**Present:** Brian Alexander, Nancy Maravilla, David Jacklin, Todd Letterman, Robin Hellman, Marilyn Kaylor, Rachel Stein, Roberta Lott, Michael Absher, Kathleen Carr, Kate Franklin, William Kinschner, Marisol Tomas, Ruth Birge, Anita Oldham, Sandra McNeill, Kathleen McWilliams, Jamie Martina, Marian Lowry, Patricia Crout, Troy Bradley, Christine Craft

**Welcome and Introductions—Christine Craft**

**Approval of January 2013 Meeting Minutes—Christine Craft**

Christine Craft made the motion to approve January minutes. Brian Alexander and Anita Oldham seconded the motion.

**Quick Agency Updates**

* Christine Craft announced that the Henderson County Public Schools HELP program is hosting the annual Feed the Children backpack/school supplies regional distribution for homeless liaisons, to be held in Henderson County for April 11th this year. They are still in need of a distribution site with storage space for any extra backpacks, volunteers to help the day of, a forklift with licensed operator, and pallet jack. If anyone can help fill any of these needs please contact Christine.
* Michael Absher shared that Only Hope WNC has completed their 501(c)3 application. Only Hope will host its 2nd annual Art Auction on March 15th with a focus on youth artwork. Event flyers will be distributed. Anyone who knows of any teen students willing to contribute artwork, please contact Michael.
* Brian Alexander shared that Homeward Bound’s Henderson County program has housed two households already this year. One single person household was paired with a HOPE to HOME team from First United Methodist Church of Hendersonville. Also, Kate Franklin will be taking a full time position with Homeward Bound in Buncombe County and Robin Hellman from Goodwill industries will be taking over for her part-time in Henderson County. Brian reminded everyone of the referral guidelines and not to send persons directly to the Homeward Bound office at Mainstay. He suggested contacting Robin directly at 606-7732 to setup an appointment if you have a referral.
* Marisol Tomas shared the VA of Buncombe County may consider expanding services into Henderson County for their HUD-VASH housing program depending on number of homeless Veterans identified from this year’s Point In Time count.
* William Kinschner with NAMI shared info regarding the upcoming series of events “Wrestling with our Inner Angels – Faith, Mental Illness, and the Journey to Wholeness” coming up March 4-6th.

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

Brian Alexander updated the coalition on information from the Steering Committee call on the 1st Tuesday of the month. The Continuum of Care (CoC) applications will be processed within 45 days from the due date January 18th. There were no renewal project applications for Henderson County this grant cycle. Homeward Bound’s CoC application was placed in tier 1 and divided into two separate applications.

There was 5.3 million dollars applied for from the 79 county region. Approximately 3.9 million dollars is for Permanent Supportive housing programs in the region. Roughly $930,000 was applied for to fund new projects all focused on Permanent Supportive Housing. 670 clients will be assisted in housing through permanent supportive housing programs and 195 clients will be assisted through transitional projects. Since 2006, 32 million dollars has been brought into the 79 county region to fund various housing projects aimed at serving those experiencing homelessness.

The Steering committee left the same goals in place from 2012 for 2013 since most were not met. Some of those goals are to decrease the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, increase the number of

individuals housed and retained, decrease the number of children experiencing homelessness, increase access to employment services as well as goals outlined in the HEARTH Act. It was also mentioned that CoC is focusing more on Permanent Supportive housing projects when considering applications.

For more information about applications see, [www.ncceh.org/2012cocapps/](http://www.ncceh.org/2012cocapps/)

**Review of Point in Time Count—Brian Alexander**

Brian Alexander broke down the Point in Time numbers that were reported to NCCEH. There were 97 total individuals who were reported; 29 on the street; 20 in transitional housing; 48 in shelters. 3 were identified in Rapid Re-Housing programs.

Brian will look at specific demographic information for Henderson County once he has received all the agencies PIT surveys. He also thanked all the volunteers who helped interview or talk with people at different agencies throughout Henderson County.

Brian asked for feedback from everyone who participated in this year’s PIT count. Several suggestions were offered: have resource information to give to clients immediately (pocket-card), translate the PIT survey and have bilingual volunteers, more volunteers at soup kitchen sites, better job educating the community about “why” the survey is important, PSA announcement, train volunteers/agencies how to approach people, gather more details of the services the clients are already accessing and needs (what agencies are they visiting?), law enforcement support and input, emergency room participation, build closer relationships with those experiencing homelessness throughout the year, and do two PIT counts one in the Summer and one in the Winter.

**Priorities, Gaps and Subcommittees—Christine Craft**

Christine Craft shared with the group the results from the survey sent to HCHC members a couple months ago. The information was divided into three categories: Education about available services, Gaps in services, and Subcommittees needed to address concerns. Education would be directed at HCHC members about available services in Henderson County for the homeless. Christine asked everyone present to come up and mark two items from the Education and Gaps list to prioritize what HCHC needs to address.

The top three educational topics were general services for the homeless, income procurement, and the criminal justice system.

The top three gaps in services needing to be addressed were affordable housing, mental health/substance abuse/physical health treatment, and youth/family homelessness—tied with street outreach.

Two subcommittees are already needed for HCHC to begin making an impact - a Data committee and a Mission/Vision/Values committee which would only be short term.

Next meeting, based on rankings of the items in both education and gaps of services, HCHC will form additional subcommittees to address the aforesaid gaps in services as well as others. Christine will invite experts each month from targeted service areas to share info about their services with the coalition.

**Next Meeting:** March 12th, 2013 10:00am

Respectfully Submitted: Troy Bradley