

COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW  
MINUTES  
MAY 1, 2015



The Community Advisory Network Developing Onslow (CAN-DO) met at Northwoods United Methodist Church 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: Amelia Grissett, Beverly Jackson, Brian Fike, Brian Jackson, Cathy Jackson, Chris Slater, Christa Gunderson, Christy O'Daniel, Collis Niro, Cynthia Figueroa, James Ross, Janice Graniero, Jason Klein, Jennifer Colley, Jon Johnson, Karol Davis, Kathleen Holbrook, Ken Becker, Kristi Pitchford, Larry Johns, Laura Cate, Melissa Balto, Mike Fresia, Pamela Brown, Rick Moser, Ricky Thomas, Shantisha Williams, Susan Pridgen, Tasha McKinney, Ursulla Ingram, Vicki Hill and William Keller.

Excused absences were received from: Dan Joy, Harold Dunlop, Kelley Hamilton and Richard Smothers.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made of members and guests.

### **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of March 13, 2015 were approved on a motion from William Keller which was seconded by James Ross. The motion carried without opposition.

### **PRESENTATION**

Brian Jackson, a board member for Sandy Run Apartments, Inc., provided information to membership. They have 1-4 bedroom units that are both subsidized and Fair Market Value. They recently experienced success with a domestic violence client staying at the Onslow Women's Safe House. They desire to stop the generational pattern of Section 8 Housing. Sandy Run Apartments wishes to partner with the community. They have already partnered with City Parks and Recreation, the Jacksonville Police Dept and with Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church. They have brought resources into the complex, reduced crime and their goal is to improve the lives of those residing in the apartment complex. The board meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

*Coordinated Assessment:* Susan Pridgen and Brian Fike shared that they have started CA but have already uncovered some issues and are planning to re-vamp and streamline the program. They discovered that waiting until people seek assistance at shelters is too late; people need to access the system earlier in the process. Susan stated that they would like for people to utilize the 211 system to gain resources and prevent/divert homelessness. Janice Graniero is currently updating the 211 system and another volunteer is going to agencies to seek updated information. Coordinated Assessment is a work in progress.

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*Solutions for Stability:* Susan Pridgen announced that 179 people have been served to date. This year, 21 households representing 50 people have been assisted. As most of the SFS funds have been expended, they have applied for additional funding through the state. The state would prefer that programs overspend to demonstrate the need.

*Onslow County Schools:* Jennifer Colley reported that 242 school-aged children have been identified during the 2014-15 school year. The reasons for homelessness are as follows: Condemned/Unfit Housing=10; House Fire=8; Runaway=4; Kinship Care=3; Displaced by Natural Disasters=0; Domestic Violence/Child Abuse=61; Kicked Out/Abandoned=25; Eviction/Foreclosure=73 and Economic Hardship=58.

*Shelter PLUS Care:* Brian Fike announced serving 23 people at this time. As his agency, CoastalCare, is merging with Eastern Carolina Behavioral Health in the near future, Brian plans to seek additional slots from those allocated to the region.

*ECHSA:* No representation

*Family Endeavors:* Kent Becker shared that their program served 7 clients during the month of April: 2 of whom were literally homeless and 5 prevention clients.

*HUD-VASH:* Jason Klein stated that the 14 initial vouchers have been utilized and 24 more vouchers will be awarded to Onslow County. Individuals must be literally homeless to qualify. The VA is seeking a Case Manager for Onslow County. HUD-VASH is a Section 8 voucher (long term housing).

*Onslow Community Outreach:* Board member Christy O'Daniel shared that the Caring Community Clinic is prospering.

*Tri-Counties Crusaders:* Karol Davis shared that their program assists formerly incarcerated offenders, both civilian and military vets, with wrap-around services to include housing and employment. In March, they had 6 new intakes, housed 2 people and assisted 25 with employment. In April, they had 9 new intakes, housed 3 people, and assisted 21 with employment. Tri-Counties has formed a relationship with House of Raeford, a business who has employed 50 of their clients with transportation included.

*Philippians Place:* No representation today.

