**Pitt County Regional Committee, NC Balance of State Monthly Meeting**

Multipurpose Room ⏹ Greenville Housing Authority

1103 Broad Street, Greenville

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 - 9:00 AM

**Present**

Bob Williams, Community Crossroads

Tommy Cloyd, Disability Advocates

Darone Dancy, NC Works

James Rhodes, Pitt County Planning

Deloris Farmer, Pitt County Planning

Tonette Latham, Community Crossroads

Tujuanda Sanders, Greenville Housing Authority

Wayman R. Williams, Greenville Housing Authority

Gloria Leak, Vocational Rehabilitation

Samantha Johnson, Vocational Rehabilitation

Linda Mandell, SOAR

Catonnia Pitt, Center for Family Violence

Debra Edwards, Community Crossroads

Selma Whitaker, Strive

Daphne Drew; Trillium Health Resources

Tracy Kennedy, REAL Crisis

Lynne James, United Way

James Cox, United Way

Ashley Vaughn, Intern, Community Crossroads

Kimberly White, Greenville, Housing Authority

Rhonda J. Washuel

After introductions of those in attendance the meeting was called to order by Bob Williams.

**September Minutes**

There was a motion by Lynne James to accept the September minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Cox. With all in agreement the September minutes passed.

**NC Balance of State Required Actions**

Linda Mandell has volunteered to be on the review committee for the Permanent Supportive Housing BOS reviews.

Greenville Housing Authority and Community Crossroads both have 2 Permanent Supportive Housing grants up for renewal. Those applications have to be in by Friday, October 16, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Tujuanda Sanders from the Greenville Housing Authority and Bob Williams on behalf of Community Crossroads reported that they are on track to meet the deadline. Bob inquired as to whether the Committee was aware of who the grants serve since we have an obligation to decide on approval of the renewals. Tonette Latham gave the criteria for Solid Ground and Stable Solutions. Both require that applicants have some type of disability, some income and are homeless. The recipients are provided services aimed at helping them become self-sufficient. Solid Ground is for families and Stable Solutions is for individuals. Tujuanda Sanders reported that GHA actually has 3 PSH programs but the 2 up for renewal are Cornerstone and Seeds of Change. Both grants serve families and individuals. Consumers must be homeless and have a disability of long term duration such as intellectual disabilities, mental health and/or substance abuse diagnoses. There was some discussion about what types of expenses and services are covered by the grant funding and what percentage is covered. It was explained that the funds usually cover items such as rent, utilities and some of the supportive services in amounts based on income. Other items, such as daycare, medication, transportation and other necessary items are also sometimes covered by one of the grants. The Committee voted on whether to move forward with submission of the renewal applications as planned. All present voted in favor with none opposed.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Required Actions**

The entities that are applying for the ESG funds are Pitt County Planning, The Center For Family Violence and Community Crossroads. Bob Williams, Lynne James, Catonnia Pitt and James Rhodes met to discuss and look at options on how to distribute the funds that will be received. It was reported that there was an increase over last year’s amount. 4 main options were put together and given to the Committee for review. One option was to keep it as it was last year. The recommendation that seemed most feasible however was option 3 which increased the amounts to the Center for Family Violence and Community Crossroads but had a larger portion going toward Rapid Re-housing. There was discussion on GHA having access to some of the emergency services funds for their clients and there was assurance that they would. Bob Williams reported that BOS has expressed the desire that a good percentage of that money, about 60%, be put into rapid re-housing to get individuals housed as quickly as possible. Option 3 allocates about 50% but Pitt County adds to that amount, about $25,000, which brings it to about 60%. Bob Williams asked if everyone understood what the Committee was being asked to consider. In response to some who expressed that they did not, he explained the vision of the BOS has evolved from mainly allocating funds to emergency services such as domestic violence and community shelters to now looking more at rapid re-housing and longer range planning. Lynne further explained that the 2 main categories funded under the ESG at this time are ES which stands for Emergency Services and HS which stands for Housing Stabilization. They want to eventually see most of the funds going toward housing stabilization. It was noted that with further communications being received about the priorities for the funding, option 3 is in our best interests. Since the application is on behalf of the region there needs to be a vote to make sure the majority are in favor. James Rhodes noted that $17,000 in supplemental funding was received this year to go toward rapid re-housing. The favored option shows a large portion of this year’s funds, at least 60%, going to that area so it is reasonable to think that if supplemental funds are awarded next year our region would be in good standing to receive them. A vote was taken in regard to moving forward with the ESG allocated funding as Option 3. All were in agreement. None opposed.

