

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The BC360 Housing & Homeless Taskforce/Housing Committee met at the Beaufort County Health Department on this date (2/14/2019). The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Sally Love (Beaufort County Chairperson/Beaufort County United Way). Those in attendance were: Evan Lewis (BC360), Jim Cox (United Way/Regional Lead), Greg Smith (NC Works), Amy Howard (Greene Lamp), Lt. Karl Bush (The Salvation Army), Linda Thornton (Zion Shelter), Jacqueline Dawson (Open Door Community Center), Wayne Bray (NC Works), Gabriela Gonzalez (NC Works), Shannon Carter (MECAAA), and Melissa Eastwood (Trillium Health Resources).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sally asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Evan made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Amy Howard seconded the motion. The group unanimously agreed. The committee approved the minutes for January 2019.

Region 12 Report

Point in Time Count

Jim provided a copy of the job description for Margaret Dixon (Coordinated Entry and Outreach Specialist). She was just hired as the outreach specialist for region 12. Jim informed the group that Pitt County Planning received a grant through the Balance of State to provide assistance to implement regional coordinated entry. The grant will help us to identify households in the region that are homeless. Margaret is also on the Zion Board now.

The Point in Time count took place the last Wednesday in January (1/30/2019). The service count was done for 7 days after. The Point in Time count was very different this year. The Balance of State utilized an app for the unsheltered count. The Data Center provided consultation regarding the app. Jim reported that a number of people were identified through the Point in Time Count. Jim thanked everyone for their participation in the count. Sally stated that ODCC had some people in their shelter on 1/30/2019. She inquired as to whether their numbers could still be submitted and when they should be submitted by. Jim will find out about the deadline and let Sally know. Sally stated that she and Karl found two individuals. Jenny found five. Several people were identified last year at Zion for lunch, however this year no one was identified. She is unsure about everyone else. Jim stated that he inquired about when the numbers will be provided and the Balance of State is unsure regarding the date. However, they are working on it. Jim discussed reaching out to smaller communities prior to the count next year. Jim indicated that this could be a year around project for the region.

ESG Grant

Kim Crawford and other staff at the ESG office would like to visit all of the regional committees in 2019. Jim is going to suggest that they come in June to our large regional meeting. The meeting will be held in Martin County at Mid-East Regional Housing Authority. He would like for Kim to talk with us regarding

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2019

how we can be creative and develop a regional rapid rehousing program. Karl expressed an interest in applying for regional rapid rehousing. He inquired about the process. Jim reviewed the regional process. Jim stated that the process started around July last year and the applications were due in October of 2018. He stated that they are hoping to keep the same time frames this year. Applicants have to be active participants in the coordinated entry system, participate in Point in Time, be in HMIS, etc. Funds should be released in January. They have other services in place and in the works that will pair well with Rapid Rehousing. There was an initiative rolled out called Pathway of Hope. It takes a family that is willing to participate. There must be at least 1 child under 18. He recently received an email and Washington was chosen for this program. By the year 2030, they hope to see 100,000 families free from Poverty. He stated that they will have to restructure their social services. They have the potential to receive a grant from Atlanta also. He reports he will have to hire another social worker.

Project Safe Shelter

Jim explained that Pitt County Planning applied for a grant with the Vidant Foundation in Pitt County. The grant was for Project Safe Shelter. The grant can be utilized to put homeless households that are in unsafe situations in hotels pending admission to the shelter. James Rhodes stated that the program can serve individuals from Beaufort County if they come to Pitt County and they aren't able to enter shelter. They can serve men, women, and children. They are utilizing the Microtel near the hospital. Jim stated that this program is a pilot. We could work out the kinks and apply for the grant at other Vidant sites in the region.

Sally talked with the committee about a couple that was trying to get to Dare County. They were homeless and got stranded in Washington. Zion Shelter assisted with hotel stay. The man that they were planning to work for agreed to come and pick them up. Greg talked with the group about developing a poster with a contact number that individuals can call if they need help (ex. If they get stranded here, are new to the area and homeless, become homeless and don't know what to do, etc.).

Case Conferencing/Coordinated Entry

Case conferencing will take place every Wednesday at 1:15pm. The lines will open starting at 1:00pm. There will be introductions (phone first). Callers on the line will be given the opportunity to present new cases or provide updates first. Everyone who normally attends in person should continue to do so because there are only 8 lines.

