**Present:** Marisol Tomas, Kathleen Carr, Sandy Cavanaugh, Michael Absher, Nancy Maraville, Ruth Birge, Jane Zecher, Troy Bradley, Jenny Nordine, Chris Berg, Hope Pace, Hugh Rutledge, Trina Hill, Tish Blair, David Jacklin, David Cook, Edward Correa, Adrianne Brady, Nicholas Faherty, Kathy Kyle, Brian Alexander, Anita Oldham, Shawnee Case, Sandra McNeill, William Kinschner, Kathleen McWilliams

**Approval of April 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Christine Craft made a motion for the approval of the April minutes. Motion was carried.

**Quick Agency Updates**

Christine Craft shared that the HELP program has identified 288 students within Henderson County Public schools so far this school year. She also reminded the coalition of the HELP program’s college assistance fund which helps homeless unaccompanied youth going off to college with dorm items, laptops, supplies, etc. A dodge ball fundraiser for the fund was held in April by the Immaculate Conception youth group, they raised nearly $300. For information about giving see Troy Bradley or Christine Craft.’

Jane Zecher with the We Care Fellowship shared upcoming information. The Park Ridge “Wellness on Wheels” will be at the First Church of the Nazarene during the We Care Fellowship lunch for the homeless on June 10th and July 8th from 10-1. June 10th will be for blood pressure and non-fasting glucose; July 8th will be for vision testing. There will also be a Community Conversation for A Better World held at 301 South Main on June 29th from 10-4.

Michael Absher shared that Only Hope WNC has finally received its 501(c)3 status. He wanted to openly thank Representative Mark Meadows for helping back the application. Only Hope WNC is in the process to finish its Teen Hotline soon. They are also looking for property to potentially purchase in the future for a teen shelter.

Adrianne Brady, NAMI Four Seasons, is looking to offer Mental Health training to School Resource Officers in 6 counties including Henderson County in June, date TBA. They will also offer a Mental Health First Aid class for educators this summer in July, date TBA. NAMI will also have a fundraiser on May 23rd from 6-8:30 with presenter Dr. Suka Chapel-Horst at Salon Blue Showroom (518 S. Allen Rd, East Flat Rock, NC). Tickets are $20. There will be a raffle, food, etc. The topic will be “Why Do I Feel This Way?”-Scientific Breakthroughs for National Recovery.

Jenny Nordine shared that 6th Avenue Psychiatric has completed its rebranding campaign. They are now known as Thrive! They will have a wine tasting fundraiser on May 30th from 6-8 at Burntshirt Vineyards. Cost is $25, RSVP by May 24th at 697-1581. There will also be a Bids and Blues on October 19th from 6-9.

**Balance of State Steering Committee Update**

Brian Alexander updated the coalition to changes and issues taking place at North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH). Emily Sutton’s position as project specialist has been filled by Corey Root; who may plan to visit our region sometime in the future.

There is still no news on funding for new projects through the Continuum of Care. The newest deadline is July 1st. However, Tier II renewal projects were approved and the 79 county region had two applications approved.

There is a meeting on June 25th for all regional leads in Greensboro, NC. Brian Alexander will be attending this meeting on Henderson County’s behalf and will report at the July coalition meeting.

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) held elections for the CHIN committee. Four new candidates have been elected to lead this committee. Anyone is welcome to sit in on monthly conference calls. See the NCCEH website for more information, <http://www.ncceh.org/>.

Agencies which oversee the financing of projects will be able to obtain Letters of Consistency from the Henderson County Homeless Coalition. The letters are to show that coordination between programs is happening and that

the projects are aligned with the needs of the community at large. NCCEH is currently working on a letter template that will be posted on their website when providers need this for their applications.

There was more discussion this month about the funding of the Interagency Council for Coordinating Homeless Programs(ICCHP) in the state budget. It is still not part of the new budget for the 2013 fiscal year. This funding was not supported in the state budget last year. However, the State Department of Health and Human Services was able to help continue some of the funded items, such as the SOAR program. This will most likely be the same for this year. Many of the other supports like training, oversight, direct support, etc are at risk of being cut. More information will follow as budget talks are finalized.

