**Rutherford-Polk Homeless Coalition Minutes**

**February 18, 2016**

**Forest City Housing Authority**

1. Attendees:

Sister Debbie Briscoe Smith Sisters in Christ

Sister Kathy Dills Sisters in Christ

Amy Upham Smoky Mountain Center

Sally Claroni Forest City Housing Authority

1. Approval of Minutes: No minutes were distributed for January’s Meeting. Amy will take minutes for this meeting but we will need to establish an official minutes taker next month.
2. Amy Upham announced that Mental Health First Aide Training that was to be held in January, but cancelled due to weather, was scheduled to take place February 29th from 8:30am to 4pm at Rutherford Community Health Center and urged Coalition members to attend
3. Point in Time Count Update: Sister Debbie and Kathy reviewed the Point in Time process with the Coalition, along with Amy.
* They spoke of how they conducted the count: First at the Sisters in Christ Shelter, then going to the motels, laundromat and library, then onto behind McDonald’s where the train tracks used to be, and finally winding up the day doing surveys at Grace of God community dinner.
* 40 individuals were counted in Rutherford. 5 in Polk, as Steps to Hope submitted their data.
* Trends showed many being d/c’ed with substance abuse issues from Rutherford Hospital right to Sisters in Christ (9 total). Very few children were counted, other than at Steps to Hope (sheltered). One veteran. High numbers of chronically homeless.
* Note was made that both the Sheriff’s office and DSS in Polk County could not tell us where to look to identify homeless in Polk. Discussion ensued that perhaps unsheltered were not a huge issue in Polk, which is a unique, Equestrian county. More effort will be made next year to connect to both county DSS’s.
1. Regional Committee Plan: Amy Upham announced that she was drafting a plan for Coordinated Assessment and that she would be requesting those who have not made it to meetings lately to send policies and procedures and take the VI-SPDAT training if they wish to refer folks to be housed via the Coalition
2. ESG Start Up Dollars: Sister Debbie mentioned needing help covering initial costs as ESG is a reimbursement grant. She has spoken with Jen at the Haven who suggested getting a fiscal sponsor like a church or the United Way. Sally Claroni suggested contacting Community Foundation. Amy said she would check with Smoky.