Approval of the Written Standards (required for all ESG regional applications) was the next topic on the agenda. These were adopted by BOS. Lynne James went through and summarized the standards. She pointed out how our region is working to meet these standards. There was brief discussion on prevention funds which are used for diversion from the shelter. It was noted that we currently do not have prevention funds in the ESG grant. If so, they would be another category to be negotiated out of the award. It was explained that looking for prevention funding from some other source would be the best solution to avoid having to adjust funds awarded in the ESG. The standards were approved with all in agreement.

**Coordinated Assessment update: Lynne James**

Bob Williams took the opportunity to formally thank Tracy Kennedy from Real Crisis for her guidance in what has been a complicated process. Lynne James distributed the quarterly report which she stated was only one month due to the fact that our plan was not approved at the beginning of the quarter. Moving forward the numbers will likely be larger. Lynne James went through and briefly explained what the numbers represent. A question was posed in regard to whether there is tracking of those who have received funding. It appears that there is tracking by the different agencies for different reasons but there may need to be a more coordinated or central way to capture all pertinent data. This will likely be very important in the future to track outcomes over time in order to be able to show the effectiveness of our efforts. All agreed to approve the report as presented. It is due tomorrow.

Lynne James reported that at the BOS Steering Committee meeting it was announced that there is a new version of the VI-SPDAT (The Vulnerability Index Survey). Our state has decided that effective January 1, 2016 the current version will be replaced with version 2. Tools and training will be forthcoming between now and the end of the year in order to be ready for the new version at the beginning of the next year.

It also was announced in the Steering Committee meeting that 211 has been approved as the call system for Coordinated Assessment. We have been working with Real Crisis but the statewide 211 system is going to start handling information and referral for Coordinated Assessment. The 79 counties in the BOS are being given until January to have that transition in place. We need to determine before then if Pitt County is ready but we may need to wait to see if the BOS is going to do it collectively. That should be sorted out in the next few weeks.

**Balance of State Regional Committee Capacity Survey**

Everyone was invited to participate in the capacity survey. The information presented was compiled and the results were distributed for committee to review before being submitted. At present there are 79 counties that are a part of the BOS which is a very large jurisdiction. It was reported that a group was formed specifically to look at what might be ways to restructure the BOS jurisdiction so there are fewer regional committees. The survey attempts to determine how we feel about the capacity of Pitt County and what our willingness might be to join with other counties. Some discussion has taken place in regard to using LME service areas further broken down into regions. Another idea involves community access areas. No decisions have been made but the BOS is welcoming feedback. From all the regional committees. We just need to keep in mind that change may be coming. This endeavor has been put on hold somewhat with the HMIS conversion and grant application deadlines but will likely become active again soon as these issues wind down.

**NC HMIS Update**

There is a new definition of chronically homeless as of October 1, 2015. Deloris was on the phone call about new data standards but there were problems with it. Lynne James reported thinking that it is on the website. Bob Williams will find it and send out the information to committee members. Lynn James advised that anyone who was in HMIS that day who was considered chronically homeless needs to have some kind of adjustment made in the system otherwise it will not pull the information.

**Housing Updates**

Trillium – No openings

GHA/Tujuanda Sanders – Openings; taking applications

CC/Tonette Latham – No openings in either program

Rapid Re-housing/ Deloris Farmer - Still working with clients spending down remainder of funding - Thus far: 24 client served; 6 mother & children; 1 household of husband, wife and children; rest singles

**SOAR Update: Linda Mandell**

Consolidated for August and September – 5 referrals; 1 submitted; 0 approved; 0 denied; 1 pending; 0 closed for other reasons; Totals: 107 referrals; 47submitted; 20 approved; 8 denied; 20 closed for other reasons

**Announcements**

Pitt County Stand Down 10/23/2015 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

20-25 Vendors Veteran focused Darone Dancy, contact

Tommy Cloyd – DARC Fundraiser 11/4/15 Rock Springs $20 advance tickets $25 at the door Food, Fun, Dancing

Pitt County Manufacturing Veterans Job Fair 11/5/15 Hosted by NC Works

There will be 13-15 Employers American Legion Post

9-11 Vets

11-2 General Public

**Next Meeting Thursday, November 5, 2015**