

# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEE BALANCE of STATE CONTINUUM of CARE

*(Helping the Homeless)*

## MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2015



**Members Present:** Faye Pierce, Chair, Ellery Blackstock, Vice Chair/Past Chair Beverly Scurry, Secretary, Marlene Harrison, Regional Lead, Curtis Pierce, Alternate Regional Lead, Bobby Martin, Amy Steele (Help for Homeless), DeShanna Johnson (CenterPoint), Tracey Boubacar (Daymark), Ruth Mitchell (ADTS-Center for Active Retirement), Viria Alvarez (Help for Homeless), Patricia Gilley (Congregational Nursing), Jeanne Penn (Home of Refuge), Linda Clodfeller (Home of Refuge), Melissa Galloway (Home of Refuge)

**Welcome** – Chair, Faye Pierce thanked and welcomed everyone for attending. Introductions were made.

**Meeting Minutes Review/Approval of last meeting** – Motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting minutes was made by Ruth Mitchell and seconded by Curtis Pierce. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Special Guest Kim Crawford, Executive Director of Allied Churches of Alamance County**

- Allied Churches is the shelter in Alamance County
- The shelter began in 1982 formed by handful of churches in Burlington
- Originally formed not as a shelter, but as emergency assistance
- They were given a building which they turned into a shelter open from 7 pm to 7 am and staffed by volunteers
- Over time they realized skill sets were needed to staff the shelter
- They moved buildings and began a shelter, food pantry, soup kitchen, and still provide emergency assistance. They are now the largest and only shelter in the county.
- They have 96 beds with a women's dorm (24 beds), men's dorm (50 beds), and family dorm, as well as toddler beds. Family dorm is almost always full
- They have no space with single dads with daughters
- They have a very small space for dads with toddler sons
- No designated period of time on how long a person can stay at the shelter
- They used to have a 90 day rule
- Over the last two years they have gotten case managers/housing specialists to work with the homeless
- Allied realized that because of the 90 day rule across the state many homeless individuals were floating around from shelter to shelter across counties
- 60% of the individuals in Allied were from outside of Alamance County

- Allied visited other shelters to see what worked best and so they changed the rules to allow any homeless person who lived in Alamance County or a surrounding county that did not have a homeless shelter, could stay at Allied (Rockingham, Person, Caswell, Chatham)
- Kim is on the Balance of State Governance Committee for the Coordinated Assessment
- CA is designed to assist the homeless in a more effective, efficient manner.
- Alamance County follows Plan B of CA meaning there's only one entry point for homeless individuals which is at Allied
- Allied has an intake specialist who takes a call will do an emergency screening and prevention diversion. They will do everything they can to divert or prevent a person from coming Allied, but if they can't they will take a person in if they qualify
- The State has determined that all counties within the Balance of State will use an assessment tool called the VI-SPDAT – Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool as a part of the Coordinated Assessment process
- VI-SPDAT is supposed to be completed within 14 days of entry into the shelter and should take about 10 minutes or less, but Allied works to complete it within 3 days and it takes about 20 - 25 minutes
- VI-SPDAT is then broken down and assigns a number in which it gives you a starting point in where to house an individual
  - 0-3 – Housing on the fair market with no assistance attached
  - 4-7 – Rapid Re-Housing
  - 8-10 – Transitional Housing
  - 11 + - Permanent Support Housing
- No permanent housing in Alamance County except for residential treatment for single women with substance abuse which makes it hard for some individuals to leave within 90 days. Average day in Allied is 47 days
- Statistics show that if an individual is housed within 30 days of entry then they are more likely to remain successfully housed on their own
- Allied Shelter offered for Rockingham County to call them if we need help sheltering our homeless population because they are open to residents of Rockingham County. They will work with our team to get that individual back to Rockingham County
- Churches in Alamance County are no longer the biggest contributor to Allied Churches. Of the \$1.2 million budget at Allied, the churches contribute approximately 2% financially, but there is a lot of support from churches through volunteers
- The coalition of churches fell apart when Allied filed for 501c3 status
- Allied is now governed by a board. Funding comes from ESG, City of Burlington, and fundraising
- Allied owns the building that they are located in which helps a lot financially
- It's only been in the last two year that Allied churches was able to create a sustainable budget
- The largest food pantry in Alamance County closed which created an opportunity for Allied Churches to receive the support and funding that that pantry was receiving
- The food pantry is primarily what keeps them open along with the good will, donations, and support that they receive
- For more information on funding and operations for Allied visit [www.alliedchurches.org](http://www.alliedchurches.org)
- There was big capital campaign to get money for the current Allied Churches building as well as some donations
- Rockingham County is experiencing issues between municipalities and wanting to get everyone on the same page and agree to where a shelter should be located that benefits the whole county

