new Community Capacity Funds criteria would be completed by Monday, August 3rd, and requests for funding would be reviewed again at that time as well.
* There is $92,000.00 in Community Capacity Fund for FY1516. There is approximately $6,000.00 available for transportation, but on a limited basis.
* **The following were questions asked by committee members:**
* *What level of disability qualifies for housing assistance?* An applicant must be permanently disabled with permanent disability income; call Joel if you have questions about a specific applicant’s eligibility.
* *Does a mental health disability “trump” a physical disability when applying for funding or housing assistance?* Due to the limited amount of resources, these programs are primarily geared for individuals with a mental health disability.
* *Will a Comprehensive Clinical Assessment suffice when submitting a request for funding?* No, it must be a PCP written and signed by a licensed clinician.
* **The following resources were shared:**
* There is a new company called Van Go Transportation, which is serving the Five County area and offering transportation at affordable rates. They can be reached at 252-572-4595. Cassandra Hart will forward a flyer to Joel. The information will be uploaded on the Kerr-Tar Committee website.
* There was an article found in the newspaper regarding assistance with utility, rent or mortgage payments through Mt. Zion Church in Henderson. Individuals in need of assistance can begin the application process by calling 252-430-7277, ext. 24.
* Lavongue Manly informed committee members the Oxford House was accepting referrals for supportive housing for up to 9 women in the Henderson area. Contact him with questions or referrals.
* Ben Foti shared about Kerr-Tar youth programs. He stated there has been a recent focus on at-risk youth who are no longer in a school setting. The goal is to assist them in getting into the workforce through training programs, transportation, job leads, internships, apprenticeships and summer job programs. Joel asked if funding from these programs could assist homeless youth as HUD is interested in assisting youth who are homeless. Ben believed the funding could be used to assist youth in securing housing.

**The next meeting will be August 25, 2015 @2:00 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeanne Variano