**Southwestern Regional Homeless Coalition**

**January 3, 2014**

In attendance: Brenda Cormack, New Life Women’s Center; Andrew Romines, Smoky Mountain Center; Kristi Case, Smoky Mountain Center; Laura Bartucca, Smoky Mountain Center; Judith Alvarado, Reach of Clay Co.; Rodney Morrow, Cherokee Co. DSS; Ashley Freeman, Reach of Macon Co.; Bart O’Sullivan, Friendship House homeless shelter

The meeting was held at the Friendship House homeless shelter in Murphy.

Minutes from the December 4, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved. 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, the group decided to hold the January meeting on Friday rather than Wednesday. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at 10AM at Mountain Projects in Waynesville.***

The group discussed Rapid Re-Housing Funds. Cheryl was not able to attend, but sent an email stating that Mountain Projects has helped 12 clients, and spent $14,184. Bart reports that the Friendship House has spent no funds yet, but they did receive their contract, and have 2 clients in process. The group discussed a few issues, such as the need to do intake for RRH at the shelters to determine if people meet the criteria for the program.

Bart discussed some issues that their shelter has been having, such as an unmarried couple who couldn’t stay together in one room, who left because of that issue. Judith reported that a woman called Reach, who had recently stayed at the New Life Women’s Center. The group discussed some specific challenging client cases. Bart discussed that they have new rules that have cut down on recidivism (one year before allowing them to return). He also reported that they have an assessment period to determine if someone will be suitable to stay at the shelter, and they have a case manager on staff that helps them assess people.

We discussed the Code Purple policy that Asheville/Buncombe County has, briefly. Since we have had some really cold weather, we may want to look at implementing a similar policy. Each shelter currently has their own rules around when someone breaks the rules, how long they’re not allowed back. Kristi will bring the Code Purple information to the next meeting to discuss.

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 has set up a webinar for 1/15/14 at 9:30AM to go over the forms. Bart has been appointed as the PIT point of contact.

The Friendship House reported they are serving 4 women and 1 man. Bart reports that Debra Clarke has received SOAR Training.

Smoky Mountain Center reported that Shelter Plus Care is full with a waiting list. They are currently applying for a renewal grant for Shelter Plus Care.

Reach of Clay County reported that they are serving 3 women.

New Life Women’s Center reported that they are serving 2 women.

Reach of Macon County reported that they are serving 4 women and 3 children.

Cherokee County DSS reported that they currently have Low Income Heating Assistance Program money available.