**Mid-Year Point in Time Count Planning**

Christine Craft explained the Point In Time (PIT) count that takes place once a year, nationally, in January. Henderson County expanded the reach of its count this year by having local crisis agencies and local feeding groups participate in asking their clients the PIT questionnaire. In years past, only the shelters participated in the count. Christine suggested forming a committee to organize the PIT count in order to better capture those at emergency rooms, jails, in camps, etc.

There was discussion of possibly doing a mid-year PIT count. This would give volunteers practice and help capture those who are migrant, or only in Henderson Count during the summer months, and literally homeless. A general consensus was reached to tentatively schedule a mid-year PIT count on September 18th.

There was some concern about being sensitive toward people without permanent housing including migrant families as well as having familiar faces to those being questioned. A general resource card was suggested as something to give to those who need them during the count. In response, Brian Alexander offered to have Homeward Bound staff experienced in doing the street count to train and accompany Henderson County volunteers. They also have a resource card that Henderson Count can use as a model. It was also suggested that a specific type of volunteer be recruited; those familiar with or have some experience working with the homeless population would be preferred.

Also suggested, were a Spanish version of the PIT questionnaire and the possibility of doing NAMI’s Mental Illness First Aid training with volunteers.

If interested in joining or leading the PIT committee, email Brian Alexander at [brian@hbofa.org](mailto:brian@hbofa.org).

**Committee Reports**

Christine Craft reported for the Mission, Vision, and Values committee. They have a rough draft of a mission statement for the coalition. See below:

*Mission: Coordinate community partners and educate the public to inspire action by focusing resources to support and enhance service for persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness.*

Some discussion started about making it more concise. However, please read the full statement above and offer suggestions at the next meeting June 11th.

Brian Alexander reported for the Data Committee. They are still waiting on some information to get back from agencies. Outcomes and benchmarks are still being set. They hope to have more details by the next coalition meeting

**“Life Skills” Services for Homeless Information Panel**

Christine Craft introduced three presenters from the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC), Blue Ridge Literacy Council (BRLC), and Blue Ridge Community College’s Accelerated Opportunity program (BRCC).

Kathleen McWilliams, of HAC, shared about their programming which could be beneficial to the homeless community:

* They work specifically with those of limited income. Currently have 262 multi-family units, 129 self-help units, 4 new homes, and has done 3,200 home repairs.
* They also build transitional housing such as for Mainstay, the Sugarloaf apartments, and Fran’s cottage (mainly for migrant farm workers during agricultural seasons).
* They offer home ownership training for first time low-income buyers (budgeting, financing, home selection, etc) as well as a self-help program.
* They also offer free home repairs for those at-risk for falls and those who need other safety repairs done. All work is done by experienced volunteers and at no cost to the client.
* They have bilingual staff.
* Looking to expand services to house homeless veterans next year.

Kathy Kyle, of BRLC, shared about their services:

* Services are for those who need assistance with reading, writing, speaking skills
* Mainly work with adults
* Offer ESL and citizenship classes as well as help with the deferred action process.
* Literacy tutors typically meet with clients two times a week for an hour and a half.
* They have designatedmeeting sites, but will meet where the student is comfortable.
* Also help connect clients with other community resources.
* Referrals can be made through their website (litcouncil.org) or by phone (696-3811).

Tish Blair, of BRCC, shared about the Accelerated Opportunity program:

* Shared about GED changes for 2014; students will pay every time they take a test, including retests. (currently its one-time per test). There are 5 independent tests for students to complete to earn their GED.
* This program allows students to take up to 12 credit hours for free in one of 4 pathways
* 4 pathways include:
  + Automotive
  + Machining
  + Welding
  + Office administration
* Pathways were selected based on the best paying positions in the area.
* Students must be at least a 9th grade level to qualify for the program
* Must attend a beginning of the year orientation
* The program also tries to help alleviate challenges to continuing their education especially for students without a stable place to stay.
* Interested persons can contact Tish Blair directly at (828) 694-1651.

**Next Meeting: June 11th, 2013 @ 10 am**

Respectively Submitted: Troy Bradley