Chatham Housing Coalition

April 12, 2013

Present: Emily Wimbush

 Nora Estheimer

 Nickie Siler

 Kathy Hodges

 Nikia Bland

 Clintess Barrett

Delores Bailey

Balance of State Update

Nickie reviewed the most recent Balance of State Conference Call. There was not much to update. All of the tier three programs were funded, but at a lower rate.

Rapid Re-Housing Update

Nickie has found housing for 5 clients to date. She has a 6th client who she is working with for housing. One of the clients has exited, leaving the state. She is continuing to get about 3 referrals a week. One of them may not work out due to income. We may need to do an analysis of how many we can work with over time. Currently our commitments are 2-6 months.

They are getting a number of referrals from DSS.

We talked about the need for income-based housing in Pittsboro. Nickie estimated that many of the people working to get housing in Pittsboro can only afford $200-300 per month.

Updates

*Task Force to Advise Commissioners on Housing needs*

Nora announced that they are getting ready to make a recommendation to the Commissioners on immediate income needs. They have been developing eligibility criteria for agencies that can apply for funds for these immediate impact funds. They are recommending that eligible applicants be limited to county government and currently/recently funded county nonprofits. She was seeking input from the Coalition on the application process. She distributed a feedback form and asked that members send back answers to the questions by April 26. She will send the questions out to Coalition members who are not here.

Nora is hoping that those of us who might be eligible think about how and what programs we want to apply for. She thinks it is likely that the application will be available in the summer.

*Chatham County Housing Authority*

Clintess announced that Chatham County Housing Authority is opening the waiting list again on Monday, April 15 and will stay open for 60 days.

Clintess reported that she is working on a home ownership program through the housing authority. She is working on getting her certification reinstated (it has lapsed)

*Member recruitment*

Nikia reported that Dr. Martin with Cardinal Behavioral Health was interested in participating in the Coalition.

*Social Services*

Nikia reported that they are getting a new computer system at DSS and it may take longer while they are getting the system going. They are also restructuring their programs so that there will be one worker for Work First, Food Stamps, Medicaid, etc.

Nikia reported that some of the child care subsidy is moving from Child Care Networks to DSS.

*Empowerment*

Delores talked about getting the county to develop a subsidy program to help landlord reduce rent by using some of the community members as a subsidy. This is her interest in this Coalition. We talked about ways to keep talking about this and looking at ways to partner to make something about this work. Nikia talked about a Trip Cottages, a townhome community in Siler City, which has income-based housing, owned by Simpson and Simpson out of Sanford

Delores also reminded the group that Empowerment does some gap housing for folks trying to buy a home and lacking some of the financing--$10,000 or so that they cannot quite afford. It comes from Empowerment’s board, and is a second mortgage at very low interest, but you have to earn 80% or less of the area median income. They are trying to get the word out. They will have to send it back if they do not spend it by September.

Empowerment is accepting applications for a housing counselor, starting part-time with a plan to get it full-time in Chatham.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 10 at 2:30 at the FVRC Office.