**Balance of State Region 7 Committee Meeting**

**Sandhills Community College**

**Pinehurst, NC**

**April 6, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Robert Lawler at 10:00 am at the Sandhills Community College Van Dusen Hall, RM 103 and a sign-in sheet was circulated. The 9:30 start time was delayed due to a serious traffic accident blocking traffic. Introductions were made and members were asked to update their contact information for future committee communications on a sign in sheet that was passed around.

**Members Present:**  Karen Kennedy-City of Sanford (Lee); John Young – DSS (Montgomery); Debbie Cole – Christians United Outreach Center and Robert Lawler - Asheboro Housing Authority (Randolph); Kim Childers – Richmond County Schools; Shanita Harris – Family Endeavors (multiple counties); Mary Pat Buie – Sandhills LME (multiple counties); The minutes for the November, January 2017 meeting were unanimously approved by on motion made by Kim Childers and seconded by Debbie Cole.

**Minutes:**

**Old Business**

***2017 Point-In-Time Count***: Debbie Cole, Regional Lead for the 2017 PIT count thanked the county leads for their help in collecting the information needed for the BOS. It was reported that although there were some glitches, overall for it to be the first nine county efforts it went fairly well. Debbie reported that the most frequent problem was the use of incorrect forms which lead to incomplete information. Also:

* Al Anderson, Nikki Locklear, Kelly Hutchison, John Young, and Angelina Hernandez will be treated to lunch as promised for getting everything in that was requested
* Prior to the Oct. Region 7 meeting, members will be notified of people they should invite to the Oct. meeting. Teams will be developed for each county so we can get a head start on next year and make sure all parties are on the same page. The series of conference calls did not work for everyone so Donna and Debbie have been working on a plan for greater success next year.
* The 2017 PIT Information will be shared once available from the BOS

***Urgent - Response Needed for Coordinated Assessment:*** Sarah West will no longer be able to serve as the coordinator for Region 7 due to new job responsibilities. Sarah emailed the Google spreadsheet link that will be used for reporting purposes and although she will be completing April's Report, Sarah needs each of you who are responsible for reporting for your area to fill in the appropriate section. If you operate a homeless program, have questions, and/or did not receive the email with the link please email Sarah West (Hancock) hancockfcc@yahoo.com . Everyone operating a homeless program with HUD funds is required to use the coordinated assessment tools. Others are requested to do so. Please submit your Google form so that the report can be completed on time. The next Coordinated Assessment reports are due April 15, 2017.

A new coordinated assessment lead will need to be chosen for Region 7. There was some discussion that the person needed to be someone familiar and using the tools. No one was chosen at the meeting due to a lack of county representation present. This was the first meeting for several in attendance.

***Funding Committee Lead:*** Robert Lawler stated the need for a funding committee to be in place to review, rank and recommend applications for ESG submission. The date has not been announced for NOFA however, intent to apply information has been sent out. Debbie Cole and Robert Lawler from Randolph County, Karen Kennedy from the City of Sanford (Lee County), and Kim Childers with Hoke County agreed to serve on the committee but no lead has been chosen. Additional representation is needed from other counties in Region 7 in order for it to be a fair and equitable process. This committee is a good opportunity to learn about the ESG and COC grants and is a good fit for those who don’t receive ESG funding even if they plan to apply down the road.

New Business

***Karen Kennedy***- New member from Lee County shared that the City of Sanford is forming a task force to focus on homelessness. They have been in contact with NC Finance Dept. and NCCEH and although not ready yet to apply for a grant, are having meetings and conversations about several programs to address homelessness in Sanford. Staff from the coalition to end homelessness is going to help facilitate those meetings.

***ESG Grant*** - Robert and Donna McCormick attended a meeting in Greensboro about the ESG grant. The grant provides homeless funds for 1) Emergency Shelter, 2) Outreach reach, 3) Targeted Prevention, 4) Rapid Rehousing and things associated with those programs. The question was asked if shelters not already receiving ESG funding would be eligible and if the BOS was planning to approve applications for Homeless prevention this year. It was understood that those options had not been encouraged in the past. Robert agreed to clarify and let everyone know. He shared that a sample score sheet would be available and that ESG funds are always left on the table. There are currently six ESG programs in operation for Region 7.

***SSVF Programs*** – Shanita Harris did a short presentation about Veteran Homelessness and the Regional Veteran Plan that has been submitted to the BOS. Information was distributed to explain “What Is a Veteran”, the Categories for Veteran Services and eligibility requirements for them. She shared that it was important to make the referrals because Family Endeavors can make referrals for additional resources even in cases where someone may not be eligible for the SSVF funds.

Kim Childers will replace Douglas Wall for Richmond Schools.