

COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW
MINUTES
August 22, 2014



The Community Advisory Network Developing Onslow (CAN-DO) met at Northwoods United Methodist Church for a special meeting on this date. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by CAN-DO Co-Chair Kristi Pitchford. Those in attendance were: Barrett Kahl, Brian Fike, Christa Gunderson, Christy O'Daniel, Cindy Williams, Collis Niro, Craig Wagner, Cynthia Figueroa, Gail Taylor, James Ross, Janice Graniero, Jennifer Colley, Jon Johnson, Junie Christian, Karol Davis, Kathleen Holbrook, Kristi Pitchford, Laura McKinney, Lillie Gray, Linda Graham, Melissa Balto, Mike Fresia, Patricia Kelly, Susan Pridgen, Theo McClammy, Ursulla Ingram and William Keller.

Excused absences were received from: Dan Joy, Jason Klein, Kelley Hamilton and Pamela Brown.

Following an introduction of members and guests, voting placards were distributed to those members eligible to vote on the ESG project proposals. Employees and board members of the presenting agencies were exempt from casting their votes.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PRESENTATIONS

Kristi Pitchford announced that Onslow County is eligible to receive \$89,507.00 in ESG funds to be used for Rapid Re-Housing only; no monies will be available to fund emergency shelters.

Susan Pridgen from the United Way provided a PowerPoint presentation to the audience concerning the *Solutions for Stability (SFS)* Program which is seeking its third year of funding. The program has been serving homeless families with children and victims of domestic violence. This year it will incorporate serving individuals without children. Susan reiterated that veterans are being served by two community programs: Family Endeavors and ECHSA, and CoastalCare serves those with disabilities. Susan presented SFS program statistics and the tools used to assess clients. Wrap-around services are provided to recipients. ESG funds can be used for rental deposits and rental payment assistance, utility deposits and utility payments as well as rental application fees. ESG funds will not pay for transportation. Susan was seeking the entire amount of ESG funds available to Onslow County: \$89,507.00. Karol Davis asked about the existing gap of serving those recently released from incarceration with no income. Linda Graham responded that SFS is following HUD guidelines which require income for RRH. Junie Christian talked about the success of SFS in serving 13 DV clients staying in the Women's

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Shelter. He stated that “Domestic violence and sexual assault are public health issues.” Christy O’Daniel sought clarification on expanding SFS to serve individuals as well as the other populations previously served. Susan assured Christy that the program had indeed expanded. James Ross asked about SFS serving veterans and Susan advised that vets had been referred to Family Endeavors and ECHSA for assistance with housing. Collis Niro asked for the amount of funding awarded last year which was \$65,000.00.

Theo McClammy from Onslow Community Outreach provided a PowerPoint presentation. He was proposing intake, screening and referral services to link shelter clients with agencies providing RRH services. He also planned to provide transportation. Susan Pridgen asked for clarification: was he asking for funding of Coordinated Intake services or was he planning to provide housing services? Theo explained that he would not seek to provide housing as that would be a duplication of effort. Craig Wagner explained that while Coordinated Intake is a required service, it is an unfunded mandate. Susan explained that ESG funds must be directly tied to paying a lease or utility bill and that the Solutions for Stability program could not use ESG funds for Coordinated Assessment. Theo stated that he planned to provide intake and case management activities. Christy O’Daniel asked that if OCO received ESG funds, could the shelter open during the day to provide showers to the unsheltered homeless. Theo explained that what she was describing was considered Day Shelter Services. Theo stated that he wants to quantify the need first and determine whether any other agencies are providing the same service. Cindy Williams commented that it is necessary for OCO to provide case management activities to those staying in the shelter awaiting RRH through SFS as SFS is not an instantaneous solution and there is a wait period. Craig Wagner stated that ESG funds will not cover such case management expenses. Craig added that how ESG funds can be expended is a state decision versus a local decision. He agreed that Shelter and Day Services are needed locally and that’s why OCO leadership needs to attend CAN-DO meetings. Linda Graham asked what services could be provided by OCO to allow them to get some grant funding? Collis Niro asked why CAN-DO met to vote on OCO receiving ESG funds if OCO cannot use the funds the way they are requesting. Collis stated that it was a wasted presentation and that we should just be voting on SFS. Lillie Gray replied that OCO would have to replicate the SFS model and in a community this size, it would be a wasted effort to have two similar programs competing for the same funds. Jennifer Colley added that the OCO shelter is necessary but that as the SFS program is already providing housing, OCO does not need to provide RRH. Lillie stated that OCO, based on their inadequate budget, needs to focus their energies on providing food and

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shelter and send everyone else to SFS. Theo added that due to their budgetary constraints, the shelter is open fewer hours and cannot afford the staff time to allow the shelter to open more hours. Theo advised CAN-DO that he had “made a good faith proposal but that (he) must live within the allocated resources.” Lillie said RRH services, per HUD guidelines, require income. Another type of program is necessary to house the long-term homeless or those without income. Craig agreed that there are existing gaps within the homeless populations. Veterans and disabled folks are covered by the programs administered by Barrett Kahl, Trudy Murray and Brian Fike. The SFS program will help several other subpopulations but it still will not cover everyone. Bill Keller talked about initial goal of CAN-DO to create a “One Stop Shop” to serve the homeless. He acknowledged that while there’s a link between OCO and SFS, there’s also a gap. Craig acknowledged the success experienced in our community in resolving homelessness for several subpopulations while acknowledging that a gap for others still does exist. Policies will need to be changed and barriers overcome to assist everyone. James Ross questioned by so few referrals had been made by OCO to SFS. Theo stated that it requires a lot of staff time to complete a written application to SFS. Lillie Gray talked about the necessity of OCO screening applicants so as not to waste the time of the SFS Program. Now that SFS has expanded its service population to include individuals, there may be more applications made by OCOC to SFS.

Collis Niro made a motion for the full amount of ESG funds available, \$89,507, to be directed to fund the Solutions for Stability Program. Jennifer Colley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and all eligible voting members voted in the affirmative. None stood opposed.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Junie Christian volunteered to serve on the Projects Committee and Brian Fike volunteered to serve on the Scorecard Committee. Kathleen Holbrook made a motion to appoint Junie to the Projects Committee and to appoint Brian to the Scorecard Committee. James Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unopposed.

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ANOUNCEMENTS

Gail Taylor announced that First Baptist Church in Swansboro is opening their parsonage every Thursday starting 8-28-14 to homeless people in need of showers, shaves, laundry, and counseling. If there is good response, the parsonage will open on Thursday as well. The church is also preparing the parsonage to respond in disaster/crisis situations. Gail asked for assistance in sleeping mat preparation. Their group will meet Mondays between 1-4 pm.

There being no further business, Kristi Pitchford adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am. The next meeting of CAN-DO will be Friday, September 5, 2014 at 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Holbrook, Co-Chair