

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW  
MINUTES  
October 5, 2012**



The Community Advisory Network Developing Onslow (CAN-DO) met at the Northwoods United Methodist Church on Friday, October 5, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by CAN-DO Co-Chair Kristi Pitchford. Those in attendance were: Amelia Grissett, Commissioner Bill Keller, Collis Niro, Craig Wagner, Cynthia Figueroa, Harold Dunlop, Jennifer Colley, Joe Mure, Karin Hudson, Karol Davis, Katherine Pullicino, Kathleen Holbrook, Kelley Hamilton, Kristi Pitchford, Patrick Kelly, Peggy Bayless, Rick Moser, and Tim Parkhurst.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions of members and guests were made.

#### BALANCE OF STATE /CONTINUUM OF CARE

As there had been a number of inquiries from CAN-DO members regarding our BoS status following the recent Homeless Veterans Summit, Denise Neunaber from the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH) and Jeff Doyle from the Veterans Administration (VA) had been invited to call in and “meet” with CAN-DO to address concerns that members had. Jeanne Marshall from the Fayetteville VA Medical Center and Emila Sutton with NCCEH also joined in the call.

Denise explained that Onslow is a Balance of State (BoS) community which is part of the 79 county State Continuum of Care (CoC). Onslow County is not a single county CoC. Wilmington is part of a 3 county CoC while Fayetteville is a single county CoC. Being a BoS community allows us access to state and federal funding. CAN-DO is the regional committee for Onslow’s BoS. Katherine Pullicino had been serving as the elected Regional Lead for Onslow’s BoS Committee, however, as Katherine has retired, a new Regional Lead will need to be elected to join in the monthly conference calls with the larger CoC. NCCEH is contracted by the State of North Carolina to provide oversight for the CoC.

Denise stated that the Shelter PLUS Care grant awarded to OCBHS (now CoastalCare) and the recently awarded ESG funds to CAN-DO and Onslow Community Outreach (OCO) were both achieved as a result of Onslow County being a BoS community. Onslow is eligible for CoC funds. The current CoC priority is Permanent Supportive Housing e.g. Shelter PLUS Care. The Head of Household must have a documented disability. Karol Davis asked Denise if veterans were eligible for permanent supportive housing. Denise replied to the affirmative as long as the veteran has a disability. Denise added that NCCEH will support CAN-DO targeting veterans and if so, the VA will match funds for supportive services.

Denise recommended that CoastalCare apply for more Shelter PLUS Care vouchers so that the project is not scattered all over Onslow County. She encouraged members to look at the online scorecard. Denise added that the HEARTH Act has created significant changes and that housing authorities can no longer directly apply for vouchers. Non-profit agencies can apply for vouchers but cannot administer the program. CoastalCare, as the Local Management Entity (LME), can do both which is why it makes sense for CoastalCare to be the agency to apply.

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Jeff Doyle chimed in and stated that the VA has lots of different funding opportunities. He mentioned the Per Diem Program; the Veterans Services Family Grant; and that each individual VA Medical Center can do contracts for programs such as emergency short-term housing and mental health. He explained that these programs are not tied to a specific CoC but rather that a system be tied into HMIS (this includes CAN-DO).

In reference to HUD/VASH vouchers, Congress approves an increase in vouchers. HUD examines Point in Time Count data for each CoC. With BoS communities, the BoS numbers are all combined. The challenge is that numbers reflected are for the entire BoS versus the individual counties. The VA then awards vouchers and they are typically distributed to locations where VA Medical Centers are located e.g. Fayetteville. Jeff asked members to look at the vouchers on a national scale. If Onslow had its own CoC, it would be competing against large metropolitan areas like Los Angeles and New York City. Onslow's last PIT Count showed 10 veterans; these vouchers are distributed in lots of 25. It is very unlikely that Onslow would be awarded VASH vouchers based upon its low number. However, Onslow is eligible for permanent supportive housing vouchers. HUD provides the vouchers and the VA provides the services. Denise stated that it would be easier for Onslow to get these type vouchers versus the VASH vouchers. HUD/VASH vouchers are based exclusively upon PIT Count numbers for homeless veterans.

Kristi asked if Onslow would be eligible based upon having a CBOC located here. Jeff agreed that the CBOC belongs to Fayetteville VA Medical Center so perhaps a staff member from Fayetteville could come to Onslow County once per week. Jeanne Marshall piped in and stated that a new staff member has been hired and will soon begin serving Onslow County.

Denise returned to the vouchers and reminded members that the Head of Household must be disabled. If Onslow targets veterans and receives VASH vouchers, the vouchers can be used only for veterans but they can be for either individuals or families. If we receive permanent supportive HUD vouchers, they can be divided between vets and non-vets. Jeanne agreed and stated that an MOU would need to be done with Fayetteville VA as to what services would be provided. Denise reminded members that HUD vouchers for permanent supportive housing can be administered through our LME.

Denise finished the conference call with the need for CAN-DO to elect a new regional lead. Applications for vouchers will be released next week. NCCEH is willing to schedule a conference call when CAN-DO identifies an agency willing to apply.

Following a short break, Kristi Pitchford reiterated the reason for the call with Denise and Jeff. We have confirmed that CAN-DO has not missed out on any funding opportunities for which we are eligible. CANDO's pilot program will initially focus on homeless families with children while OCO's focus will continue to be on homeless veterans.

