

Balance of State Region 7 Meeting

August 6, 2020, Zoom Conference Call

Attendance: Marie Watson, Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action; Susan Bellew, Salvation Army; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Marcia Johnson, Outreach Mission, Inc; Laura Spivey, Outreach Mission, Inc; Hamer Carter, Outreach Mission, Inc; Angela Jones, JLHCA; Kendra Martin, United Way; Rachel Picard, City of Sanford; Nina Walker, Sandhills Community Action; Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center; Caty Martin, JLHCA; Kimberly Ledford, Friend to Friend; Winona Coveney, Friend to Friend; Jeff Rawlings, JLHCA; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA; Manuel Hyman, Alliance Health; Kerry Bashaw, Brick Capital Community Development Corporation; Chrishonda Ham, SAFE of Harnett County; John Young; Karen Kennedy, City of Sanford; John Paschal, Bread of Life; Kay Johnson, Harbor

Ms. Marie Watson, Region 7 Lead, welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of May 7, 2020 minutes- Rachel Picard sent out May minutes on 8/6; They will be reviewed at next meeting.

Discuss COVID-19

- OMI got \$349,000 from ESG. OMI is expanding services with this money by hiring shelter supervisors, a case manager, a housing specialist, and an intake worker.
- JLHCA got \$600,000+ for prevention and RRH. They received money for every county but Randolph.
- Agencies are getting a lot of 211 calls
- Evictions are starting. There is not enough affordable housing in this region
- The Prince in Sanford is charging \$30 a night for rooms if it's a referral from JLHCA. Sanford Inn is around \$55, and conditions are better than at The Prince
- United Way Survey about COVID-19 impact. Please fill this out! This information is anonymous.

BOS Report

There was a BoS meeting this week. A lot of information about the PIT Count was given. Racial Equity Subcommittee and school reentry was discussed. HUD Equal Access (transgender/cisgender people may not be allowed in shelters) proposal has not gone through yet, but you can view this at the HUD website. COVID local leadership response sharing and Coordinated Entry meetings were also discussed. You can view the minutes from all of these meetings online.

Discuss for Approval Region 7 MOU – Sandhills Community Action Program - Nina Walker

Nina Walker with Sandhills Community Action Program is requesting that Region 7 sign on to a MOU asking for housing choice vouchers for foster youth. HUD program is called Foster Youth to Independence; Discussed this initiative with youth committee.

Motion to approve Region 7 signing MOU- Kam McDonald motioned Kimberly Ledford seconded for Region 7 to sign MOU Unanimous approval; Marie will sign and scan to Nina Walker

Discuss new SSO – CE Grant – Jeffrey Rawlings

Catrina Martin was hired as the new RRH Specialist at JLHCA. Jeff will not be primarily focused on RRH anymore; He will now be the Coordinated Entry Lead Person. He will focus on coordinated entry throughout the region. Jeff will focus on maintaining the waiting list for housing and a more comprehensive approach to housing. He will be looking at all options (SHA, landlords) instead of just RRH, and overseeing the process for clients to submit complaints and concerns. He will also assess the needs of persons who are unsheltered, providing case management for those persons until they go into a program. Going out and doing outreach to those on the street and in camps, and gathering supplies and providing them to people on the street. 984-302-2352 is Jeff's number that can be given directly to unsheltered clients

ESG FUNDED AGENCY REPORTS

Friend to Friend, Kimberly Ledford- New case manager and counselor, Winona Coveney. Did not apply for ESG COVID money. Will be applying for regular ESG money. Extremely busy; family rooms are full, only space for two single women. Now doing wrap around counseling and telehealth.

Outreach Mission, Hamer Carter- Shelter access is limited to Lee County residents due to COVID. Hoping to reopen shelter to people outside of Lee County when COVID numbers decline. Received additional ESG funding.

Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc, Marie Watson- Caty Martin started yesterday and will be working with RRH in Lee and Harnett. There have been a lot of calls throughout all counties. A lot of people are not qualified due to them not being HUD homeless. There is no housing available, so JLHCA is getting a lot of calls with nowhere to put people.

Safe of Harnett County, Chrishonda Ham- New executive director is in place. Getting a lot of calls from those about to be evicted. Currently at capacity; Have started to put individuals in hotels if needed.

Committee Reports

Kam McDonald, Youth Committee- No report.

AGENCY REPORTS

Susan Bellew, Salvation Army- Not keeping people in shelters right now until COVID stabilizes. Using hotels.

Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools- Calling people to see if they are still homeless and ask what services they need. COVID teams and protocols in place. Making plans for virtual learning- there is no infrastructure for virtual learning.

Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center- All services are virtual now- placing people and assisting with furniture/home essential purchases online.

Winona Coveney, Friend to Friend- Focused on getting F2F connected to the coordinated entry system.

Brick Capital Community Development Corporation, Kerry Bashaw- Kerry described the work that BCCDC does (affordable housing development).

Alliance Health, Manuel Hyman- Training behavioral health providers every Wednesday.

S3 Housing Connect, Karen Kennedy- S3 has continuously been meeting. Working on partnerships with Downtown Sanford.

Harbor, Kay Johnson- Calls for homelessness have increased by a lot. Connecting them with long-term programs; Making referrals. Hoping to begin reconstruction on shelter within the next week.

Bread of Life, John Paschal- Continuing to operate Day Shelter/Cooling Center/Food Pantry every afternoon in Sanford.

ADJOURNMENT- Next Meeting –September 3, 2020 via Zoom

Susan Bellew motioned to adjourn

Donna McCormick seconded

Unanimous agreement