

**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**

**October 27th, 2015**

**Attendees:**

1. Ben Foti-Kerr-Tar WDB
2. Cassandra hart-Vance County DSS
3. Cynthia Boyd-ARC-ACTT
4. Dwan Alston-Securing Resources for Consumers
5. Jacqeutta Bullock- New Direction Ministries
6. Jamie Neal-Franklin County Schools
7. Jeanne Variano- Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions-Admin
8. Joel Rice-Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions-Housing Specialist
9. Kanika Turrentine-Infinite Possibilities
10. Lequetta Deshazo-Securing Resources for Consumers
11. Lila Armstrong, RN-ARC-ACTT
12. Marvin Peace-Oxford House
13. Monica Kearney-Safe Space
14. Richard Stewart
15. Tonya Richards-Infinite Possibilities

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

Minutes from the September 22nd, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Cassandra Hart made motion to approve the minutes; the motion was carried by Richard Stewart.

**Updates/Reports:**

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

* Cassandra informed attendees that Vance county DSS would be closed October 30, 2015 for staff training.
* Cassandra reminded committee members that it was Domestic Violence Awareness month and there would be a walk and candlelight vigil starting at the Vance County court house steps starting at 5:30 pm.
* Kanika Turrentine shared that there would be a domestic violence vigil in Warrenton as well.
* Union Mission has announced that A Room at the Inn in Roanoke Rapids is anticipating being open in November. Roanoke Rapids Housing Authority has agreed to accept 2 families (women with children with 0 income) who have successfully completed the program. They will be placed at the top of the priority list for housing.
* Vance County Housing Authority –Hillcrest Apartments will accept individuals with 0 income and give preference to victims of domestic violence.

1. **Updates from the Balance of NCCEH Committee:**

* Joel informed attendees that grants were active in the renewal application process as they are due to be submitted to the NCCEH prior to being submitted to HUD.
* Joel shared the status of the Coordinated Assessment Plan. The revised plan was sent to NCCEH and we are waiting for final approval. Once approval is received, the plan will need to be implemented within 30 days. Participating agencies will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
* Presentation of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Applications:
* Kaninka Turrentine reported on the ESG application being applied for by Infinite Possibilities. The grant, in the amount of $102,221 will be used for the Rapid Re-housing program to cover expenses such as rental deposits, rent, utility deposits and utilities. Rapid re-housing dollars can be used for up to 24 months to assist homeless. There were more than 68 families assisted through this program. Tonya Richards stated Infinite Possibilities wanted to hire full-time staff to work the Rapid Re-housing program. The agency is booked through December with intakes. The grant year runs from 1/1-12/31 and the grant application is due to HUD by 11/20/2015. Infinite Possibilities works with DSS and Cardinal Innovations to make appropriate referrals to avoid the over-use of grant monies. Infinite Possibilities requested leverage letters for their grant application.
* Monica Kearny presented on behalf of Safe Space which is a 13 bed shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Monica Kearney stated an emergency shelter grant in the amount of $27,111.00(out of a possible maximum amount of $57, 00.00) was applied for in the hopes of hiring a full-time case manager for the shelter. A part-time case worker is presently on staff. A van is being donated to assist with transportation of residents. Safe Space utilizes the rapid re-housing frequently and will accept individuals that are homeless and not necessarily victims of domestic violence, if there is room at the shelter.

1. **Other Housing Issues-Open Discussion :**

* Committee members discussed the lack of affordable housing resources in the five county area and what could be done to address it.
* Ben Foti of Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments proposed the committee reach out to the local Housing Authorities to meet with them to discuss how to access housing.
* It was suggested a community forum would be a good option to foster collaboration among community agencies with the ultimate goal of accessing individuals in affordable housing options. Audience target will be housing authorities, landlords and community service agencies.
* Joel suggested the forums could be used as a way to educate the community regarding the so to be implemented Coordinated Assessment Plan.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The next meeting will be December 8th,2015 @2:00 pm conducted as a combined November /December meeting due to the holiday schedule.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeanne Variano