**Balance of State Region 7 Housing Committee Meeting**

**Sandhills Community College**

**Pinehurst, NC**

**September 6, 2018**

Marie Watson, Chair, welcomed members and called the meeting to order. Members present introduced themselves.

Members Present: E. Marie Watson & Jeff Rawlings, Johnston, Lee, Harnett Community Action; Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center LME/MCO; Kendra Martin, Lee County United Way; Casey Saunders, Moore Co. Schools; Caty Martin, SAFE of Harnett; Tanwanna Bennett & Anne Friesen, Friend-to-Friend DV; Kelly Hutchinson, REFORM; Nina Walker, Sandhills Community Action; Tami Carter, Lee County Senior Services; Susan Bellew, Family Promise; Deborah Cole, Christian’s United Outreach Center, Hamer Carter, Brad Simon, Earl Murphy and Marcia Johnson, Outreach Missions of Lee County and Teraefean Goodwin, Robeson County Housing Authority.

Minutes

Deborah Cole made a motion to approve the August 2, 2018 minutes, seconded by Anne Friesen. The motion carried.

Grantee Updates

Friend-to-Friend DV-Anne Friesen reports over the summer, they housed 14-15 from 18 months and at least 1 Human Trafficking victim. They have a designated area for the Human trafficking person due to their trauma and in need of more case management. Anne Friesen made a motion to approve Friend-to-Friend to apply for the ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) this year. It was seconded by Susan Bellew. Motion passed.

Another motion was made by Deborah Cole that any other agency, based on attendance in Region 7 meetings, may also apply for the ESG funding. Seconded by Anne Friesen. Motion passed.

Johnston/Lee/Harnett Community Action (JLHCA)-Jeff Rawlings reported serving over 50 people with Rapid Re-Housing funds. It pays up to 90 days of rent and utilities. Their grant ends December 31, 2018. There is a waiting list.

Sandhills Community Action (SCAP) –Nina Walker reports that their 1 permanent housing slot is filled. There are no plans on adding to this PSH grant.

Harbor, Inc.-Not present

SAFE of Harnett County- Caty Martin reported that they are having an October Outreach event and activities. This is a fundraising opportunity. Two landlords have been located in Harnett County. They are having an in-house training on the ESG grant that was done recently. They have 1 Human Trafficking victim now. They can house 3 families and a single person. They are at full capacity.

E. Marie Watson informed us that the Region 7 Housing total grant amount is $351,780.00. Our Region 7 did not use all of the allotted money last year.

Anne Friesen asked if there was any agency that would be willing to partner with Friend-to-Friend for Rapid Re-Housing. No response as of yet. If interested, please call her at the shelter: 910-947-3333.

ESG Application

Kelly Hutchinson-Funding Process Committee Chair, reports that the applications are due to be postmarked by 5:00pm on Friday, September 14th. They are to be mailed to Sandhills Center, PO Box 9, West End, NC 27376, c/o Donna McCormick. They are to have the original in a binder and 4 copies of the grant. They must be tabbed and have the flash drive with it. The Funding Process Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 18th at Sandhills Center, 185 Grant Street, Seven Lakes, West End office to review the applications. No late applications will be accepted.

Kelly is going to be on a State ESG call tomorrow morning and will send out an e-mail to us clarifying questions received at this meeting. The Funding Committee has to get all the scored applications to the Balance of State by Friday, September 28th. E. Marie Watson, is going to complete the Regional application for us.

Coordinated Assessment (CA) Training

Jeff Rawlings presented us with a handout on CA. Donna McCormick will send those not present a copy of the handout. Everyone needs to be on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). All documentation on homeless persons are in this system. You can go in this database and view what all has been done with the person from start to current status. Jeff discussed, in detail, how the CA works and what steps to take when encountering homeless individuals/families. We still use the Emergency Response Forms to ask: Where did you sleep last night? This will determine if they meet the HUD definition of homeless. One all the information is gathered, the homeless person has to go through a “cooling off” period, 14 days, unless they are in imminent danger. Next, you will complete a VI-SPDAT form which is a scoring system. Jeff encourages us to get trained in HMIS system. NC Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH) does the training. Call them at 919-755-4393. Region 7 has a Coordinated Assessment (CA) that meets regularly. If you’re interested in being on this committee, contact Tawanda Bennett, Chair at whynotmeservices@gmail.com or 910-975-1416 or Jeff Rawlings at jrawlings.jlhca@gmail.com or 910-776-0746.

 Jeff says that he refers to a good housing resource, hotpads.com. He used to refer to craigslist but found too many “scams” there.

Being no further business, Anne Friesen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nicole Bennett.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD in SANFORD AT THE JLHCA BUILDING 225 S. STEELE STREET. TIME: 10:00 ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018.\*\*\*\*\*\***