

Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 10/18/12

Members Present

Shari Wright
Larry McMullen
EB Freeman Jr.
Angela Battle
Frances Johnson
Bill Warren
Mindy Watson

Housing Thru Connections
VTAB
Kwanzaa Family Inn
Kwanzaa Family Inn
National Guard
McDowell Mission
McDowell Mission

- I. **Introductions:** Shari Wright asked for Introductions.
- II. **Review of Minutes:** Shari W. asked for everyone to review August minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Bill Warren and seconded by Larry McMullen.
- III. **Announcements/Discussion:**
 - a. **Working together to be a more unified committee**-Discuss was around funding and the number of individuals served by each shelter. Bill discussed with the committee the total funding from the ESG and how it was to be distributed. He stated that each shelter should be receiving funding notices within the next week.
The committee discussed the methods used to capture the point in time count last year and discussed the discrepancy that is believed to be in the numbers. The committee traditionally uses the police for assistance in getting the count but we fear that when the citizens who are homeless see the police they tend to go into hiding thereby not being accurately counted. The committee agreed to bring suggestions to the next meeting on ways to accurately count our homeless citizens in McDowell, Caldwell and Alexander counties.
Co-Chair replacement- Shari announced that Sharon Poarch was elected as the new co-chair for the committee.
- IV. **Agency Updates:**
 - a. **Kwanzaa**-Vickie B. reported 33 in house at this time this includes women and children. Angela reported to the group that with the use of cots during the winter months, Kwanzaa have the ability to provide shelter for up to 100 women and children (up to age 18 as long as they are in school)
 - b. **VTAB**-Larry M. reported The Realtor Association had a charitable golf event on September 24 at the Catawba Country Club from which they donated \$11,500 to VTAB. \$500 went to directly assist Veterans and the rest will go to the Stand Down and for a Day Shelter in Caldwell County. Larry also reported that VRAP has enrolled 17 veterans to retrain them in needed skills to make them more employable.
 - c. **McDowell Mission**-Bill W. stated that the heating and air installation has been completed and they received a grant to remove all Asbestos from the building. They also received a grant to complete the Renovation of the plumbing and bathroom at the Friendship Home. The Homeless Extended Life Support Program (HELP) is program provided through Sisters of Mercy that assist individuals after leaving the shelter for up to a year.

Next meeting November 15, 2012.

Minutes submitted by Shari Wright.