

## Region 7 Meeting Minutes

04/01/2021- Zoom Call

**Attendance (27 Participants):** Marie Watson, JLHCA; Rachel Mann, City of Sanford; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Tandra Chamberlain, Moore County Schools; Jeff Rawlings, JLHCA; Martha Romero-Flora, SW Intern, Moore County Schools; Hamer Carter, OMI; Barbara Vinson, JLHCA; Tina Ray, JLHCA; Chipper Long, Anson County Homes of Hope; Kim Childers, Richmond County Schools; Winona Coveney, Friend to Friend; Angela Jones, JLHCA; Manuel Hyman, Alliance Health; Shakeema Jones, JLHCA; Joy Smith, JLHCA; Caty Martin, JLHCA; Kendra Martin, United Way; Paul Tate, OMI; Tamara Thomas, JLHCA; Sharon Springs, Council for Women and Youth Involvement; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA; Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center; Quiotti Ratliffe, Sandhills Center; Joy Maynor, Morning Glory Ministries; Chrishonda Ham, SAFE of Harnett County; Susana Rodriguez, SAFE of Harnett County

Approval of Minutes: Donna M. motioned to approve last month's minutes, and Tandra C. seconded, with unanimous approval. Later in the meeting, Donna M. noticed that she and Quiotti R. were on last month's call but not listed as present. Donna motioned to revise minutes to add her and Quiotti to the attendance and Manuel seconded. Unanimous approval.

Balance of State Report: There is a BoS meeting next Tuesday.

### Funded Agency Reports:

Friend to Friend, Winona Coveney- Friend to Friend is in preparation for their first renovation in ten years. This will include painting and floor replacement. Because of that, existing clients will stay in hotels during renovations. New clients will be placed in alternate shelters or hotels. They are moving along with the butterfly cottage project which will hopefully be constructed by Fall 2021! This cottage is for human trafficking victims/survivors or anyone who needs their own private space. There have been great successes with housing lately and creative solutions have been in place! An example of this is two clients rooming together. Another client should be housed within next few weeks. Lots of good stuff happening!

OMI, Hamer Carter- OMI served 20 people in March and placed 15 people in housing so far this year. Diversion and case management have been the two key factors. Hamer reminded everyone that we need to focus on more than placing people in an apartment; the goal is safe, affordable housing and sometimes you have to think outside the box. OMI signed the CV2 collaborative funding agreement. This collaboration is between BOL, H3, Salvation Army, and OMI. OMI is partnering with BOL and SA to start a day center in Lee County. So many good things are coming from Covid funding. Getting a lot of questions from local government about the new funding stream that is coming down; Local and county governments are all getting funding, so Hamer encouraged all nonprofit executives to enter those conversations.

SAFE of Harnett, Chrishonda Ham- There is one space left for a single female. SAFE is almost at capacity. They are utilizing community partners to house clients.

JLHCA- In March, Kelly had 10 new clients, housed four new clients, and has multiple people on the waitlist in all six counties that Kelly works in. Caty reported that she had five new RRH clients, 25 total in case management, 15 seeking housing, and five exited. ESG CV: 13 new clients, 24 seeking housing, verifying more clients daily, hoping to move two into housing within this week! One from CV was housed in Lee. In Harnett, Joy had 12 RRH/case management, 11 ESG CV clients, and 28 total in case management. Angie had eight in RRH and two new that are being housed through Back@Home, with two approved previously for RRH that have come back and applied for Back@Home.

SSO/Coordinated Entry, Jeff Rawlings: 246 clients in the queue for CE, which is the method to get into RRH. Once clients are in housing and stable, they will be moved from CE list to normal case management list. Once the eviction moratorium ends, CE meetings will start happening every week. Looking for representatives in Hoke and Randolph. Marie is looking to hire a Randolph County counselor; If anyone has any recommendations let her know!

#### Agency Reports:

Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools- 55 McKinney Vento students. All students are back in school now. Anson County Schools hosted a vaccine clinic last week.

Tambra Chamberlain, Moore County Schools- Over 250 students currently experiencing homelessness. Five students have dropped out. A home has been donated for non-offenders. It fills a gap for unaccompanied youth who have nowhere to go. A church that is sponsoring is renovating the house, and volunteers are donating furniture and beds. They are estimating that 2-4 young women could stay in the home. There will be a resident advisor who has her master's degree to help counsel the women.

Tina Ray, JLHCA- Looking for participants to enroll in the Stars Program. Working closely with homeless programs to help people stay in homes once they are placed. There are openings in Lee County for funding for damaged homes from Hurricane Florence.

Kim Childers, Richmond County Schools- 119 homeless students currently, but a lot are unidentified. It is hard to identify and make connections through virtual schooling. Kids are coming back to school after spring break. Marie added it's so hard to hear of all these homeless children, and it's especially sad because some don't meet RRH/assistance criteria.

Joy Maynor, Morning Glory Ministries- Currently working with Montgomery County DSS. Hoping there will be a homeless shelter in Montgomery County sometime in the near future. Joy asked if there is a county that has used some funding to get investors to build affordable housing. Marie said that most of the funding streams are not specifically for building, they are more for paying rent or utilities. HFA or USDA are two organizations that would have money for building. Tambra C. mentioned creative solutions for affordable housing, such as using an old school building for low-income units. Winona C. added that another need is for permanent supportive housing. Kendra M. said that affordable housing is going to take partnerships and

policy changes. Joy asked how to talk to elected officials about these topics, and Jeff replied that it's about changing messaging and perceptions. We need to talk about children and families instead of the stereotypical media portrayal of homelessness. Hamer added that Sanford's homelessness task force, S3 Housing Connect, has been wonderful for this because it has brought government, nonprofits, citizens, etc. together in one room to discuss all of these issues and inform others. S3 has realized that data is the most important tool for changing the conversation.

Chipper Long, Anson County Homes of Hope- Celebrated third anniversary as a 501C3. They had a recent workday at the duplex. Considering tiny homes on campus to house those in need. Their first big fundraiser is on April 17<sup>th</sup> and is a motorcycle ride. They are expecting roughly 200 people. If you know of any motorcycle clubs, please circulate their event flyer. There will be door prizes, a raffle and more! This is a very exciting time for this organization! Kam M. added that anyone who rides a motorcycle is welcome to join.

Donna McCormick, Sandhills- Still busy transitioning to the community living program. Sandhills is moving members out of assisted living into the communities of their choice. Most members want to move to Guilford County area. Quiotti R. was promoted to Housing Supervisor. Donna announced she is retiring in one year!

Susana Rodriguez, SAFE of Harnett County- Still at capacity and working with RRH for clients. Still focusing on social distancing. One vacancy for a single person.

Tina Ray motioned to adjourn and Manuel Hyman seconded, with unanimous approval to adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**The next Region 7 meeting will be on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10 AM via Zoom.**