

REGION 7 HOUSING Zoom Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2020

Attendance: Marie Watson, JLHCA; Rachel Picard, City of Sanford; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Laura Spivey, OMI; Kimberly Ledford, Friend to Friend; Joy Smith, Harnett County; Donna McCormick, Sandhills Center; Manuel Hyman, Alliance; Chrishonda Ham, SAFE of Harnett County; Quiotti Ratliff, Sandhills Center; Susan Bellew, Family Promise of Moore; Elle Peterson, NC Community Action Association; Nina Walker, Sandhills Community Action Program; Nick Peak, Montgomery County Adult Services; Kendra Martin, United Way of Lee County; Caty Martin, JLHCA; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA; Kendrick, JLHCA; Angela Jones, JLHCA; John Young; Jeff Rawlings, JLHCA; Paul Tate, OMI

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Nina Walker motioned to approve the November minutes; Manuel Hyman seconded. Unanimous approval.

3. BOS Report

BOS met this past week. Jeff Rawlings is an at-large member on the NCCEH board. The group discussed the 2021 Point in Time Count which will be on January 27th. Region 7 has also been asked to be involved with the Racial Equity subcommittee. There is no CoC funding yet. Elle Peterson introduced herself; She works in the state office for the North Carolina Community Action Association as a Community Impact Manager. She will be working in partnership with JLHCA for an upcoming project.

ESG FUNDED AGENCY REPORTS

Friend to Friend, Kimberly Ledford- Clients and staff are fully complying with mask and Covid regulations in the shelter. Clients had the option to sign out to stay with family during the Thanksgiving holiday. Working on ways to make the annual fundraiser virtual this year.

Outreach Mission, Laura Spivey- There were nine men and eleven women and children at the beginning of November. One hotel stay for a man and a woman. 32 total served in November. One man's exit and eight women's exits. Ending total- 11 men, 10 women and children; 21 people. Only one person who recently stayed longer than 90 days. Clients were allowed to stay with family on Thanksgiving. No Covid cases so far. All ESG contracts are back and signed. Hired a Housing Specialist. Paul Tate was just promoted to Director of Client Services. Full staff now! Eight employees for the first time ever!

Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.- Caty said that in Lee County there are six clients enrolled in RRH and 10 on the waitlist seeking housing. Landlords are saying that the cost of materials to fix up homes are doubled or tripled in cost and taking twice as long to be delivered; inspections can't be done because landlords can't get materials to fix up units. Angela reported that in Johnston County there are ten clients enrolled with fifteen on the waitlist. Jeff has 20 people in hotels in Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Richmond and Anson. Lastly, Kelly reported that she has four approvals, 10 on wait list, and four moved into housing.

Marie reported that there are over 2000 people in the Project Hope queue. Johnston Lee had to hire a lot of new people (19) just for Project Hope, but they are helping to prevent people from being evicted. Started with 2.7 million and expanded to 7.7 million (total for Project Hope, through end of March 31). Not taking any more applications. Back @ Home is a two-year project, will also run through 211. This project has also been launched.

Safe of Harnett County, Chrishonda Ham- Currently at capacity and occupancy is steady. Taking referrals from other agencies and other counties; just have to meet criteria. All clients are seeking housing. Most will need private landlords (facing barriers). Clients shower and wash hands, social distance, wear masks as soon as they enter. Safe is providing all needed materials for Covid (masks, hand sanitizer, etc.). Meeting with clients weekly, letting them know potential Covid risks. Safe was able to provide four complete thanksgiving meals due to the community.

Committee Reports

Discuss SSO – Coordinated Entry – Jeffrey Rawlings

Because of the switch away from NCCare360 to 211, they are able to extend surge populations funds until November 30. On December 1 funds became available to everyone. Will be receiving instruction for how to move forward today. If you are working with surge populations please let jeff know within 48 hours of placement in a hotel. Can do up to 30 days in hotel and can qualify for additional services. Please text or email Jeff with questions!

AGENCY REPORTS

Alliance, Manuel- myhman@alliancehealthplan.org, 919-698-0015

Anson County Schools, Kam- There are currently 30 McKinney Vento students. Just completed first month of hybrid learning. Offered Thanksgiving meals for many families, now working on Christmas support.

Sandhills Communtiy Action, Nina Walker- Mainstream vouchers are still available. Finally got HUD approval for foster youth vouchers; Able to offer these if an agency has a MOU with DSS who will refer individual foster youth.

ADJOURNMENT- Marie ended the meeting by reminding everyone that we are nine separate counties, but one region with one common goal. Donna McCormick motioned to adjourn and Chrishonda Ham seconded.