**Smokey Mountain Coalition to End Homelessness**

**April 2, 2014 Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Buffy Queen, Reach of Haywood; Chris Roth, Volunteer, Swain County; Ashley Freeman, Reach of Macon; Marisol Tomas, Veterans Admin.; Andrew Romines, Smoky Mountain Center; Kristi Case, Smokey Mountain Center; Cheryl Wilkins, Mountain Projects, Inc.; Debra Clarke, Hurlburt Johnson Friendship House

The meeting was held at Mountain Projects in Waynesville at 10AM.

Attendees reviewed and approved minutes from 3/12/14 meeting, with corrections (minutes reflected that Andrew was talking about waiting list for Section 8, when he was referring to Shelter Plus Care).

Discussion was held on the reallocation of Rapid Re-housing Funds. There is $43,000 in reallocated funds. The only agencies allowed to apply for the funds were agencies that had received funds in 2013. All of those reallocated funds must be spent by June 30, 2014. Due to the short time frame to expend the funds it was determined that only $30,000 should be requested and that breakdown between the agencies should be 1/3 for Hurlburt Johnson Friendship House and 2/3 Mountain Projects, Inc. This is the same breakdown as requested in the 2013 funding. This motion was made by Cheryl Wilkins and seconded by Ashley Freeman and passed unanimously.

The Homeless Vets Advisory Workgroup will serve vets eligible or ineligible for services through the VA. All of the VASH vouchers are currently assigned to clients. As clients move off the program, vouchers will become available. They are asking for 50 more VASH vouchers. Currently in our region vouchers can only be used in Haywood County. It was asked if a case worker for VASH vouchers could be located more centrally in our area to enable the more rural areas to benefit from this program. The Standdown to be held in Franklin on August 21st was discussed and Marisol will send out flyers with more information. Marisol discussed the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families grant – which provides RRH for Vets. She stated that 78% must meet the definition for chronic homelessness.

Mountain Projects still has the Section 8 waitlist open in Jackson County. The waitlist in Haywood County remains closed. The Haywood County community is currently having meeting to review how the needs of the county can be better served.

Smoky Mountain Center – Shelter plus Care has 46 active clients with 5 in the Queue and 4 on the waiting list. When those 5 clients locate housing, the program will be full.

Reach of Macon currently has 4 women and 4 children. Ashley also passed out the flyer for the American Girl Tea Party to be held May 10th.

Reach of Haywood currently has 3 women.

Friendship House currently has 1 woman and 4 men. They also have about $4,000 of the original ESG funds left to spent.

The next meeting will be held at the Hurlburt Johnson Friendship House at 10am on Wednesday May 7, 2014.