**Southwestern Regional Homeless Coalition**

**December 4, 2013**

In attendance: Christan Burgess, Reach of Haywood Co.; Brenda Cormack, New Life Women’s Center; Angela Chapman, Reach of Cherokee Co.; Marisol Tomas, VA; Andrew Romines, Smoky Mountain Center; Kristi Case, Smoky Mountain Center; Judith Alvarado, Reach of Clay Co.; Cheryl Wilkins, Mountain Projects

The meeting was held at the Senior Resource Center in Franklin.

Minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved, with 2 corrections (Reach of Clay County was serving 2 women, and the time of our 12/4/13 meeting should have been recorded as 1:30PM, not 10AM). We reviewed our agreed upon scheduled of the 1st Wednesdays at 10AM. Beginning January 2014, we will rotate the odd months in Murphy (Friendship House) and the even months in Waynesville (Mountain Projects). ***Due to the New Year’s Holiday falling on the first Wednesday, the group decided to hold the next meeting on Friday, January 3rd at 10AM at the Friendship House in Murphy.***

The group discussed ideas for increasing membership and buy-in from the community. We discussed inviting law enforcement, county staff, elected officials, and other housing authorities. Each member of this group is to think about someone they could invite to the next meeting.

The BOS Steering Committee meeting was discussed. Each participant of this committee needs to complete the email survey to NCCEH. Kristi will email out the link. The Project Review committee will meet on 1/6/14 via phone call, and Debra Clarke is our representative for that committee. Smoky Mountain Center is the only applicant from this area, for a renewal of a Shelter Plus Care grant. We need to hold a Regional Lead/Alternate vote each January. The Regional Lead and Alternate don’t have to change, but we have to have a formal vote recorded.

The group discussed the Point In Time Count scheduled for January 29, 2014. We don’t have the new forms from the state yet. We went over last year’s forms, to let each agency know what to expect at the next PIT. We discussed the Demographics form. Agencies were interested in the information that could be captured for our region, and wants to use these forms this year. The BoS will set up a training webinar/call when the new forms have been released. The BoS is requiring that we provide them a PIT point of contact by 1/6/14. Bart has been appointed as the PIT point of contact.

REACH of Cherokee County reported that they are serving 3 women.

Smoky Mountain Center reported that Shelter Plus Care is full with a waiting list.

Reach of Clay County reported that they are serving 2 women.

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

The VA reported that they currently have 20 VASH vouchers available. Marisol provided brochures on VASH, Healthcare for Homeless Vets, and the Veterans Justice Outreach Program.

Reach of Haywood County reported that they are serving 4 women and 2 children, and are expecting to intake a large family today.

Several of the shelters reported that they are collecting Christmas gifts for the women and children they are serving, so if you have donations, contact each shelter for their list of needs.

Mountain Projects reports that is has the executed contract for Rapid Re-Housing funds. They have spent around $7630, with an additional $1700 obligated. They reported that they currently have around 900 Section 8 vouchers for Haywood and Jackson Counties. They are allotted for 1008 vouchers, however the cost per unit is too high to support that many vouchers in the program. They continue to work with DSS on the Family Unification Program. They have released some vouchers to people on the waitlist. There are over 500 people on the waitlist, and they plan to keep the waitlist closed for around 2 years before re-opening. They have updated their waitlist preferences to be in line with HUD’s goals.