**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEE Balance of State Continuum of Care (Helping the Homeless)**

**August 15, 2013 Committee Minutes**

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**PRESENT:** DeShanna Johnson (CPHS), Leona Williams (CPHS), Tamisha Keith (Free Clinic of Rock Co), Faye Pierce (RHA), Melissa Galloway (HORO, Inc), Patricia Gilley (Cong Nursing), Patricia Settle (Cong Nursing), Mark Richardson (Rock Co Commissioner), Deborah Poole (ADTS), Beverly Scurry (Rock Co Public Health), Dave Burnette (RCHH), Ruth Mitchell (RCC-CAR), Glen Johnson (DAV), Deidra Jones (Help, Inc), Richard Johnson (RCSO), Sharon Neville (CPHS), Tara Tucker (CPHS), Randy Judkins (Zion Baptist), Angie Boles (Help, Inc), Julie Gentry (Help, Inc), Dick Frohock (Reidsville Human Relations), Corey Root (NCCEH), Denise Neunaber (NCCEH), Ellery Blackstock (DSS), Marlene Pruitt ( Help, Inc)

A quorum must be present at each committee meeting and a quorum is present today.

Ellery opened the meeting with introductions of each participant and then a word of prayer. Ellery requested approval from July 18, 2013 Minutes with 1 addition – to add Welcome and Prayer by Ellery Blackstock. Dick Frohock accepted the Minutes and Dave seconded Minutes approval.

Today Denise Neunaber, Executive Director of NC Coalition to End Homelessness and Corey Root, Project Specialist and BoS Coordinator presented on A System in Transition: Shifting our Priorities and Programs to End Homelessness. Most of the following information was obtained from their presentation. In 2009 President Obama signed the Hearth Act. It was the first significant reauthorization of HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Programs in nearly 20 years. It required the US Interagency Council on Homelessness to create a federal plan to end homelessness. The Hearth Act Purpose has become the vision for NC BoS CoC - to ensure that individuals who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days. NC BoS CoC administers NC BoS governance and working committees, submits funding applications, coordinates data collection and assessment and plans for the future of CoC. Nonprofit organizations, housing authorities, LMEs and local governments submit applications to Regional CoC 🡪 Balance of State 🡪 HUD. HUD then contracts with the local entity.

Presently, the NC BoS CoC is comprised of a 79 county region and uses evidence based strategies to implement solutions to prevent and end homelessness in the most efficient, effective and ethical manner. The keys to ending homelessness are affordable housing, appropriate services and adequate income.

Elements of the New System include: Prevention (eligible under ESG); Emergency Shelter or Hotel/Motel vouchers (eligible under ESG); Rapid Re-Housing/Transition-In-Place housing (eligible under ESG & CoC); Permanent Supportive Housing (eligible under CoC).

Barriers to Housing include criminal history, credit history, housing history and financial resources. Barriers to Keep Housing include financial and behavioral barriers. Financial assistance can be obtained through rental assistance, security and utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, hotel/motel costs and repair damages. Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services include case management, outreach, engagement, housing search and placement, legal services, credit repair, childcare, transportation, MH and SA services and Healthcare services.

Denise and Corey encourage emails to [bos@ncceh.org](mailto:bos@ncceh.org).

HUD’s Chronically Homeless Definition – A person who is “chronically homeless” is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years. The individual must be sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation and/or in an emergency homeless shelter.

Housing First was mentioned by Leona. Housing First is based on the concept that a homeless individual or households primary need is to obtain stable housing and that the other issues that may affect the household can and should be addressed once housing is obtained.

**Progress on Website Information** – Mitch is requesting we send him any updates and contact information for providers. He has done an excellent job creating this website for the Regional Committee. We plan to have Meeting Minutes posted as well as a calendar of events.

**Housing Updates** from Marlene, Faye and Dave. Faye reports presently housing 79 people at RHA. The Support Services grant built in 10 hours a week and these funds are nearly out and Faye reports the need to secure another grant. The other 2 grants will be combined possibly in September. Dave provided an update for RCHH and reports 20 units have been filled. Twelve family units are housed with 25 adults and 27 children. The remaining units are individual units. Seven households have employment, 4 have disability and 9 are unemployed or awaiting disability. One is working full time and enrolled at RCC. Marlene reports having 44 individuals living in 11 households. Three units have pending applications and are expected to be filled within 2 weeks. Six families are housed with 12 children and 8 adults. There are 5 individual households. Three households have employment, 1 has disability benefits and 7 are unemployed or awaiting disability. Three are enrolled at RCC.

**Agency Updates**

The first annual Gospel fest will be Sept 7, 2013. Please bring non-perishable food items to support the homeless in Rock Co.

DAV will transport to shelters in Durham and Salisbury. The VA will also pay for contract beds.

Free Clinic Carnival will be Sept 7, 2013 from 1:00-5:00.

This meeting will no longer occur at the Red Cross at 8:00. The meeting will remain on the third Thursday but will occur at RHA at 10:00 to better accommodate out of town participants. Leona motioned this change and vote was seconded by Sharon.