**Transylvania County** **Homeless Coalition**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Location: Brevard Housing Authority**

**133 W. Morgan Street**

**Brevard, NC 28712**

**Date: June 6, 2013**

Attendees:

Melanie Ballard, Sharing House Erika Gonzalez, BHA

Megan Hare, TRAIN Susan Lefler, Community Liaison

Ron Schieve, SAFE/WCCA Jennifer Flood, The Haven

Emily Lowery, The Haven

* Meeting called to order 9:01 am
* Introductions
* Meeting Minutes Approved from last meeting
* Melanie Ballard from Sharing House explanation of job description
  + Overseeing volunteers and client interviews
  + Overseeing financial requests
  + Update files
  + Goal is to be consistent and professional
* Explanation of what this coalition was formed
  + Formed to receive BOS/COC funds
  + Applied for ESG Grant
* ESG
  + Inspections on individual rentals, have performed a few
  + Fewer people to report getting housed
  + We need to ask if funds can be reappropriated
  + Committee need to form a new budget
  + August or September needs to report
  + We may not spend all the funds
* 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness
  + This plan needs to be submitted to city council
  + Customize to fit our county
* BHA report
  + Utility checks
    - In the past were way more than what they should be
    - Have not been changed in 10 years
    - Audited Allowances
    - Were calculated for each section, has own amount
    - Will be hiring a company to update heating
    - Based on what utility companies say tenants should use
    - Meant to be a stipend to help
    - June 1st was date to begin cutbacks
    - HUD has cut back everybody’s funding
    - HUD said had to decrease and auditor said to cut back
    - Jennifer said that this will affect our clients
    - Offering energy classes
      * When inspections are done seen mismanagement of utilizes
      * Decrease could be a chance for them to more careful with their utilities
    - May need to work budget and utility usage into ESG application
* Susan Lefler to report new business
  + St. Philips garden
    - Garden goes to Sharing House
    - Need folks to volunteer in the garden
    - Saturday and Sunday
  + Zumba Fundraiser for SAFE
    - $10 to get tickets in advance $12 at the door
* Haven to be closed last week in July first week of August
  + Dates are July 29 – August 12
* Utility Checks are misused
* June 30 Ron Schieve and Randy are leaving at SAFE
* If clients used their utility checks like they should, they would not be in a bind
* June 25 leads and regional leads conference in Chapel Hill
* We need to figure out where we enable them
* We need to get a formed effort between all agencies
* Have a lot invested to get them in
* We work harder to get them in than they do to stay in
* We need to set a standard
* Transients don’t get service for 1 ½ years in Buncombe County
  + What defines your residency?
* WCCA went to 60 day hold
* Our population is different than Buncombe
* Friendship house in Murphy is close to our population
* Substance abuse issues are way different
* Buncombe County has alcohol problem, our seems to be more drug related
* Most people pick up and leave
  + Problem with them picking up and leaving is court dates and unpaid utilities, court order to get into apartment, they don’t follow the right steps to vacate and turn in keys
* We will be gathering data
  + Substance abuse or criminal activity are some reasons for abandonment
  + We are waiting on resources and energy
  + They are not ready yet
* Statistics from Erika say that out of 35 people 13 have failed
  + Neighbors tell us that they are gone or utility gets cut off is how we find out
  + Tenants just need to drop off their keys and leave a write a notice to vacate
  + Who is going to be good stewards in the program?
    - We need to weed out people using the system
  + We need to require ESG clients to volunteer and take classes and attend Meridian, make a goal plan
  + We may need to give them more time in shelter and require classes at Meridian
  + Distinguish wants and needs
  + BHA may look at homeless preference and give only preference to those who have been working a program and meeting requirements
  + We need to measure the right things
  + Clients need to have something invested int this
  + Martha said that we could do whatever we could to make this successful
  + It is our responsibility as professionals to make this word
  + We want charity tracker for outcomes, maybe not allow them services until they are at an 80%
  + Put together sheet of options
  + Have clients apply at housing and not verify homeless status until the have earned the homeless verification
* Next meeting scheduled for July 11, 2013
* Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am