**Randolph County Housing Coalition, Inc**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 12, 2016**

The meeting was held at 9:30 am at the Randolph County Senior Adult Association Building 347 W. Salisbury Street. Bob Lawler, Chairman called the meeting to order and introductions by everyone present were conducted. An attendance sheet was circulated.

**Members Present:** Bob Lawler (Asheboro Housing Authority); John Evans (City of Asheboro); Jeigh Adams (Community Rep); Brenda Goss (community rep); Myra Gaddy (Randolph County Sheriff's Office.); Kim Green (Family Endeavors); Wanda Pegg (Habitat for Humanity); Roger King (RCATS); Terry Van Vliet (Veterans Services); Debbie Cole (CUOC); Lorena Ruiz (Goodwill); Jeanine Moran (Joy A. Shabazz Center); Joy Ratliffe (Randolph DSS); Tammy Isley (Community Representative); Paulette Hardy (Asheboro Shelter of Hope)

Guests included Zoe Faircloth (Faith Health- Randolph Hospital) and presenter Barry Morris (Randolph Hospital)

**Excused Absences:** Donna McCormick (Sandhills Center LME/MCO); Andrea Matute and Yvette Cooke (Family Services of the Piedmont) and Sarah West (Randolph Family Crisis Center); Becky Buxton (CUOC), Melissa Thompson (Randolph Family Healthcare @ MERCE).

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 8, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion made by Myra Gaddy, seconded by Brenda Goss. All approved.

**Old Business:**

Bob Lawler went over the Point in Time Count information and thanked everyone for participating. This has now been submitted to NCCEH as required by HUD. The Point in Time Count was conducted during the night of Wednesday, January 27, 2016 and consisted of individuals within Randolph County who were experiencing homelessness during that night. Coalition members worked with Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Asheboro Police and Randolph County Sheriff's Office, Asheboro Shelter of Hope, Randolph County Family Crisis Center, and Randolph County Department of Social Services to determine a count of unsheltered individuals. A handout was distributed showing the total number of individuals within Randolph County facing homelessness and a more detailed demographic breakdown concerning those individuals. There were a total of 51 individuals facing homelessness on that date. 24 of these were within families and 27 were individuals. A handout was provided showing additional demographic data and listed various reasons given for homelessness. There was some general discussion that some people who lack the stability of a permanent home (such as those living in rapid re-housing programs) may not be included in the count. Paulette Hardy mentioned that there were a total of 17 individuals (males) who were living at the Shelter of Hope on that date.

**New Business:**

Treasury Report: Jeigh Adams informed us of our current balance of $860.41. This balance reflects recent payment of the annual post office box fee of $88.

Balance of State/Coordinated Assessment: Debbie Cole discussed that there is an increasing emphasis on homeless veterans. There are 2 supportive services within Randolph County for veterans.

Election of Regional Lead and Alternate: The Housing Coalition is considered a Regional Committee by the Balance of State. The Regional Committee must include a Lead and Alternate for homeless programs as required for those organizations to qualify for HUD grants. The requirements for the lead and alternative include participating in a monthly conference call that addresses homeless services. Bob Lawler volunteered to be the lead, and Kim Green volunteered to be the alternate. A motion to accept the lead and alternate was made by Myra Gaddy. Brenda Goss seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Response Forms: No ERF’s were turned in today.

**Presentation:**

Barry Morris, Spiritual Care Director for Randolph Hospital, gave a presentation on the Faith Health NC program, which is a collaborative between the hospital and faith communities within Randolph County. He also introduced Zoe Faircloth who had worked on this program. The program was developed to provide a partnership within the community among the Randolph Hospital, various churches/places of worship, mental health and social service organizations, health care partners, city/county government, and other partners within the community.

A key purpose is to improve communication between different community partners who have an interest in promoting a "culture of health" involving the wellness of individuals and wellness of Randolph County as a whole, which strengthens the county in ways that aren't traditional health metrics, such as in economic development. Emphasis was placed on how leveraging the assets with community partners collectively can create a much better outcome working together and communicating than each organization or place of worship operating in an insular fashion on its own. Activities may involve assisting elderly persons live independently, following instructions regarding medication, encouraging people to seek preventive care rather than the emergency room for non emergencies, identifying gaps in service among different agencies, and encouraging people to develop a relationship with health care providers and focus on general activities that promote health, such as working with the local schools to allow use of play equipment when school isn't in session. There was also some discussion on who utilizes emergency rooms for non emergencies, and it was indicated that having a traumatic childhood was the greatest predictive factor (over other socioeconomic variables such as ethnicity, income, etc.).

Churches are the lead organization on this initiative. At this point, 13 churches and 30 volunteers participate in the program. Churches interested in participating are encouraged to have one or two members who are willing to lead the program rather than relying completely on pastoral leadership. The program doesn't have income restrictions for recipients.

