

COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2015



The Community Advisory Network Developing Onslow (CAN-DO) met at Trillium Health Resources on this date. The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by CAN-DO Co-Chair Brian Fike. Those in attendance were: Amelia Grissett, April Tate, Brian Fike, Carol Long, Charlie Knox, Chris Slater, Christa Gunderson, Christy O’Daniel, Collis Niro, Craig Wagner, Cynthia Figueroa, Dan Bornarth, Dana Painter, Dee Gardner, Deandra Stills, Holly Locklear, Janice Graniero, Jason Klein, Jennifer Colley, Jerrick Vernon, John Kerr, Jon Johnson, Kathleen Holbrook, Kathy Horne, Pamela Brown, Penni Ford, Susan Pridgen, Tasha McKinney, Tiara Hedgepeth, and Ursulla Ingram.

Excused absences were received from James Ross, Kelley Hamilton, Kristi Pitchford, Lenize Patton, Linda Graham, Melissa Balto, Stan Brown, and William Keller.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made of members and guests.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 7, 2015 were reviewed and approved upon a motion made by Craig Wagner which was seconded by Ursulla Ingram. The motion carried without opposition.

PRESENTATION ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Pamela Brown, Onslow County Health Department, shared that September is National Preparedness Month. It is a time to review emergency plans with your clients and families and check emergency kits. Those that are homeless or newly housed may be in an unfamiliar place and may not have resources for a kit. All CAN-DO members are in the “Resiliency Business.” Onslow County is vulnerable to hurricanes and other weather events. Onslow County had the first case of H1N1 virus diagnosed in NC. Due to our military population, we are also vulnerable to bioterrorism. We should all have conversations with our clients surrounding smoke and radon detectors, and what to do in a crisis e.g. fire, evacuation plans, emergency contacts, etc. It is useful for our clients to know how to shut off water or electricity in an emergency and to make a communication plan about where family members can meet in the neighborhood (if they are home and need to evacuate for a fire) or out of the neighborhood (in case the family cannot get home—gas leak in the neighborhood, etc.). It is also important that parents know to where kids might be evacuated in a school emergency and how they will be notified. Everyone needs to have supplies on hand or in a kit ready to grab and go. Pamela talked about keeping canned food (soup, fruit) in a box with water, nuts and vitamins along with a flashlight, whistle, manual can opener, etc. Rotate the food stock every 6 months. Pamela also distributed whistles, flashlights and first aid kits to members on hand. As you work with clients, please help them to understand the importance of being able to take care of themselves for several days after a disaster. If

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clients need lists of how to prepare (plans and kits), visit www.ready.gov or Pamela has materials as well.

PRESENTATION ON FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT & SUCCESS

Dee Gardner, Financial Coach with NC Department of Commerce, Division on Workforce Solutions, partners with other community agencies to assist homeless persons. Many veterans do not have good credit reports or a salary to continue at the level they were on while active duty. She helps prevent them from returning to crisis while they clean up their credit. They will need a car to get to and from work. She educates them on purchasing cars and houses. While banks can provide advice, banks will try to sell their own products. Dee provides a safe haven for financial questions to be asked. As Dee works out of the NC Works Office on Western Blvd., veterans can seek services from the Vet Center at the same time. Dee stressed that she is a coach. She can be reached at 910-347-2121.

April Tate represents the Financial Empowerment Center at the United Way of Onslow County. She praised CAN-DO members for the amazing work done in the community. Her program offers a hand-up versus a hand-out. She teaches Financial Literacy; teaching the basics such as understanding and repairing credit reports, building savings and setting goals. What does Financial Success look like? How do you know when you are there? April distributed a flyer for a 4 week class (2 hours investment per week) to take control of your financial future. There is a nominal fee of \$30.00 to cover the cost of books and materials. The fee is negotiable if necessary. April can be contacted at 938-4357.

BALANCE OF STATE RESTRUCTURING

Susan Pridgen requested that surveys be returned to her as soon as possible as she must collate and return results to the State. Thus far, only 4 surveys have been returned by members. Christa Gunderson asked about the implications of CAN-DO joining forces with other counties. Will it cause us to work harder? Will it increase or decrease our funding? Why wouldn't we want to assist homeless people in other counties? Susan agreed to email out the survey again to all members. Completing the survey is the only way our voices can be heard.

