

REGION 7 Zoom Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2020

Attendance: Marie Watson, JLHCA; Rachel Picard, City of Sanford; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Marcia Johnson, OMI; Chrishonda Ham, SAFE of Harnett; Kendra Martin, United Way; Kimberly Ledford, Friend to Friend; Hamer Carter, OMI; Chipper Long, Anson County Homes of Hope; Manuel Hyman, Alliance Health; Tambra Chamberlain, Moore County Schools; Laura Spivey, OMI; Susan Bellew, Family Promise; John Young; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA; Susana Rodriguez; Britney Gibson, Johnston County Schools; Caty Martin, JLHCA; Jeffrey Rawlings, JLHCA; Winona Coveney, Friend to Friend; Kim Childers, Richmond County Schools; Kay Johnson, Harbor Inc; Quiotti Ratliff, Sandhills Center; Tina Ray, JLHCA; Thomasina Wall, Anson County DSS

1. 10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions

2. Approval of August 6, 2020 minutes

- a. Hamer Carter motioned for approval. Susan Bellew seconded. There was unanimous approval.

3. Discuss COVID-19

- a. Marie reported that she was talking to the NC Recovery Program. There is a lot of money that needs to be spent by December. This money is going through NC HFA and 211. Roughly 2.7 million available; JLHCA is going to use some of this to prevent evictions. Hamer Carter with OMI reported that they have had no cases of COVID, but there have been a few clients with symptoms that tested negative.

4. BOS Report

- a. BOS met; discussed new funding, racial equity, and many more topics.

5. Discuss 2021 ESG Grant

- a. There is a new ESG application; It is a little different this year. Applications will be done through Smart Sheet. The Smart Sheet link has not been sent to leads yet. Applications are due to NCCEH by September 15th. There is not a funding committee, but Region 7 has to decide who to fund. This group will have to meet by September 29th to meet and decide on funding; The committee decided to meet on September 24th at 10 AM. There is also COC and CDBG money available. Most of this funding is for rent and utilities. Marie suggested everyone apply for ESG money since COVID money will go away; ESG is regular, yearly money, not temporary.

6. ESG FUNDED AGENCY REPORTS- Marie reminded everyone that ESG funded quarterly reports will be due soon

- **Friend to Friend, Winona Coveney-** One family unit available now, otherwise currently full.
- **Outreach Mission, Hamer Carter-** Entry restrictions lifted on August 24th. Focused on Region 7 clients; They would have priority for entry. Currently have 13 women and 5 men in the shelters. OMI did receive COVID 19 funding to expand support services and staffing. Looking

for a new shelter supervisor and a housing specialist. Received donations of computers recently. Starting an internship program.

- **Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc., Caty Martin, Kelly Hutchinson-** Housed one person in Harnett and three in Lee County this past month. In Harnett they have been focused on those staying in Beacon Hotel and unsheltered clients. Caty has been reaching out to potential landlords. Kelly approved 5 RRH clients and housed 3, 1 in Randolph, 1 in Richmond, 1 in Montgomery. 6 on the waitlist. Housed 10 total this year.
- **Safe of Harnett County, Chrishonda Ham-** Currently at capacity but working with JLHCA to get people housed. Trying to encourage clients to save money as much as possible. Increased sanitation practices and social distancing. Have had to utilize hotels due to COVID.

7. Committee Reports

- **Discuss SSO – Coordinated Entry – Jeffrey Rawlings-** Outreach, Assessment of Needs, and Case Management are the main three components. Up until now, there has not been real outreach; With the SSO grant Jeff is able to go out to camps in any of the nine counties. “Surge Population” - Where is there an increase in the homeless population? Who is most in danger, who is out of the scope of who would usually be serviced? For Coordinated Entry, the Surge Population is the main focus right now.
- **Tambra Chamberlain, Youth Committee-** Youth Committee is meeting September 30th at 2:00-3:00 PM through Google Meet. Email tchamberlain@ncmcs.org if interested. Still focusing on homeless youth from birth to 24 years old. A big issue is finding landlords willing to rent to youth. Looking at a grant for youth aging out of foster care through DSS. Jeff asked if an agency works with a youth client, would Youth Committee like to be notified? Tambra said there aren't many resources for youth, but this could be a great idea.

AGENCY REPORTS

Sandhills Center, Quiotti Ratliff- All services are still virtual. Continuing to update housing list weekly.

United Way, Kendra Martin- Opening funding application to Harnett County agencies in 2021. Will have an information session next Thursday, September 10th at 11:00 AM by Zoom.

Richmond County Schools, Kim Childers- Some students are in school and some are virtual. Currently 30 students who are considered homeless. There are more, but it's harder to identify through virtual learning. Having to make some home visits.

Moore County Schools, Tambra Chamberlin- 160 families identified as homeless; Over 120 requalified from last year. Some are unaccompanied youth. Trying to track what issues have been created by COVID.

Anson County Schools, Kam McDonald- Seven qualified as homeless under McKinney-Vento but staff has to go out and verify due to virtual learning. Trying to ensure everyone has access to hot spots and laptops so all students can do schoolwork. Buses delivering food twice a week every week starting today. Anson County completed a United Way campaign and received over \$5000 from their district.

Johnston County Schools, Britney Gibson- Have identified roughly 65 homeless families, but the number is rising daily. Also tracking homelessness due to COVID. Kam McDonald said Anson County Schools is putting schoolwork on hard drives and collecting weekly so students can do schoolwork if they don't have access to hot spots. Susana Rodriguez recommended Verizon's jetpacks.

Alliance Health, Manuel Hyman- There is funding for housing assistance in Johnston County.

Anson County Homes of Hope, Chipper Long- Continuing work on new housing projects. A new unit in duplex is nearing completion.

Anson County DSS, Thomasina Wall- There is some funding available for utility payments. Client would have to create a payment plan with utility company, then crisis money would be used to help with payments.

Harbor, Kay Johnson- There was impact after flooding. Will take at least \$50,000 to mitigate their shelter property. Still able to find and provide shelter for clients.

Family Promise of Moore County, Susan Bellew- Reopening shelter next Tuesday.

JLHCA, Tina Ray- Enrolling for several programs, including financial literacy, housing and education. Lee County did not receive much CARES funding. Marie reported that JLHCA will be hosting a job fair on September 10th from 9 am-1 pm for Butterball.

ADJOURNMENT

Tina Ray motioned to adjourn. Tandra Chamberlain seconded. After unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be on September 24th to determine ESG funding; October's meeting will be cancelled.