

Rockingham County Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2010

Present: Ellery Blackstock, presiding, Sharon Foust, Ron Price, Iva Hubbard, Ilvarez Henderson, Dick Frohock, Joanne Case, Trever Hellard, Ruby Asbury and Portia Parris.

Meeting called to order by Ellery Blackstock

Ellery welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Prayer was rendered by Ron Price.

Minutes read from the January meeting and approved on common consent.

Ellery asked for any volunteers that would be willing to be the secretary for the coalition. Ron Price agreed to be a backup if Iva would assume the secretary role. Iva stated that she has to work her way back into it and learn the new names of the members prior to assuming that role. Ellery agreed to take the minutes until she is ready. Ron would be a back up. All agreed on common consent.

RITI update by Sharon Foust:

Sharon stated that there are 15 people, 3 of which are women in the shelter. Jason Thompson has been hired as RITI Assistant Coordinator/ Driver. Churches are still active and continue to provide two hot meals to the RITI neighbors. During the day RITI clients are dropped off at the Eden Salvation Army so that they can take a shower and receive a hot lunch. This year, the Eden Salvation Army has a room where the neighbors can stay during the day until they are pick-up for the nightly shelter.

Per Iva Hubbard, she stated that she had a conversation with the Mayor of Eden and was told that there was some property in Eden that has been rezoned that could present some possibilities to be used as a shelter site. Sharon Foust stated that she had spoken to Kelly Stultz, Zoning & Planning Director for the city of Eden, regarding a possible site for a permanent homeless shelter. Sharon also stated that she is working with other municipalities in the county to change the language in their ordinances, which would allow individuals to receive special use permits to have shelters in each municipality.

Trever Hellard, of Pierced Ministries & Rehab Svcs., Inc stated that they are looking for property to remodel for transitional housing. Mr. Hellard stated that he is making new connections all the time and that he is willing to help RCHH in anyway he can. Pierced Ministries & Rehab Services is a non-profit group dealing with the homeless in Guilford and Rockingham counties who have drugs and alcohol issues. They even seek out and help homeless veterans. They train families regarding these issues and work to keep the family together. They are working on getting a mobile trailer that will go around the county to feed the homeless. He added that he has a huge passion for the homeless and

know they encounter problems and need help. His wife also has a women's ministry called, "Boundary Stone Ministries."

Dick Frohock stated that we need to strategize and find a way to increase participation to the meetings and involvement. We need to contact people who are not present so it will create a dialog. We need to make phone calls and make sure notice is given to them early to attend the meetings. Everyone needs to know their part with ending homelessness in Rockingham County.

Point-In-Time Count by Portia Parris

The PIT count occurred on January 27, 2010. Portia stated the information has been sent to the NCCEH office in Raleigh, NC. The (RITI) shelter-bed count was 11; at risk count was 307, these are individuals who are in danger of losing housing; cumulative for the community was 137 unsheltered count; shelter count was 104. Portia does not know how NCCEH will use this information to count the homeless in Rockingham County this year because of all the new categories of homeless being counted this year. We will have to wait for final results. .

Sharon Foust stated that she has been in contact with our LME Housing Coordinator, Leona Williams. As of July 1, 2009, Rockingham County is now apart of the Davidson, Forsyth-Stokes LME. Lenoir Williams will be working with Sharon weekly to make sure that RCHH will be ready when the Super NOFA is released this year to get funding for more permanent and transitional housing in Rockingham County.

Sharon informed the committee that Martha Are has been replaced as Rockingham County Balance of State (BOS) Representative by Jennifer Olsten. Sharon Foust informed that committee that a BOS Lead Representative was needed. The role of this position would be to participate in the BOS conference calls and to keep everyone informed regarding what is going on with the BOS/COC. Dick Frohock made the motion to elect Sharon Foust as the BOS Regional Committee Lead Representative. It was second by Portia Parris. The vote was unanimous. Sharon Foust is the BOS Regional Committee Lead Representative.

Sharon added that she met with Craig Caldwell, Melody Watt, with the Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF) and Sonia Enensat, CHIN Coordinator, regarding having other non-profit agencies in the county use the Carolina Homeless Information Network (CHIN) to input vital data that could assist with getting more state and federal funding to operate their agencies. Craig Caldwell stated that because RAF funding has been reduced by 30%, that RAF Board of Directors is seriously considering not funding agencies that do not use the CHIN system to record their data.

Fundraising

Ron Price stated that at one of our prior meetings that it was suggested that we approach the County Tax departments and Duke Energy regarding sending an insert in the bills to consumers soliciting a \$2.00 donation for RCHH to help the homeless in our county.

Portia Parris stated that we could have members of the Regional Committee to man the tables or booths at events throughout the county to be more visible. Portia stated that articles are going into the newspapers to inform the community about RCHH and homelessness, but we can do more. Also, the committee should continue to talk about the issues of homelessness throughout the county. People are becoming more aware now.

Sharon Foust stated that she has had a conversation with Diane Morran , Director of the Reidsville Market Place, regarding having a “Cruise In” car show in the spring of 2010.