TRANSPORTATION

Carol Long announced that transportation is a huge barrier in Onslow County. Onslow United Transit Service (OUTS) is a rural provider located in a large urbanized area. Funding is available for non-urbanized areas. As OUTS funds have been reduced, OUTS cannot be the end all, be all. Carol shared an opportunity available for Fiscal Year 15-16: there is a call for projects with a new reimbursement grant for which non-profit agencies can apply and requires only a 20% match. Carol shared that she will be meeting with Craig Wagner and Susan Pridgen next week. She will help them pull down the application

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which is due November 6, 2015. This grant requires a public hearing in front of a governing board. Craig stated that this is a good time to plan a Transportation Summit as other agencies, to include Onslow Memorial Hospital, are also having issues with much needed transportation. Craig said the United Way will convene the meeting but he will need buy-in from CAN-DO to identify and establish the gaps and the strategies to meet the needs. Carol agreed and stated transportation requires a local coordinated 5 year plan wherein the gaps are identified. A Transportation Summit would meet the need.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Coordinated Assessment: Susan Pridgen shared that Onslow's CA is still a work in progress. Susan is on the State Review Team for CA. Onslow was one of the first counties to be approved. Susan does not feel we are as far along as we should be at this point. As only a few VI-SPDATs have been submitted to date, it makes it appear as though Onslow does not have a homeless problem. We need information to be accurate. Even though we have run out of ESG grant funds and will not get any more funds until December 15 at the earliest, we still need VI-SPDATs submitted to show the community need. Send them directly to Brian Fike and no longer to Susan with the Solutions for Stability Program. Those clients with the highest scores on VI-SPDATs will receive housing assistance. VI-SPDATs are mandated by the State. Agencies need training on how to administer the instruments. There is a one hour online training available. Ursulla Ingram, Deandra Stills, Laura Cate and Family Endeavors have completed the training. The Salvation Army expressed interest. DSS (both APS and CPS), ECHSA, and Onslow County Schools need to be trained. The more people trained, the better the understanding of the process. Everyone who has been trained then needs to be meeting, ideally every two weeks, to share the results and scores. Dee Gardner expressed concern about the delays in homeless people getting housing so she volunteered to be on the approval committee. Susan added that 2-1-1 will complete the Prevention and Diversion piece if people are to be homeless within 72 hours.

Ursulla Ingram mentioned that her aunt recently visited a homeless encampment in the middle of the City of Jacksonville that is full of tents and people. She reiterated the need for a local Point in Time Count to be conducted in the summer months. While it would not be valid at the State or Federal levels, it would provide fodder for our advocacy efforts.

Onslow Community Outreach: Deandra Stills stated that the shelter served 42 residents in August which included 8 children and 5 veterans.

Deandra advised that their major fundraiser, Oktoberfest, will be held October 22-24, 2015 with lots of events. This year will include a *Miss Oktoberfest* pageant.

Onslow Women's Center: No representation today.

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Tri-Counties Crusaders: Ursulla Ingram announced training for Prison Fellowship Ministries to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Cape Carteret Baptist Church. Call Ursulla directly at 939-5173 for more information.

ECHSA: They are seeking veterans for their SSVF Program.

Phillips Park Homeless Ministry: Charlie Knox has taken over as Coordinator of the ministry which is held at Phillips Park every Saturday from 8:00-10:00am. Charlie stated that they are planning for their 2nd Annual Homeless Summit which will be held at Phillips Park on October 10th from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Agencies are welcome to set up booths. Food will be provided. Jennifer Colley attended the inaugural event last year and shared that it was a fantastic event with a tremendous turn-out. Charlie added that they have started a laundry ministry and portable shower ministry. They are trying to close the gaps for homeless in Onslow County. Charlie can be reached at 910-330-5226 or cpk1971@embarqmail.com.

Onslow County Schools: Jennifer Colley stated that in the 6 school days between school starting on 8-24-15 and 8-31-15, 37 students were identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. The reasons for their homeless status were as follows: 9 evictions/foreclosures; 8 economic hardship; 2 house fires; 7 kicked out or abandoned; 7 Domestic Violence or Child Abuse; and 3 Natural Disasters.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cynthia Figueroa represents OHLA: Onslow Hispanic Latino Association. They have informational meetings and bring in guest speakers. She was seeking volunteers to attend and share information about their agencies.

April Tate announced that Volunteer Onslow is compiling their Volunteer Impact Report so ensure your agency submits its volunteer hours. Nominations are currently being sought for the Golden Rule awards. Multiple applications can be submitted. Deadline is October 1, 2015 for submission.

Craig Wagner shared that The United Way campaign kick-off will be held September 30, 2015 at the Jacksonville Country Club. There will be a keynote speaker and breakfast for a fee of \$12.00.

There being no further business, Brian Fike adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am. The next CAN-DO meeting will be held at Trillium Health Resources on **Friday, October 2, 2015 at 8:30 am**.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Holbrook, Recording Secretary