Chatham County Housing Coalition

Minutes

January 11, 2013

Present: Nickie Siler, FVRC

Spencer Cook, Cardinal Innovations

Nora Esthimer, Empowerment and Chatham Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

Nikia Bland, Chatham County DSS

Clintess Barrett, Chatham County Housing Authority

Anna Schmalz Chatham Habitat

Kathy Hodges, FVRC

Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

We began with introductions and announcements

* FVRC is holding an open house on Friday, February 15, 3-7 pm at the Blue House (200 East Street). Everyone is invited.
* FVRC is hosting a book club a McIntyre’s starting next week. It’s the third Thursday of each month and the authors will be there to discuss the book with the group. Cost is $20 per session. Kathy has more information if needed.
* Empowerment has a grant for two housing specialist and they are hiring: full-time in Orange, half-time in Chatham. IT’s a two-year grant. Nora will send out the announcement.
* Chatham County is beginning to look for ideas of how to best use the $900,000 they received from Briar Chapel in lieu of building affordable housing. The Affordable Housing Committee has been reactivated as a task force to recommend priorities and a plan for using the money. Nora is looking for ideas.
* Cardinal Innovations, currently in 15 counties, is expanding to take on coordination of mental health services for Mecklenburg County, doubling their service population. They may take on additional areas soon. They are hiring, looking for a PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) coordinator for Chatham and a System of Care Coordinator, focused on children and youth.

Minutes

Approved with one change. It should have said that a representative with Central Behavioral Healthcare will be sought to participate. Spencer suggested either the director or someone from the hospital transition team. Nikia agreed to follow-up.

Balance of State Update

Nickie reported that they were focused on the Continuum of Care applications. Nickie served as our representative on the review team.

Point in Time Count (PIT) Planning

It is set for the overnight of Jan 30-31. We talked about who to bring in for assistance:

* Jordan Lake Rangers (Nickie will contact)
* DSS (Nikia will follow up)
* Law Enforcement agencies for Ridealongs
* Cardinal Behavioral Healthcare (Spencer will follow up)
* St. Bart’s Lunch on Thursday
* FVRC Shelter
* Silk Hope Shelter
* EMS talk with EMS

We’ll need to go out about 10-1 pm to check parking lots, condemned houses. Volunteers should go in pairs.

Clintess and Spencer volunteered. Others are considering. Nickie will talk with the students at FVRC.

We talked about developing about 20 goody bags to take with us for the count. FVRC will donate toiletries. Nikia and Clintess will talk to Walmart about donating hats, gloves and socks.

We discussed some safety tips, such as identifying ourselves as social workers and saying “hello in the camp” if we approach are group/camp—may not be much of an issue in Chatham.

Others to involve in the Coalition

Steve Woolford at Catholic Worker Home Shelter in Silk Hope (Nickie will contact)

DSS Foster Care—Nikia will see if someone is interested

EMS—Nickie will check on that

Update on Rapid Re-housing Program

Nickie reported that she hoped to get the first family housed next week. She is currently working with three families and has another referral.

Spencer mentioned that the ADA require reasonable accommodations be made when a credit problem or criminal history is related to a disability.

We talked about potential clients.

Next Meeting

Friday February 8, 2013 at 2:30 pm at Family Violence and Rape Crisis