Southwestern Regional Homeless Coalition Meeting

January 16, 2013

In attendance: Kristi Case, Smoky Mountain Center; Judith Alvarado, Reach of Clay County; Bart O’Sullivan, Friendship House; Debra Clark, Friendship House; Ashley Freeman, Reach of Macon County; Julia Freeman, Reach of Haywood County; Cheryl Wilkins, Mountain Projects

The meeting was held at the Smoky Mountain Center Administrative office in Sylva, NC.

The group discussed the ESG programs. The programs have now received their funding, and will begin assisting people with Rapid Re-Housing.

We discussed the Continuum of Care programs. Besides the SMC Shelter Plus Care renewal application, no new projects were submitted from the 7-county area.

We discussed the minutes from the previous meeting. There is a typo, stating that Reach of Macon County was serving 35 women, when it was actually 5 women. Correction noted.

The group discussed setting a set day/time combination to ensure meeting consistently. The group decided on the third Thursdays from 10AM to noon. We will continue to vary the locations to ensure participation from all 7 counties.

The Point In Time Count will be on January 30, 2013, and we discussed each form at great length. Each shelter program will need to complete the sheltered count form. Each agency providing Rapid Re-Housing on the Point in Time Count date will also need to report that. The group discussed organizing an unsheltered count in each county. At this time, there are no interested parties to organize an unsheltered count.

Kristi updated the group on the Smoky Mountain Center Western Region Shelter Plus Care grants. We currently have 52 individuals and families in the program throughout the 7 county area, and have 5 people on the waitlist.

Reach of Macon County currently has 3 women, 1 which will be moving into permanent housing soon. They are also operating the New Choices program, which is going well. Ashley reported that she has recently gone through the SOAR training, and is helping their clients with SSI/SSDI applications per the SOAR model.

Reach of Haywood County currently has 3 women and 7 children. They sponsored 15 families for Christmas, which was a success in helping many families have Christmas this year.

Reach of Clay County currently has 3 women and 2 children. They are helping a lot of women with domestic violence protective orders. They may have another family enter the shelter today.

Mountain Projects currently has the Section 8 waitlist open in Jackson County and Haywood County. That process is currently going well.

The Friendship House has 12 adults and 7 children.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 10AM at the Friendship House homeless shelter, located at 73 Blumenthal Street in Murphy (3 doors up from the public library).