*Onslow Women's Center:* Laura Cate stated that they currently have 6 residents; 4 of whom were new during April. Of the 6 residents, 2 are being assisted by Solution for Stability and 3 are awaiting employment. April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month and October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Laura requested donations of furniture for their clients getting housed. Storage can be found at their Thrift Store.

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*Salvation Army:* No representation today.

*Ark of the Covenant/City of Refuge:* Beverly Jackson shared that during April, they received 3 referrals to transitional housing. Of those 3, two had criminal records. Beverly exclaimed that partnering with community agencies works!

*Vocational Rehabilitation:* Collis Niro stated that travel restrictions have led to a decrease in referrals as they have been unable to conduct outreach activities. Collis advised membership that Voc Rehab works with those already diagnosed with mental, physical and intellectual disabilities to include substance abuse. They provide job training, coaching and resume writing. They assist clients in finding and keeping employment. They have 2 school-based counselors who work with high school students with IEPs.

*Swansboro First Baptist:* No representation today.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Severe Weather Response Plan:** The plan was approved at the March meeting. Host sites needed to be contacted to confirm their willingness to participate. The shelter host sites previously identified within the faith-based community are: Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church, St. Julia's AME Zion Church, Northwoods United Methodist Church, and Ark Of the Covenant Church in Richlands. Washington Chapel Missionary Baptist on Bell Fork Road and Unity of Faith Christian Center on Old Maplehurst Road were added today. Ursulla agreed to contact sites in the Southwest, Sneads Ferry, Holly Ridge and Swansboro. Once arrangements are confirmed with host sites, the plan will be presented to Jacksonville City Council and Onslow County Commissioners.

#### **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jon Johnson has been appointed Web Master for CAN-DO to post local information for Balance of State.

Susan Pridgen shared that portable showers were recently set up at Trinity United Methodist Church. No one showed up. They will do it again and plan to add a laundry feature so that people can wear fresh clothes following their showers.

Pamela Brown announced that the Onslow County Health Department is offering travel clinics for overseas travel. Immunization requirements have changed for children entering kindergarten and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and for those turning 15 years old. Those needing immunizations can just walk into the Health Department; no appointments are necessary. Pam also shared that the Health Dept has received a grant for Diabetes Care and Coordination focusing on African Americans and Hispanics. They will provide support and education for pre-diabetics also and have partnered with Sandy Run.

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Pastor Larry Johns from Life in the Word Christian Ministries announced a community wide food and clothing drive for the homeless to be held at Salvation Army, 535 Bell Fork Road, on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 8:30-2:00 pm. All donations benefit Onslow Women's' Center, Family Endeavors, United Way's CHEW Program, Jacksonville Salvation Army and Onslow Community Outreach. The event is sponsored by the Health Dept, Jacksonville Police Dept and area churches.

James Ross announced a Veterans Benefit Car Wash to be held tomorrow, Saturday, May 2nd from 10am-2 pm at the Western Blvd Lowes. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will be used to purchase items for the 2016 Veterans Stand-down.

Amelia Grissett announced the return of the Veterans Benefits Action Center June 16-18, 2015 at the American Legion. An electronic flyer was distributed to all members following the meeting.

Kristi Pitchford shared the success of the recent *Vine & Dine Taste of the Town* fundraiser held April 10, 2015. Proceeds benefitted the Solutions for Stability Program.

The United Way office is currently moving to 403 N. Bayshore Blvd across the street from First Presbyterian Church near Jacksonville City Hall. As Pastor Rick Moser is retiring soon, CAN-DO will transition the meetings out of Northwoods UMC.

Brian Fike announced that he is lining up guest speakers for CAN-DO meetings. Pride of North Carolina will present in June.

Vicki Hill shared that Soup for the Soul is offered the first Saturday of each month at Washington Chapel Church located at 347 Bell Fork Road. They take food to shut-ins as well.

There being no further business, Kristi Pitchford adjourned the meeting at 9:05 am. The next CAN-DO meeting will be held on **Friday, June 5, 2015 at 8:00 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Holbrook, Secretary