- The only restriction that Allied Churches have to individuals entering the shelter is sex offenders with a previous history of violence. If an individual has been drinking, they can enter, but they can't be disruptive. There are no drugs inside the shelter either
- Kim suggested that if Rockingham County opens a shelter to think about an industrialized kitchen, vinyl mattress/metal frame beds, and industrialized dryers to clean clothes
- What Allied has been able to do is be completely transparent to the community. You have to be able to tell the community your story – who you serving and their issues and that you have to serve them because if you don't who will
- Allied Churches, the hospital, and the jail are the most expensive housing in Alamance County. You have to show the community their return on investment. How much does it cost per day at the shelter vs. per day in the jail vs a visit in the emergency room visit
- When Allied received HUD funding they were apparently using unrestricted donations. They had to have a match. They hired a financial director and that separated funds for unrestricted and restricted funds. The restricted funds always has that 25% match needed for HUD funding

The Regional Committee thanks Kim for coming to present on the successes and challenges from Allied Churches of Alamance County.

**Treasurer's Report** – The treasurer was absent from the meeting so the secretary read her report. There were two checks in May both written on 5-21-15, one to Curtis Pierce for mileage (\$112.89) and the other to Tabitha Cox for recorder (\$31.90). The total balance is \$ 2,116.46.

**Coordinated Assessment Report** – Due to time constraints, reports will be shared through the June meeting minutes.

#### **Regional Lead Reporting:**

- A special steering committee meeting was conducted via conference call on June 16, with the hopes of being able to vote on the scorecards. However there was not a quorum which would have consisted of 14 Regional Leads or Alternates without a conflict of interest, available on the call.
- The scorecard review was postponed until the next steering committee meeting, scheduled for July 7.
- The NOFA is still not yet available although a draft is posted for review.
- Project and collaborative applications are likely to be in process in July and August.
- There will be a Rapid Re-housing subcommittee meeting on June 19, from 10:30-11:30. Materials have been sent to registrants for review. Marlene will be on the call, Tabitha will not be as she is out of town.
- There is a change in the Migration trainings, most are expected to be held in August. The BoS will keep us updated.
- All systems should be fully migrated by September 30, 2015.

#### **Success Stories**

Help for Homeless had a client who received a temporary job position and the agency decided to hire that client full time. The client has three children and has been in the program at Help for Homeless for three months.

Reidsville Housing Authority had a client whose home was foreclosed on. RHA helped the client get access to mental health services because of grief over the loss of a child. The husband was able to get disability and the wife will have a hearing to also get disability. Both clients will graduate once their disability goes through.

**Announcements:**

- Melissa announced that the Home of Refuge is planning a Motorcycle Ride Fundraiser on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The ride will start and end at the Wentworth National Guard Armory; the route will mimic that of the pickup route for the homeless. There will be tables to rent to sell your items. They are hoping that those selling items will donate a portion of their sales to Home of Refuge. There will be activities for the kids, music and bands, and hopefully Same Page will make some remarks. Registration is \$25 per biker and \$10 for an extra rider. There are plans to also have a bake sale and silent auction. The Regional Committee will post the event on their website and FB page and have Mable send out an email for county employees.
- Help, Inc. will be moving their offices to the Elections Building on Cherokee Camp Rd.

**Motion:** Ellery closed the meeting with a prayer. Motion to adjourn made by Beverly Scurry and seconded by Amy Steele. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting date will be July 16, 2015 at 10 am.**

## **ATTACHMENT A**

Housing Report – June 2015

### **Reidsville Housing Authority**

Total number of 34 slots.

Total number of 34 slots taken.

Total number of 13 family slots taken.

Total number of 21 individual slots taken.

Total number of 46 adult clients.

Total number of 22 child clients.

Total number of 0 slots available.

Total number of 0 clients in process of entering program.

Total number of 0 clients graduated or left the program this month.

### **Help, Incorporated: Center Against Violence**

Total number of 1 slots taken.

Total number of 1 family slots taken.

Total number of 0 individual slot taken.

Total number of 1 adult clients.

Total number of 1 child clients.

Total number of LIMITED slots available.

Total number of 2 families (2 adults & 3 children) in process of entering program.

Total number of 4 families (4 adults & 5 children) that graduated or left the program this month.

TO DATE: Total number of 10 families (10 adults & 11 children) served throughout this program.

### **Rockingham County Help for Homeless**

#### **PERMANENT GRANT PROGRAM**

Total number of 20 slots.

Total number of 19 slots taken.

Total number of 12 family slots taken.

Total number of 7 individual slots taken.

Total number of 27 adult clients.

Total number of 20 child clients.

Total number of 1 slots available.

Total number of 1 clients in process of entering program.

Total number of 1 clients that graduated or left the program this month.

#### **TRANSITIONAL GRANT PROGRAM**

Total number of 14 slots.

Total number of 14 slots taken.

Total number of 6 family slots taken.

Total number of 8 individual slots taken.

Total number of 15 adult clients.

Total number of 17 child clients.

Total number of 0 slots available.

Total number of 0 clients in process of entering program.

Total number of 0 clients that graduated or left the program this month.