Trever Hellard, suggested that a motorcycle ride fundraiser is another idea to raise money. Another suggestion would be to do a “rubber duck regatta”, in which you pay a dollar for a rubber duck, name and paint it and send it down the river. If your duck make it to the finish line first, there is a prize waiting for you. Trever stated that if we had an event that needed a sound system, he would be willing to assist with the sound system.

Sharon mentioned that on March 3, 2010 there would be a Fundraising Strategy workshop for non-profit agencies, which is sponsored by the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce at the Penn House in Reidsville, and encouraged all non-profits to sign-up to attend this workshop.

Ruby Asbury stated she would be willing to make phone calls asking people to donate if we had a list to call. She did not want to call people who are already donating to the homeless. She didn't have as much time to get heavy involved but has a passion for helping the homeless.

Sharon stated we need to have an Events Planning Committee to plan events. She added that we need to have a ball and/or an appreciation luncheon for our supporters. We have over 30 churches that helped feed the RITI neighbors this year and RCHH wants to do something to say thank you for their continued support.

There were no other items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

The next coalition meeting will be March 18, 2010 at 8:00 am.

Rockingham County Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2010

Present: Ellery Blackstock, presiding, Sharon Foust, Ron Price, Marlene Pruitt, Portia Parris, Gale Kuhenbeaker, Iva Hubbard, Ruth Mitchell, Laurie Southard, Ilvarez Henderson, Dick Frohock, Alexey Ferrell, Ken White, Kenny Walker and Debra Bullock.

Meeting called to order by Ellery Blackstock

Ellery welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Prayer rendered by Ron Price.

Minutes omitted.

RCHH update by Sharon Foust:

Room In-The-Inn (RITI) is up and running. Had 4 women in the shelter and now two have moved out. Other good news is that the City of Eden has found another shelter site for women and children. It was requested that the location not be disclosed at this time but the capacity is about 25-30. The present capacity of the RITI at United Ministries for Christ church is 20-25. This is the last year this shelter sight can be used. RCHH is looking at other shelter sites such as, Camp Gil-rock.

Point In Time Count (PIT) update by Portia Parrish:

Portia is the PIT coordinator this year. The PIT count will take place on Wednesday January 27th through the 28th from 6:00 pm to 6:00 pm; 24 hour period. Portia also said that she wanted teams to go out and do the count. She has and wants everyone who can to contact as many people possible. Target areas are hospitals, jails, schools, and we need to look at getting media coverage and news media feeds.

Portia added that the banks could notify us if homeless is immanent. The clerk of court could also provide needed information. Hopefully, we can get the support of the ministerial community to help with the PIT count.

2010 Census

Ken White and Gail Kuckenbeaker: (Guest Speakers)

The question that needs to be answered is: How effective do we count homeless people? Mr. White stated that it is paramount that we count them all. Mr. White stated that a census is done every ten years, which is a mandate by the Federal Government. Also, North Carolina is the 9th fastest growing state. There are two categories that enumerators will be looking for when counting the homeless: Housing and Living Quarters. Living Quarters is everything but a house.

Funding from the state and local government depends on an accurate count of everyone especially the homeless. The Census count will begin on April 1, 2010

Per Gale Kuhenbeaker, Census Worker, for Rockingham County area, stated that we need to make sure we count the people who are not in a shelter. There will be a questionnaire sent out that limit 12 people to a sheet and if you need more spaces then you would need another form. She added that she needs to get a count for all group homes in the county even the newer ones.

There are also jobs available for the census workers. Interested individuals need to go on –line and take the practice test before going to a testing site to take the actual 2 hour test. Individuals will be able to get there test scores immediately following the test. Rockingham County will have about 10 testing sites. Darin Johnson, census worker will be over the Reidsville area.

Census information is keep confidential for 70 years. After the 70 years individuals can look up family census information on www.ancestry.com.

SSA Protective Payee

Debra Bullock and Kenny Walker: Guest Speakers:

Debra stated that they are looking for agencies to get involved in being a representative payee's. RC DSS has as many clients as they can handle. Individuals that qualify for Social Security benefits may not get them if they do not have a family member or a responsible friend to assist them with the finances. There is a fee that agencies could charge clients which would be taken directly form the clients check,, but these fees are for specific administrative cost. Agencies who are interested in being a representative payee must be bonded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

Next meeting will be February 18, 2010 at 8:00 am.

Rockingham County Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2009

Present: Ellery Blackstock, presiding, Sharon Foust, Ron Price, Iva Hubbard, Ruth Mitchell, Laurie Southard, Alvarez Henderson, Dick Frohock, Terri Hill, Melody Watt, Craig Cardwell, and Glen Johnson.

Meeting called to order by Ellery Blackstock and he welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Prayer rendered by Ruth Mitchell.

Inspirational Thought: Inside-out clothes can teach an important lesson.

Minutes read and approved on common consent.

RCHH update by Sharon Foust:

Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF) awaits \$39,000 for approval for shelter and will get that money in January. In support for the RITI winter shelter RAF gave RCHH \$2,000 for supplies. The McMichael Foundation also gave RCHH \$20,000.

