

Pitt County COC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Multi Purpose Room at Greenville Housing Authority
1103 Broad Street, Greenville, NC
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Present:

Teresa Gaskins, STRIVE; **Don Rogers**, Greenville Housing Authority; **Rob Tripp**, Carolina Homeless Information Network; **Gloria Kesler**, City of Greenville – Community Development; **Sharon Edwards**, Department Social Services; **Sommer Sinclair**, Department Social Services; **Lynne James**, Greenville Community Shelter; **Paulette White**, Pitt County Planning/10-Year Plan Project Manager; **Talaika Williams**, ECBH, LME; **Monica Futral**, Greenville Housing Authority; **Trudy Halstead**, God’s Love of Pitt County; **Linda Grimshaw**, Jarvis Memorial UMC; **Linda Mandell**, SOAR Caseworker; **Tracie Campbell**, Project Working Recovery.

Minutes of February 10, 2010 meeting read. Lynn James moved to accept the minutes as read and Don Rogers seconded. All attendees voted affirmative.

Balance of State

Paulette White reported on the BoS Steering Committee meeting which was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH) is reviewing the structure of the BoS and has asked that anyone interested in working on this should contact the NCCEH or let Paulette know and she would forward the information to NCCEH. She reminded the group that BoS committees meet by teleconference.

New Website for Pitt COC Hosted by NCCEH: NCCEH has made space available on its website for BoS-CoC to create a webpage. The webpage can include contact information, agencies, and a list of those participating with the COC, and minutes & agendas. Robert Moore, ECU intern, is working with NCCEH to set up a webpage for the Pitt County CoC. Robert reported that it was easy to post information. Once finished, Robert will send out a link to CoC members so they can view the webpage and make suggestions etc. (link to webpage: <http://www.ncceh.org/bos/pitt/>)

Consolidated Plan Draft Goals for 2010-11

Gloria Kesler presented information regarding the City of Greenville’s 2010-11 draft of its Annual Action Plan for its Consolidated Plan. The City of Greenville is classified as an entitlement community by the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department. As an entitlement community, the City of Greenville receives funds annually to support HUD approved activities. As a requirement from HUD, the City is required to submit an Annual Action Plan, which outlines the activities the City plans to undertake of the upcoming year. As part of the process for submitting the Annual Action Plan, the City holds public hearings and a Public Comment Period in order to receive comments from citizens as to developing the activities for the upcoming year.

The draft Plan should be completed by city staff on March 19 and made available for public review and written comments for 30 days beginning **March 22 and ending on April 16, 2010**. Copies of the Draft Plan will be available for public review and comment at the City of Greenville Community Development Housing Division Office located at 201 W 5th Street and Sheppard Library located on 530 S. Evans St. also in Greenville. The Greenville City Council will hold a public hearing for the draft document during the April 8th city council meeting. The

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Greenville City Council will adopt the draft at its April 19th meeting. The final approved plan will be submitted to HUD by April 22, 2010. Gloria encouraged CoC members to review the draft plan and submit written comments.

Paulette will contact Sandra Anderson to see if a PDF copy of the draft plan will be posted on the City's website. Paulette will send out the PDF of the draft Plan or the link to the city's webpage for CoC members' review. She also reminded the group that the participating in this review process is beneficial to our future CoC HUD grants.

The group discussed the need for affordable rental housing in Greenville. It would be helpful to make these concerns known as part of the comments to the draft plan.

Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program

Pitt County Department of Social Services (lead agency for Pitt Co. HPRP) Sharon Edwards reported that 187 persons have been screened, 52 were referred to the program, 13 of whom did not meet qualifications. 30 persons have received financial assistance, 9 are still pending. Total assistance (rent, utilities & deposits) to date is \$41,700. Twenty-one (21) families have been housed and the cases can be closed.

ECBH, LME (lead agency for 15 counties in eastern North Carolina HPRP): Taliaka Williams reported that ECBH just cut their first check for this program. They began accepting referrals February 1, 2010. Many of the first referrals were not appropriate candidates for HPRP funding. ECBH has 7 people enrolled. Two (2) families have been approved for funding. Some people have been referred to other programs, such as Legal Aid, but no funds have been spent for legal aid or hotel vouchers as yet. Two staff members need HPRP training.

On Thursday, March 11, ECBH - HPRP staff will meet with the new State HPRP coordinator (Elvina) and Martha Are to review best practices for managing the records for the program and reporting requirements. If anyone has questions regarding HPRP services, please call 252- 287-2305 to verify coverage. For Halifax County, call Victoria Newcomb at 252-539-4155.

