**Southwestern Regional Homeless Coalition**

**August 20, 2013**

In attendance: Kristi Case, Smoky Mountain Center; Andrew Romines, Mountain Projects; Ashley Freeman, Reach of Macon County; Lynne De Luca, Smoky Mountain Center; Brian Justice, Smoky Mountain Center; Bart O’Sullivan, Friendship House; Cheryl Wilkins, Mountain Projects

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

Regrets were received from: Judith Alvarado, Reach of Clay County; Brenda Cormack, New Life Women’s Center; Monica Seiffert, Reach of Cherokee County; Debra Clarke, Friendship House; Julia Freeman, Reach of Haywood County.

Kristi introduced Brian Justice, the new MH/SA Housing Coordinator for SMC’s Western Region (Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Clay, Cherokee, and Graham counties).

Cheryl updated the group on the ESG application, which is due to the state tomorrow. It is completed, with just a few remaining questions about some of the Balance of State information. Kristi and Cheryl will meet directly after this meeting to complete.

The group discussed Rapid Re-Housing for next year. Andrew and Bart will develop some guidance on how long we will assist someone, requirements on income or potential for income, etc. The group discussed that we would prefer short term assistance, 3 months or less, unless there are extenuating circumstances. With the amount of funds available for next year, we won’t be able to assist nearly as many people. Andrew will arrange time to do a training on the HQS inspections, since this seemed to be a barrier for most of the current RRH grantees.

The group discussed the HUD Homeless funding application. It is expected that HUD will release the Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) in mid-September. So far, only Smoky Mountain Center has indicated it will continue renewing the Shelter Plus Care grants. No new applicants have indicated interest in applying for programs.

The Balance of State indicated that there won’t be as many free CHIN end user licenses as they once thought. The current end users will continue to receive their licenses, but if additional licenses are needed, it will cost. More to come when the final information becomes available.

The Friendship House reported they are serving 11 adults and 3 children. 3 of these people are veterans.

Smoky Mountain Center reports that there are a few vacancies in the Shelter Plus Care program grants, and we are receiving applications currently.

Mountain Projects reports their Section 8 waitlist has been closed since May 2013. They have not issued new vouchers since January 2013. There are 500+ on the waitlist. They recently terminated 80 people from the program. They have 1008 vouchers in Haywood and Jackson counties, but they are not fully funded.

Reach of Macon/Jackson reported they are serving 4 women and 4 children. The New Choices classes are starting this week, and it is only 50% funded this year, next year the funding for those classes will be eliminated.

There is a SOAR training in Winston Salem in mid-September if anyone is interested. The information is located on the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness website, at [www.ncceh.org](http://www.ncceh.org). If you are not a member of this great advocacy organization, you are encouraged to become a member.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 1PM at the Community Resource Center located at 108 Wayah Street in Franklin, NC. Their phone number is (828) 349-0211 if you need further directions.