

REGION 7 Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2021- Zoom Call

Attendance: (29 participants) Rachel Mann, City of Sanford; Marie Watson, JLHCA; Caty Martin, JLHCA; Paul Tate, OMI; Joy Smith, JLHCA; Kendra Martin, United Way; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA; Stephanie Alford, Hoke County Schools; Hamer Carter, OMI; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Chipper Long; Martha Flora, Intern; Laura Spivey, OMI; Susan Bellew, Family Promise; Kim Childers, Richmond County Schools; Tandra Chamberlain, Moore County Schools; Britney Gibson, Johnston County Public Schools; Chrishonda Ham, SAFE of Harnett County; Tina Ray, JLHCA; Joy Maynor, Morning Glory Ministries; Shakeema Jones, JLHCA; Barbara Vinson, JLHCA; Jeff Rawlings, JLHCA; Nina Walker, Sandhills Community Action; Angela Jones, JLHCA; Winona Coveney, Friend to Friend; Manuel Hyman, Alliance Health; Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center; Quiotti Ratliffe, Sandhills Center

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions
- Approval of February Minutes- Nina Walker motioned to approve and Kim Childers seconded. Unanimous approval.
- BOS Report- This committee discussed CoC applications. Marie reminded everyone that a letter of intent is needed if anyone plans to apply. The National Alliance to End Homelessness conference is next week. It will be virtual. Some of our committee members are presenting at the conference, including Jeff Rawlings, who is speaking on racial equity and ending homelessness. Jeff will forward the registration information to Region 7. Denise Neunaber, NCCEH's Executive Director, is leaving her role. There is no news yet on who will replace her.

ESG FUNDED AGENCY REPORTS

Friend to Friend, Winona Coveney- Friend to Friend is currently at capacity. They received the second round of ESG-CV funds. This money will be used for the butterfly cottage operation costs. The butterfly cottage will hopefully be opened by summer. This addition is specifically for human trafficking clients and clients who need their own space. Staff are excited to be receiving COVID vaccines soon!

Outreach Mission, Hamer Carter- In February, OMI served 20 clients. Six of those moved into housing. The current capacity for each shelter is 12 people, but OMI is excited to move the capacity up as NC reopens. OMI received the first round of CV money, they have not received the second round yet, and they are about to request the third round. Marie reported that JLHCA has not received the first round of CV money yet.

Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.- Joy reported that in Harnett County she has assisted 13 clients for case management and one client moved into housing in February. In Lee County, Caty has 25 clients enrolled in RRH, 10 seeking housing, nine expected to exit program, one CV move-in, and 14 on case management. New clients are being enrolled everyday through the Back at Home program. Kelly reported that she had eight new clients in February, four Back at Home clients, two move-ins, and 21 on the wait list. Angela reported that she has 10 people enrolled in RRH. She mentioned that a lot of

landlords will not accept Project Hope funding. Jeff gave the Back at Home report: 146 families, 42 officially enrolled, 82 enrolled with verification pending, and 34 families coming in this week. Staff are still trying to collect information from clients- 211 is a portal for entry, but a lot of people aren't from this area and don't qualify. Unfortunately, 211 doesn't always find out client's information to see who qualifies for these programs. Kendra said she can pass along feedback since she works closely with 211. Region 7 then had a discussion around issues with 211.

Safe of Harnett County, Chrishonda Ham- Safe is still working at reduced capacity. They are receiving calls about homelessness frequently and referring people to 211.

Committee Reports

Discuss SSO/Coordinated Entry, Jeffrey Rawlings- There are currently 280 households in coordinated entry (CE). 20 households have been housed through CE. There is some overlap between Back at Home and CE. There are two ways into housing assistance- Rapid rehousing is light-touch case management; There is no capacity to do heavy case management and they do not find houses for clients with RRH. There are two ways in: The committee can present clients or 211 can be an entry point. The eviction moratorium was extended to June, but after it ends it will be a landlord market. Clients and staff will soon be receiving surveys to fill out. These will give clients the opportunity to tell about their experience when receiving assistance. The surveys will run from March to April.

AGENCY REPORTS

Stephanie Alford, Hoke County Schools- There are currently 60 McKinney Vento students. Students started back to school under Plan B recently.

Tambra Chamberlain, Moore County Schools- K-5 has been back in school since January. There are currently 253 McKinney Vento students. 73 of those are K-12 unaccompanied youth and 29 of those are 9th-12th unaccompanied youth. Tambra also gave a report for Tambra Place (a transitional home that clients can stay in for 18-24 months): The donated home with beds will hopefully be open in May or June. It's attached to a church and it is for young women and youth with no criminal activity. There are four beds.

Susan Bellew, Family Promise- Family Promise has been around for 22 years, and started as a rotational model with families staying in churches. For the past five years, it operated out of a static site in Aberdeen. There is space for one family right now. Susan announced that she is retiring, and the board is currently looking for her replacement. There was discussion about the need for other Family Promise locations; The model is very helpful and there's an abundance of churches in southern counties.

Manuel Hyman, Alliance Health- In Johnston County, ILI (independent living initiative funds) are still available, but limited. They are not depleted. Applications for assistance still submitted on behalf of a household by behavioral health provider. If you have questions, contact Manuel at 919-636-1419.

Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools- There are 55 McKinney Vento students. Anson County just started in-school instruction on Monday with a hybrid model. Students are doing well with wearing masks.

Britney Gibson, Johnston County Schools- There are over 300 McKinney Vento students. A cause of this is loss of jobs and loss of family income. There is an overall increase in homelessness. Purposity app is still going well, churches and community partners are meeting the need and people are getting involved.

Nina Walker, Sandhills Community Action- Mainstream vouchers are available for nonelderly, disabled individuals or households who include those demographics. Sandhills was allocated 39 of those vouchers. Nine people with vouchers are looking for housing. A foster youth found safe housing recently.

Kay Johnson, Harbor- The shelter is not open. Submitted building permits for construction on new project. Placed two homes back on the market. Still serving clients in non-congregate areas.

Tina Ray, JLHCA- A lot of foreclosures are coming soon. Some programs that were in place to provide a level of protection are about to expire. Trying to help through forbearance process. JLHCA has HUD housing counselor specializing in reverse mortgages. There is less funding in Lee County than in any other county.

Joy Maynor, Morning Glory Ministries- Joy asked questions about Montgomery County. Kelly said there are six families she is working with in Montgomery County, and she will send more information.

Kendra gave shout out to Tina Ray; She was featured in a United Way of the Triangle video!

ADJOURNMENT- Marie wished everyone a happy Social Workers Month and everyone congratulated Susan on retirement.

Susan Bellew motioned to adjourn and Tandra Chamberlain seconded. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.