**Southwestern Regional Homeless Coalition**

**September 2, 2015**

**In attendance:** Kristi Case, Analenisgi/Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority; Matt Gaunt, Hawthorne Heights/Children’s Hope Alliance; Cheryl Wilkins, Mountain Projects; Anna Rogers, Mountain Projects; Mindy Rathbone, The Open Door; Monica Frizzell, Smoky Mountain LME/MCO; Christina Smith, JNIN and Clean Slate; Buffy Queen, REACH of Haywood; Sarah Lancaster, Smoky Mountain LME/MCO.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from 6/3/15 and 8/5/15 were approved with minor corrections. There was no July meeting. Discussion that minutes and agendas were missing on the NCCEH web page, and if anyone has any, to send them to Monica to upload. Cheryl noted that she has many months, and will send them to Monica.

**Agency updates:**

* Hawthorne Heights: 3 children in placement currently, moving to the new facility in October.
* Analenisgi: Outpatient offices moving and opening a Recovery Center mid-October, working on 2 halfway house programs, and a residential substance abuse treatment program in the future.
* Smoky Mountain LME/MCO: The Housing/Employment Team is fully staffed, Monica is working on recerts and filling vacant slots in the PSH program. They have 45 participants, 11 in the waiting pool, and 2 in process. They have a total of 47 units, and are seeing a lot of families with children.
* REACH of Haywood: Placed 2 people into housing with Rapid Re-Housing, 1 was a family. They are currently hiring 2 additional shelter managers. They currently have 4 women and 3 children in their shelter.
* JNIN: Looking for facility based shelter location. They have some money, grants for renovations, County money, fundraising, etc. They are looking for a long term lease or potential ownership situation.
* Clean Slate: They are serving 2 women currently. They are accepting applications for their transitional housing program. Contact Christina Smith for referrals. They are trying to get the house they are in donated to the program. They have capacity for 6 women, it is a structured program.
* Haywood Pathways Center: They currently have 30 in shelter right now.
* Open Door: They are seeing lots of homeless families with children. There are 2 families waiting for PSH, and 5 families waiting for RRH.
* Mountain Projects: RRH is on hold, there is an issue with the state reimbursing them for administrative costs (indirect costs), there is still around $15k unspent.

**ESG Updates:**

Cheryl reports that they are having an issue with the state, who won’t reimburse Mountain Projects for the indirect administrative costs of running the RRH program. If the state doesn’t fix the system, Mountain Projects won’t apply for funding in the next ESG cycle. HUD has approved their cost allocation plan, and these funds come to the state from HUD, so it’s confusing why the state won’t reimburse. The total ESG/RRH allocation for our 7-county area is around $66k, and up to 15% of that can be costed to administrative costs. The Open Door and the Children’s Hope Alliance may be interested in operating the RRH program, if Mountain Projects declines. Cheryl will set up a meeting with Matt and Mindy to discuss. Cheryl will also organize an ESG Scorecard Committee phone call, so the group can decide on the scoring criteria for this upcoming year's application.

**Coordinated Assessment/VISPDAT Updates:**

Discussion around the community’s scoring process, since RRH is not currently available. Sarah would need to submit a Coordinated Assessment plan update. The group discussed this at length, and decided that since RRH is not currently available, to drop the current scoring system by 2 points to qualify for PSH. So now the PSH for individuals would be 5+, and the PSH for families would be 6+. It was discussed that just because someone qualifies to be in the pool, the highest scores are still being served first, so people may wait a long time for assistance as few vacancies occur. There is “word on the street” that people are talking about the tool, and how to answer the questions to get the assistance more quickly (ie: a higher score).

**Balance of State Steering Committee call:**

Sarah updated the group on the call that occurred yesterday. They are monthly (1st Tuesdays at 10:30AM), and open to all, however the Regional Lead or Alternate has to participate. There are several standing conference calls, see the agenda or the Balance of State information for the entire list. There is an upcoming Housing First webinar of interest on 9/17/15, the link is listed on the agenda.

**HMIS Transition:**

Agency Administrators that use HMIS have to participate in migration training that has occurred, and they must also return forms that are needed. Cheryl reports that they participated. Sarah reported that they are participating in an upcoming training.

**Next meeting scheduled for October 7, 2015, at 10AM at the United Community Bank in Bryson City.**