SOAR Program Update

SOAR Implementation Committee meet February 9, 2010 to review program referral process and updates on applications. Sharon Edwards reported on the results for the Pitt County SOAR program. The Pitt Co. DSS SOAR caseworkers have received 20 referrals, 7 from hospital. Four (4) referrals did not qualify, 13 are pending, and 3 are approved. There was discussion on how whether alcoholism alone can be used to determine disability. Current regulations do not recognize alcoholism as a disability. Paulette mentioned that the Federal government is discussing this issue. She will send out the notice.

Sharon mentioned that Cindy Asbell is the DSS caseworker housed at the hospital and is the initial contact for hospital referrals to the SOAR caseworker. The hospital is developing a new employee orientation and Cindy will include information about the SOAR program. Sharon also reported that for individuals who do not qualify for the SOAR program, the DSS case workers can also do At-Risk Case Management for adults who are at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation and need help managing the system.

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Paulette reported that the City of Greenville has agreed to allow some CDBG funding to be used to support a third SOAR caseworker who will work primarily with the residents at the Greenville Community Shelter. Linda Mandell is that caseworker.

Permanent Supportive Housing Program Updates

Greenville Housing Authority – VASH, Verdura, and Shelter & Care.

- Monica reported that 19 VASH vouchers have been issued. Thirteen (13) veterans have been housed. The program has a total of 35 vouchers. It is a four-step process to qualify an individual or family. It usually takes 30 to 60 days to complete. The expenditure per voucher has been less than anticipated and she plans to ask for additional vouchers.
- Don Rogers reported that Crystal Springs, a 64 unit senior development has broken ground. Of the total units, 40 will be subsidized and 24 market rate. They received funding through tax credits for the project. They will start taking applications 90 days before the opening.

Greenville Community Shelter (GCS): Lynne James reported that its Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program has one vacancy for a single male. This person would share an apartment with another single male. GCA also has vacancies in its transitional housing program. They do have several applications in process. It can take 4 to 6 weeks to process an application. Individuals and families in the transitional program can only stay for 24 months. Clients in both the PSH and Transitional programs must have some income to qualify

CHIN – Training Opportunities Handout

Paulette passed a list of CHIN trainings for March. The next HMIS training in Greenville is May 12. The March 24, 2010 CHIN- HMIS training in Raleigh is full. Rob Tripp reported that CHIN is launching a new website which will have interaction training calendar. This will make it easier to sign up for trainings. Paulette discussed the possibility of setting up an End-User meeting with people in Pitt County who are using CHIN. She reported that there were some discrepancies in inventory reported in CHIN that would affect some reports.

Update Member information – Handout

An updated list of Member Agencies was passed out. Paulette asked that everyone review the information about their agencies/groups and if necessary, correct or add information. She also passed out a flyer about CARE-LINE. It is a referral site (Web & Phone) from the NC Department of Health and Human Service that is a Toll Free information and referral service. This is a good site to get information about services. Paulette encouraged CoC members to visit the website and use it to help locate services for clients. She also encouraged the group to sign up. Lynne James also encourage participation, saying that the service will send out an email ever 6 months to agencies listed to update their information.

April Meeting – Strategic Planning

Paulette suggested that the Pitt CoC April meeting be a planning meeting so that the CoC could set some goals to work towards for next year. She asked for volunteers to help prepare for the meeting. Any materials will be sent out via email prior to the meeting. Paulette also reported that the April meeting for the 10-Year Plan Advisory Board would be a planning session.

General Updates

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Trudy Halstad announced that God's Love is hosting a fund raiser. On Saturday March 20 from 11 AM to 2 PM, there will be a BBQ Chicken Luncheon. Tickets are \$7 and include chicken, beans, potato & bread; dessert & drinks will be on site.

Linda Grimshaw reported that she had received notice that Jarvis Methodist Church will purchase round trip city bus passes that can be given to individuals or families to use to go to Pitt County DSS offices.

Tracie Campbell reported the Project Working Recovery received confirmation of their Medicaid # from ECBH. They are setting up the procedures to be able to use the system.

Crime Free Rental Program updates. Paulette reported that the Crime free rental Program discussed at the February 10, 2010 CoC meeting was NOT passed by the Greenville City Council.

The next Pitt County Continuum of Care meeting will be
Wednesday, April 14, 2010 from 9:00 AM- 10:30 AM
Multi-Purpose Room Greenville Housing Authority
1103 Broad St, Greenville, NC