**Southwestern Regional Homeless Coalition**

**September 18, 2013**

In attendance: Kristi Case, Smoky Mountain Center; Ashley Freeman, Reach of Macon County; Bart O’Sullivan, Friendship House; Julia Freeman, Reach of Haywood County; Angela Chapman, Reach of Cherokee County; Brenda Cormack, New Life Women’s Center; Cammy Taylor, Reach of Clay County; Sonya Gunnin, Macon County Resource Center

The meeting was held at the Macon County Resource Center in Franklin, NC .

Regrets were received from: Cheryl Wilkins and Andrew Romines of Mountain Projects.

Kristi let the group know that Brian Justice resigned from his position as SMC Western Region Housing Coordinator, so he will not be attending these meetings.

We reviewed the August minutes. There were no corrections noted, and the minutes were approved by the group.

The group discussed the ESG Rapid Re-Housing program, and the reduction in funding from the previous year’s allocation to this coming year’s allocation. Some agencies didn’t spend any of the RRH money they were allocated, so that will be re-captured to be re-distributed to the RRH agencies (Mountain Projects and Friendship House) for this upcoming year. The group discussed the document that Andrew had provided, detailing the process for referrals from other agencies to MP or FH for use of the RRH funds. If anyone has feedback, please provide it directly to Andrew at aromines@mountainprojects.org.

Andrew has offered to do a training on the HUD Housing Quality Standards Inspections and RRH paperwork. We discussed having that at the conclusion of our next meeting. Bart will connect with Andrew to plan for the training.

We discussed setting a standing day/time combo for the meetings. We were meeting on third Thursdays, but that is no longer good. We decided on 3rd Wednesdays at 1PM. We discussed trying to have some set location rotation, since the Balance of State needs to post where the meetings will occur. Bart and Kristi will connect to set a location rotation.

Kristi has been sending HUD/SNAPS email updates to the group, and will continue to do so as they are received.

The group discussed the HUD Homeless funding application. It is expected that HUD will release the Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) in mid/late-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 group discussed the Balance of State steering committee call. Anyone is always welcome to join that call from the Regional Committee (1st Tuesdays at 10:30AM). They went over the ESG application issues (some areas requested more funds than they were allocated, etc.). Amy Cole at DHHS will provide feedback on applications if requested. The Data Usage workgroup is looking at CHIN licenses, to determine if all who receive them really need them. The Coordinated Assessment workgroup is planning to have recommendations for the steering committee in November. Each Regional Committee must have an elected Lead and alternate (Bart O’Sullivan-Lead, Debra Clarke-alternate). They must submit a conflict of interest form (pg. 14 and 15 of the governance charter). Next subcommittee meeting: RRH Subcommittee: 9/24/13 at 10:30AM. Tuesdays at 2 series: NCCEH hosting a series on Reductions in Chronic Homelessness: 9/24/13 at 2PM, 10/15/13 at 2PM.

The Friendship House reported they are serving 11 adults and 2 children.

Smoky Mountain Center reports that there is one vacancy in the Shelter Plus Care program grants, and we are receiving applications currently.

Reach of Macon/Jackson reported they are serving 4 women and 4 children.

Reach of Cherokee County reports they are serving 4 women and 4 children.

Reach of Haywood County reports they are serving 4 women and 6 children (and 2 of the women are currently pregnant).

New Life Women’s Center reports they are serving 3 women.

Reach of Clay County reports they are serving 3 women and 1 child.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 1PM at Mountain Projects, located at 2251 Old Balsam Road in Waynesville. For additional directions, please call (828) 452-1447.