**Southwest Regional Homeless Coalition Meeting**

**June 3, 2015**

**Thank you for your attendance: Laura Bartucca, Smoky Mountain LME/MCO; Sarah Lancaster, Smoky Mountain LME/MCO; Cheryl Wilkins, Mountain Projects, Inc.; Anna Rogers, Mountain Projects, Inc.; Christina Smith, Jackson Neighbors in Need and Clean Slate; Jeremy Parton, Haywood Pathways; Ashley Freeman, Reach of Macon County; Matt Gaunt, Hawthorn Heights; Buffy Queen, Reach of Haywood; Judith Alvarado, Reach of Clay; Mindy Rathbone and Perry Hines, Open Door; Ariana DeToro-Forlenza, VA; Robert Bourke, Macon New Beginnings; Allbre Edwards, ABCCM; Monica Sierrent, Reach of Cherokee.**

(Repeated) The Coordinated Assessment for the Southwest Regional Homeless Coalition was officially approved last month. The Coordinated Assessment is a Three Part Assessment Tool used in determining customer eligibility for various housing programs and services available in the community. Part 1: Prevention and Diversion uses the paper Emergency Response Screening (2 page) Tool. If clients are diverted through the ER Screening Tool, then they should not be entered into HMIS since they do not fall under HUD’s definition of literally homeless. Part 1 video training tool from the N.C. Balance of State (BoS), Part 2 training video: VI-SPDAT and Part 3 training video: Case Management tools can be found through the following links:

Please find links below for the Balance of State Coordinated Assessment tool training. Every person using the Prevention & Diversion screen, VI-SPDAT and/or case management tool must watch the individual training for that part of the assessment tool. If you are administering all three parts of the tool, be sure to watch all three trainings. Or watch the trainings for the part(s) of the tool you will use.

* **Prevention & Diversion screen (10 minutes):**[**http://prezi.com/q5gxammz2mij/?utm\_campaign=share&utm\_medium=copy&rc=ex0share**](http://prezi.com/q5gxammz2mij/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share)
* **VI-SPDAT (1 hour 15 minutes):**[**http://prezi.com/v2egqy7u8ucn/?utm\_campaign=share&utm\_medium=copy&rc=ex0share**](http://prezi.com/v2egqy7u8ucn/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share)
* **Case management tool (14 minutes) -**[**https://prezi.com/hsau1ja5v5-8/case-management-tool/?utm\_campaign=share&utm\_medium=email**](https://prezi.com/hsau1ja5v5-8/case-management-tool/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=email)

**Sarah Lancaster** with Smoky Mountain LME/MCO will be interim lead for the coalition until the Housing Specialist position is filled.

Smoky Mountain announced that the finance department has approved security deposits to be paid for PSH- (Permanent Supportive Housing).

Last month’s minutes were approved.

The Emergency Solutions Grant Applicant Scorecard will be used by our region to rank the applications of those applying for funds. Some members prefer that scores be based on number of clients served, attendance and participation in the coalition meetings. Other members feel that shelters have some of the same costs regardless of the number served and therefore should not be a strong focus on the scorecard point system. Please send all comments to Cheryl by June 12th and she will send out results to the coalition. Sarah Lancaster will send out an example of the Henderson County scorecard from last year. Those not receiving shelter money can be involved in the actual voting.

The state is requesting people to be on the Scorecard committe and the Project Review Committee. **Sarah Lancaster** offered to serve on the Scorecard committee and **Bob Bourke** offered to serve on the Project Review Committee. **Laura Bartucca** offered to upload agendas and minutes to the website and send out information to committee members.

**NOFA will be coming out in June. If you plan to apply for funds, Mountain Projects** **requires a complete application, 3 hard copies of that application and 3 hole-punched.**

Those who will use the new HMIS system will need to sign up for training that will be held in Asheville on July 21st. Pre-requisite training is necessary before you can take the HMIS class in July. No DV shelter uses HMIS. If you receive state funding then you must use HMIS, as being part of our region, in order to county data on the homeless. Sarah Lancaster proposed creating an MOU and discussing this at the next meeting.

It was again discussed if we wanted to modify the 14 day waiting period on the VI-SPDAT. According to Sarah Lancaster, the 14 days can be modified if it is justified. Sarah will speak with Corey Root on the issue. Cheryl Wilkins will send out the VI-SPDAT numbers.

Members proposed that our coalition meetings have coalition members and outside agencies provide education on resources, funding or other valuable information.

The committee approved extending the ability for Rapid Rehousing to pay on rent, etc. for at least 6 months. We will start with a 3 month period, but based on the recommendation of the referring agency, Cheryl can extend to 6 months without prior committee approval.

**Education from Agencies:**

* Please refer Veterans to the VA or to ABCCM. HUD VASH vouchers and money is available for housing. Contact Ariana DeToro-Forlenza, VA and/or Allbre Edwards, ABCCM.
* Clean Slate is taking applications for women coming out of jail, prison and sex trafficking from anywhere in the state. Contact Christina Smith with Clean Slate and JNIN.
* Bob Bourke is trying to find a solution for the homeless through the New Beginnings Shelter in Macon County. They have recently opened a new thrift store in Franklin.
* Laura Bartucca of Smoky Mountain LME/MCO educated the coalition on supportive employment, which is a service in which Smoky Mountain is a liaison between employer and potential employee. An example would be employment 1st initiative which gives an employee the chance to grow or fail in a new job, but gives them an opportunity to be employed. Individuals will get referrals faster that are engaged in services and want to work. It’s about meeting people where they’re at.

(Repeated) Just a reminder, a second VI-SPDAT assessment can be administered if the client requests this or disagrees with the first initial outcome or score. As it stands, the motel-based shelter models can perform the VI-SPDAT on day 1 and it was determined that those clients that have been denied shelter stay can be referred immediately to Meridian for a walk-in assessment.

**Agency Updates:**

* Smoky Mountain LME/MCO Permanent Supportive Housing (previously known as S+C or Shelter Plus Care): 43 on PSH and 6 slots available.
* Reach of Clay County: 4 adults, 2 children
* Reach of Cherokee County: 3 Adults, 2 children
* Hawthorne Heights: 7 (children ages 10-18)
* Haywood Pathways Center: 20 total- 15 men and 5 ladies
* Reach of Macon: 7 people/5 kids, 1 mom and son in hotel
* Reach of Haywood: 6 adults, 4 children
* JNIN: (not in shelter as it is closed during warm weather months) 2 families or a total of 10 out due to fire. Will be RR’d through MPI.
* Clean Slate: 1 woman. Go on website for application.
* Rapid Rehousing Funds (RR) from Mountain Projects: $50,000 available

**\***The next Regional Committee meeting will be **July 1, 2015** at the **United Community Bank community room located at 145 Slope St Bryson City, NC from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**