Updates/Reports

Ruth's House-Sally reported that things are going well. They are still working on the transition to their new location.

Washington Housing Authority-Sally reported that there is a new interim director at Washington Housing Authority (Sandra Simpson). They just released a job description for her position. Sandra

BC360 Housing & Homeless Task Force/Beaufort County Housing Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2019

reported that their homeless slots are full. Sally is going to invite the interim director to attend our next meeting.

Zion Shelter-Linda reminded everyone that the shelter is an emergency shelter for homeless men. They also feed the community (lunch around 11 daily). Zion received a grant from the Vidant foundation and they can assist with hotel stays as needed. Linda reported that they have had problems with scammers recently. She stated that individuals are presenting as homeless and they are receiving vouchers from churches for hotel stays. They are then selling the vouchers/hotel stays to others. Residents' names will be shared. Sally noted that more agencies have been using Charity Tracker. Charity Tracker is very useful in situations like this. Melissa inquired about who to contact during business hours at Zion to determine whether beds are available. Linda stated that she could be contacted directly in situations like this.

Mid-East Regional Housing Authority- No updates at this time.

Metropolitan Housing-No updates at this time.

NC Works- There will be a Veteran Stand Down in Beaufort County tomorrow February 15, 2019 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Rose Haven House will be the 501c3 hosting the event. The stand down will be at the First Christian Church. Great Clips will do haircuts at the event. Veterans will need a photo ID with Veteran designation. Legal Aid from Greenville will be there. They will have backpacks for the Veterans and hygiene items. There will be representatives there that can address employment. The event will be catered by Carryout by Chrislyn. Greg stated that he is not sure what to expect in regards to turnout for the event. Gabi stated that she hopes to have at least 50 veterans. They plan to advertise and do more outreach to areas outside of Washington and they also plan to include Hyde County. NC Works is planning a job fair in March. It will be at the Civic Center and there will be approximately 30 employers. Greg updated the group regarding the pop up coffee shop they were doing (On Common Grounds). He stated that they did this for 6 weeks and they raised \$1300 total for nonprofits in the area. They are going to do this again (1 time per month). It will be the last Sunday of each month from 8:00am to 12:00pm. The first one will be 2/24/19. The location is the Contemporary Art Exchange. Please contact Wayne if you locate a Veteran with significant barriers to employment. Sally inquired about what to do if there is a Veteran that has a dishonorable discharge. Wayne encouraged everyone to call the office. They may be able to assist (might have to refer out).

Open Door Shelter-The shelter is open. There will be an Open House on 2/22/2019 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. They are a shelter for homeless women and their children. They have received a lot of calls already.

Salvation Army-The Salvation Army covers six counties. Lt. Bush stated that they provide Emergency Assistance, Disaster services, and hopefully soon Rapid Rehousing.

BC360 Housing & Homeless Task Force/Beaufort County Housing Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2019

MECAAA-Shannon stated that they cover 5 counties. They monitor funding from federal government for various programs (meals on wheels, etc.). Their agency is involved in evidenced base programs.

Trillium Health Resources-Still working with Back@HOME. There have been an increase in calls from households that are precariously housed.

Department of Social Services- No updates at this time.

Greene Lamp-Amy Howard reported that they have a CSBG grant in Beaufort County are working with 13 families. She has 2 families that rose above poverty guidelines. She stated that is all they are allowed to work with right now. They are hoping to increase the number of families in the future. She states that she cannot add any new people to her caseload until 7/1/19 as it stands right now. The program is a CDBG program to help low income families. The identified client has to be at least 18 and be able/willing to work full time.

Police Department- No updates at this time.

Greenville Housing Authority- No updates at this time.

Miscellaneous:

Sally stated that she confirmed that the Washington Police Department will transport to the shelter in Greenville. Linda inquired about whether Stacey can contact other counties in the region to see if other police departments can transport to shelters as well. Sally will talk with Stacey about this. Lutheran Services has funds for Hurricane Survivors. They can assist with repairs, furniture, appliances, deposits, first months rent. Please contact Beaufort County Emergency Management with questions. Sally mentioned Ilham Thurston would be a good contact.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Sally Love adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting: Thursday March 14, 2019 @ 2:00pm
Beaufort County Health Department**