

## **Henderson County Homeless Coalition/Balance of State Meeting**

**October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Blue Ridge Community Health Center**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Next Meeting: November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 10 am**

**Present:** Jairo Mercado, Brian Alexander, Bertha Collins, Marian Lowry, Katherine Houghton, Nicholas Faherty, William Kinschner, Jerrie McFalls, Tanya Blackford, Marilyn Kaylor, Nitiki Kilgore, Tim Jones, Connie Stewart, Michael Akers, Pat Norris, Troy Bradley, Jamie Martina, Anita Oldham, Nancy Maravilla, Katie Stewart, David Jacklin, Rachel Stein, Michael Absher, Christine Craft

### **Welcome and Introductions—Christine Craft**

Christine welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Approval of September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes—Brian Alexander**

Brian Alexander motioned for the approval of the September 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. They were unanimously approved.

### **Quick Agency Updates—Christine Craft**

Katherine Houghton with the VA in Asheville announced a change in the CHALENG survey for homeless veterans and service providers. It will be done electronically this year. She will forward the exact information to Christine to forward along to the coalition.

David Jacklin with United Way announced that Charity Tracker is now being used by ABCCM South in Buncombe County. He said this will allow for a connection between Henderson and Buncombe counties. It will better track those clients who are between the two counties, in the Fletcher area, who access services in both counties.

Christine Craft with the HELP program shared that the HELP Resource Guide is now updated and available on the HELP website, which can be accessed through the Henderson County Public School main web page.

Christine Craft also shared information concerning the Congregations for Children (C4C) that HELP has been involved in. C4C seeks to partner each school with local congregations in order for that congregation to help serve the needs of that school. There will be a representative from each school and each congregation who identify the needs of that particular school. C4C is based closely on the Communities in Schools model and has had some training from CIS. Christine shared an example of such a partnership with a local congregation helping to clean up an overgrown amphitheatre at Balfour Education Center. C4C is targeting the schools with the highest poverty to start with. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Christine for more information.

### **Balance of State Steering Committee Update—Brian Alexander**

Brian Alexander updated the group on information shared during the Balance of State Steering Committee conference call.

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is complete for Henderson County at this time. Homeward Bound was awarded \$48,430 for their rapid re-housing program in Henderson County.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) funds have not been accessed by Henderson County before. Henderson County was granted the waiver to be able to apply for funds this Fall. Brian Alexander will need to remain the regional lead for the time being in order for HCHC to apply for CoC funds. HCHC is eligible to apply for approximately \$124,000. Pre-applications are available online at [www.ncceh.org](http://www.ncceh.org). Programs wishing to apply should keep in mind that the Steering Committee has prioritized funding for Permanent Supportive Housing programs which focus on chronically homeless and disabled homeless clients. Please complete the Intent to Apply form on the NCCEH website, if your agency is interested in CoC funding.

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is to be released in mid to late October. There are guidelines on the NCCEH website for how to fill out the application. 25% of funds must be matched with the exception of leasing dollars. Public Housing Authorities cannot directly apply for funds, but can partner with non-profit programs to administer grant funds.

## **Henderson County Homeless Coalition/Balance of State Meeting**

**October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Blue Ridge Community Health Center**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Next Meeting:** November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 10 am

If any HCHC members are interested there are three Balance of State sub-committees which HCHC needs representation: rapid re-housing (Nov.13), permanent housing (Nov.20), and CHIN data quality (Nov. 27). The sub-committee meetings are done via conference calls. Part of the HCHC Balance of State score will depend on attendance on these calls. Members can register at the NCCEH website.

### **HCHC Survey—Christine Craft**

Christine Craft reviewed some of the results from the community survey sent out to HCHC members. There were 20 people who completely the survey. The intent of the survey was to help identify gaps in services, resources, or knowledge of such resources in Henderson County surrounding homelessness.

There was a consistent reply that transportation and affordable housing were among the least readily available resources in the county. *Reasons for Homelessness*: abuse in household, drug or substance abuse, change in family status, loss of job, and teen pregnancy were among the top reasons. *Basic Resources for Homeless*: services for youth and the mentally ill were among the least available or known about resources. *Most Beneficial Services for Homeless*: case management, more housing, a youth or teen shelter, mental health services, and drug & alcohol programs. General discussion started in the group about having service providers from the 2 or 3 of the least known areas to come share to the HCHC. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey and to forward it to others.

### **Point in Time Count, looking ahead—Brian Alexander**

Brian Alexander introduced the idea of doing the Point in Time (PIT) count in Henderson County in late January 2013. In HC, the PIT count is typically done through the shelters. Brian introduced the idea that HCHC focus on a larger group through street counts, school, shelter, and mental health.

Next month Brian would like to invite Angela Denio who has led the PIT count in Buncombe County. She has experience as the former PATH team leader for Homeward Bound. PATH provides case management, as well as street outreach to homeless individuals with mental illness who have not yet accessed services. She will be able to help the HCHC identify ways to make the count successful. Volunteers will be needed to do a street count.

### **Homeless Youth Awareness Month—Michael Absher**

Christine Craft introduced Michael Absher of Only Hope WNC. Michael shared that Congress has identified November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. A proclamation by Henderson County Commissioners to recognize November 10<sup>th</sup> as Homeless Youth Awareness Day in the county will be voted on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Only Hope WNC has organized a “sleep-out” on November 9<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness to youth homelessness in Henderson County. The “sleep-out” will kick off a week long needs drive, Nov.10<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, to benefit Only Hope WNC and the HELP program. There will be several drop-off locations around the county. Information will be forwarded to HCHC members concerns these events. Flat Rock cinema is also considering showing “Blind Side” to benefit Only Hope WNC in November. More information to come.

### **Additional Announcements**

Michael Akers passed out flyers about an “Arrested Development” forum on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2012 to discuss issues surrounding youth homelessness. It will be held at the public library’s Kaplan Auditorium from 5:30-7pm. Panelists will include mental health providers, criminal justice, social services and public school professionals.

Michael Akers also announced a benefit dinner for My Place and My Gluten Free Bread Company on November 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm at the Opportunity House. Proceeds will help meet their goal of raising \$300,000 to provide transitional-to-permanent housing for 20 and wage based job training for 80 homeless and at-risk youth ages 16-23.

Brian Alexander invited HCHC members to attend the sub-committee meetings listed on the agenda to hear about what other communities are doing, also listed above.

**Henderson County Homeless Coalition/Balance of State Meeting**

**October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Blue Ridge Community Health Center**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Next Meeting:** November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 10 am

Bill Kinscher with NAMI announced this is National Mental Illness Awareness Month. There will be a prayer service at First United Methodist on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting:** November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 10am at Blue Ridge Community Health Center

Respectfully Submitted By: Troy Bradley