Sharon invited Melody Watt, Craig Cardwell of RAF to meet the members of the regional committee. Per Mr. Cardwell, they were there to explore and to support the community in their efforts to help homeless individuals in the county. They have been exploring the idea of funding non-profits only if they use the CHIN system, which will help the county receive federal and other grant funding.

Sharon also invited Glen Johnson, Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, who stated he was concerned about homelessness in our county and works with disabled and homeless vets. He expressed his concern for agencies and organizations coming together to solve many issues facing people in our county. He gave ideas about getting more people to the table such as emails, phone calls and getting the word out about homeless. He said he had recently heard about the regional committee and wanted to know more about us. He stated that the cause to ending homelessness needs to be shared more. He added he was willing to help in any way he could.

He suggested as a fundraising idea that the coalition get on the tax form that the county sends to residents asking for a \$2.00 donation. That way, it would generate money and get the word out about the homeless. He added that we could do a blasting for books, a skeet shoot for breast cancer, make and sell stew, a golf tournament, a bike rally and even a raffle with Golden Corral.

Dick Frohock stated that the Human Relations Organization has a tent that the regional committee could use at events.

Sharon stated that she was the guest speaker at the Federal Women's Club in November and that the members gave toiletry items to RCHH.

Room-In-The-Inn (RITI)

Sharon met with Rev Chris Carter (RITI Church Host) and Kelly Stultz, Director of Zoning& Planning with the City of Eden, and was given permission to open the shelter for one more year (January 2 –March 31, 2010).. The Wentworth National Guard Armory is still on hold for now. A shelter for women and children is still being sought. RCHH is sill looking at Christian View Disciples Church as a possible shelter site.

Sharon stated that RCHH Board Member, Al Jolly met with Mayor Grogan. He stated that he is committed to help the homeless and may have suggestions on a site to be used for women and children.

Nellie Axelong, RITI Coordinator has been very diligently in getting the calendar completed with night host and volunteers from churches to serve meals to the neighbors during RITI winter shelter season.

Point-in-time Count

Portia Parris, has consented to be the coordinator for the upcoming PIT count on January 27, 2010. Portia stated that she will need the help of all who can participate. More information will be given prior to the day of the count.

Website Update

Sharon stated that RCHH website should be up and running in the by next month. The RCHH Board is thinking about changing out name to RCHH "Rockingham County Center for Hope". The web-site will allow RCHH get more information to the community regarding homelessness in the county. It will also be an asset when RCHH starts the capital campaign.

Miscellaneous

Members need to really brainstorm and come up with some fundraising ideas to assist RCHH.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Next meeting will be January 21, 2010 at 8:00 am.

Rockingham County Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2009

Present: Ellery Blackstock, presiding, Sharon Foust, Ron Price, Marlene Pruitt, Portia Parris, Iva Hubbard, Laurie Southard, Ilvarez Henderson, Dick Frohock, Alexey Ferrell, Leonard A Boyce, James Tharrington, Deborah Maryland, Bennie Totten, and Joanne Case.

Meeting called to order by Ellery Blackstock and welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Prayer rendered by Ron Price.

Minutes read and approved by common consent.

RCHH update by Sharon Foust:

Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF) will put funding on reserve in case of RCHH or DSS needs funding for housing homeless individuals until the shelter opens January 2, 2010. RAF gave RCHH \$2000 grant to purchase needed supplies or assist with utilities for the shelter.

Room in the Inn (RITI) update

Sharon met with Pastor Chris Carter and he agreed to allow his church to house the homeless for the winter time. Kelly Stultz, Director Zoning & Planning for the City Of Eden, approved a special use permit for RCHH to use Pastor Carter's church to house the RITI winter shelter for another year. Sharon is still exploring the possibility of using the Wentworth National Guard Armory as the shelter site because it has all of the accommodations needed and has separate space for women and children.

Events updates

Portia Parris, Dick Frohock and Ellery Blackstock attended the Habitat for Humanity Annual Breakfast and Portia was one of the guest speakers. She talked about the homeless and how the community could get more involved and the need to partner together.

On November 12, 2009, Ellery gave a presentation on the homeless to the Center Point CIT Training of law enforcement officers. He talked about the homeless situation in the county and asked for their support to end homelessness and made them aware of the Point in time count coming up in January.

November 24, the Federated Women's Club of Reidsville will meet and Sharon and Portia will be guest speakers to share information about the homeless in our county.

December 9th, the RAF will have a energy assistance luncheon for the non-profits who have emergency assistance programs.

10-year Plan update

Ellery and Portia talked to Cynthia Brown, an independent consultant who resides in Durham NC, about helping with the 10 year plan. Ellery emailed the information the regional committee has so far and she would review it and get back in touch with us about her decision to assist us.

Miscellaneous

Website situation, Sharon has talked to a web page designer to get RCHH set-up and operating.

Please be looking for different fundraising ideas to bring back to the coalition.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be December 17, 2009 at 8:00 am.