Karol Davis stated that she is a member of NABVETS and that NABVETS, along with Lillie Gray from the

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City of Jacksonville and CoastalCare, had expressed their concern to her about Onslow's lack of a CoC and its creation of a barrier in securing funding. Karol expressed concern that none of them were present today to hear the call. Karol asked that the misinformation about BoS versus CoC be reflected in the minutes. She said that the misinformation in our local community needs to be corrected. Craig Wagner replied that Denise and Jeff planned to write a summation of the information discussed in today's call. Denise had spoken with Lillie Gray yesterday to answer Lillie's questions. Commissioner Keller stated that he is a board member for CoastalCare and can pass on information.

Karol mentioned that the downsizing of the military will increase our numbers of homeless vets. Karin stated that she has already seen an increase at OCO. Kathleen Holbrook acknowledged the increasing numbers of homeless vets and the limitations created by examining those numbers during one 24 hour period in a year. The PIT Count is not an accurate portrayal of the actual scope of the problem.

#### REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2012

Craig Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes. Karol Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### SOLUTION-FOCUSED COORDINATOR POSITION

CAN-DO received ESG funds and the United Way Board has approved the job description for the SFC position. It is time to hire thus the position will be posted on the UW and Employment Security Commission websites. Craig will also email the posting to CAN-DO membership. The position will be housed at DSS and will accept referrals from Onslow County Schools. Given the limitation of one year's funding, Tim Parkhurst asked about sustainability for the position. Craig advised that the United Way is already examining avenues for sustainability to include applying for continued ESG funds on an annual basis.

#### CAN-DO GOVERNANCE

Craig stated that we need to elect a Regional Lead until such time as the Solution-Focused Coordinator is hired and takes over this role. The recommendation from NCCEH was that the Regional Lead be one of the co-chairs. Commissioner Keller made a motion that Kristi Pitchford serve in that capacity. Karol Davis seconded the motion. All members were in favor thus the motion carried. Effective immediately, Kristi will serve as the Regional Lead. Craig mentioned that we will need to firm up CAN-DO's bylaws, voting rights, etc. at next month's meeting.

#### VETERANS STAND DOWN

Kristi Pitchford announced that CAN-DO will support the annual Veterans Stand down and have CAN-DO representatives available to assist that day. Kelley Hamilton is coordinating the event and stated that their annual sock drive is currently underway. Last year, more than 1200 pairs of new socks were

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collected. This year, excess pairs collected will be shared with the OCO shelter and other shelters and churches. A planning meeting for the Stand down will be held on 10-26-12. An informational flyer was handed out to interested parties. Kelley shared that as no funding sources are available, the Stand down relies upon private donations for food, clothes, advertising, etc. Kelley is accepting donations. She added that she will be distributing information about the Sand down during the January 2013 PIT Count.

**UPDATES:**

**POINT IN TIME COUNT**

Last month, CAN-DO members volunteered to become a part of the PIT Count planning subcommittee. Subcommittee volunteers include Cynthia Figueroa, Karin Hudson, Peggy Bayless, Dan Joy, Angela Keith, David Graves, and Christy O'Daniel. Kelley Hamilton added her name. The subcommittee will be chaired by Kristi Pitchford and/or Kathleen Holbrook. Kristi announced that she is already working with JPD's community officers to get contact information for homeless people so that we can track their whereabouts in January. Kristi has the after action report from 2012's PIT Count from which she will share recommendations for 2013.

**GRANTS & FUNDRAISING**

Jennifer Colley announced that their subcommittee recently met and discussed planning a SOUPER BOWL event in the February 2013 time frame. Soup will be served at an art show featuring Onslow County Schools students' artwork to include identified McKinney-Vento homeless students. The idea was well received by membership present.

**FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM**

Cardboard Box City will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church on November 16, 2012. The program has added Queens Creek/Healing Waters United Methodist Church to their rolls.

**ONSLow COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Jennifer Colley shared that 123 homeless children have been identified since school began on August 27, 2012.

**SHELTER PLUS CARE**

As Angela Keith was not present, there was no update provided for this program.

**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kristi Pitchford announced the *Grapes on the Green* fundraiser for the United Way to be held at the Jacksonville Country Club on October 19, 2012. Tickets are \$40.00 each or 2 for \$70.00.

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Karin Hudson announced *Oktoberfest*, the annual fundraiser for Onslow Community Outreach, to be held October 27, 2012 at Riverwalk Park.

Kelley Hamilton stated that the Salvation Army is seeking bell ringers for their red kettles at Christmas. She requested that CAN-DO members consider volunteering in two hour increments. Contact Joe Mure at 346-8800 if willing to assist.

Katherine Pullicino thanked everyone for the knowledge/kindness shared with her during her tenure with CAN-DO and announced her plans to move to South Carolina.

Craig Wagner is a participant in *Dancing with the Stars* scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>. His team needs your online vote as they are currently in second place.

Tim Parkhurst shared that SHEEP DOG Impact Assistance's *Patriot Day* was a success with lots of displays and positive feedback. Attendance was somewhat disappointing but they got the SHEEP DOG name out there. A different venue for next year will be considered.

There being no further business, CAN-DO adjourned at 9:35 am. Next month's meeting will be held on November 2, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Holbrook