Debbie Cole brought up the opportunity for the Housing Coalition to partner with the Faith Health Program if housing needs are identified from program recipients. Brenda Goss asked if someone from the hospital and/or foundation could participate on the Housing Coalition and Barry Morris indicated he would see if someone could attend the meetings.

**Grantee Updates:**

Rapid Rehousing: : Bob reported the Rapid Re-housing program will have a total of 8-9 participants by the end of the month. The current Rapid Re-housing for non-permanent housing is for up to 3 months and can be extended to 9 month, which represents a philosophical change in HUD to move people on to permanent housing more rapidly than previously, when there was a longer transitional time between homelessness and permanent housing.

Family Crisis Center-Emergency Solutions Grant: No report. Sarah is on maternity leave with her new baby Noah.

**Committee Reports**

At the beginning of this item, in light of the new committee structures, Bob brought up the possibility of working with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to help facilitate some strategic planning for the coalition, to help better articulate the Coalition's goals over the mid and long term. He mentioned that the County is now working on a Strategic Plan with many different agencies, involving multiple meetings, but the Coalition's process would not be as lengthy or complex as the County's, and would likely encompass half a day or one day instead of multiple meetings over months. He mentioned there would a fee to do this, and asked for general input on whether the Coalition felt this was a good idea. The Coalition's general consensus was that this concept was agreeable and should be explored further.

Also, Bob mentioned that new committee assignments had been made and that committees should meet prior to the next Coalition meeting on March 11th.

**Public Awareness and Membership (John Evans, Chair)**: John welcomed and thanked the new committee members (Donna McCormick, Myra Gaddy, Joy Ratliffe) and mentioned they would be meeting to discuss retention and recruitment of members and possible outreach activities. He also found that the cost of playing the movie "Time out of Mind" would be $100.00 for renting Sunset Theatre plus $425.00 for the licensure fee to show the movie to the public. He found contact information for the movie producer and while an initial review of their website didn't show that the producer would waive or lower the fee for a non-profit, he would contact the producer to see if this was possible. Even if that were possible, he would still need to make sure there wasn't an unforeseen policy issue with the Cultural and Recreational Services office's policies. John also discussed the Urgent Repair Program. There are now 11 participants. Sadly, one of the finalists passed away, and that home is no longer eligible because the home is no longer owner-occupied. This leaves 4 alternates, and John would appreciate any assistance for those homes where there may not be funding available. Sealed bids will be turned in by February 18th, and more information on the cost will be available after that point. Debbie Cole mentioned that those not qualifying for the URP are encouraged to apply for assistance from Neighbor Helping Neighbor.

**Homeless Programs Committee:** Becky Buxton created a booklet showing resources for homeless services. Becky will be joining the homeless programs committee. Debbie passed out the booklets.

**Adequate Housing Committee (Debbie Cole, Chair):** The Housing Committee will be meeting before the next Coalition meeting. Debbie also mentioned that Neighbor Helping Neighbor also assists with other needs that aren't housing related (such as working with dentists to provide dentures to those in need).

**Housing Inventory Committee, (Jeigh Adams, Chair):**Nothing new to report. This committee will become part of the new Adequate Housing Committee

**Home Repair/Neighbor Helping Neighbor, (Wanda Pegg, Chair):** Wanda informed us that Neighbor Helping Neighbor is working with a possible new program for home repairs for veterans. Also, they are wanting to build a new home for a qualified low to moderate income veteran. They will need to be qualified to pay the mortgage premium.

**Hospitality Committee:** Thanks to Myra Gaddy and Jeigh Adams for the delicious treats this month. Next month John Evans will be providing refreshments. This committee will become part of the new Adequate Housing Committee.

**Unmet Needs:** None to report.

**Round Robin:**

Goodwill Industries: Lorena reported that a Spanish class is beginning for front desk employees at the Asheboro Community Resource Center. This will be held every Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. between April 15th and May 20th.

Randolph Senior Adults Association: The Salt Box (store) is closed at the moment. A focus group is being held to evaluate the future of the Salt Box and also other recreation programs.

Habitat for Humanity: Wanda reported that students from the University of Georgia are back in town to work on a home for Habitat.

Asheboro Shelter of Hope: The Shelter of Hope is moving to a new location on West Wainman Avenue (formerly Randolph County Senior Adults Center) and will be holding a Barbeque Fundraiser on March 5th in hopes of raising $16,000 to $17,000 to help with the costs of moving and setting up its new location.

Zoe Faircloth mentioned that she runs a publication called "Our Hometown" which is distributed throughout the region. She offered to waive the cost of advertising for certain charitable events, including advertising the above fundraiser for Asheboro Shelter of Hope.

Tammy Isely mentioned the need for transitional housing for women, and women with children. She has participated in prison ministries and sees this as a tremendous need.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted by John L. Evans

***Next meeting is Friday, March 11, 2016 at 9:30 am at the Randolph County Senior Adult Association Building-347 West Salisbury Street in Asheboro.***