

Pitt County Regional Committee, NC Balance of State Monthly Meeting

Multipurpose Room ■ Greenville Housing Authority

1103 Broad Street, Greenville

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 - 9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Present

Sharon Alexander, Pitt County DSS
Ken Becker, Family Endeavors
Mayreni-Santos Castro, Greenville Housing Authority
Lakitra Claude, Trillium Health Resources
Tommy Cloyd, Disability Advocates
James Cox, United Way of PC
Debra Edwards, Community Crossroads
Melissa Eastwood, Trillium Health Resources
Crystal Jackson, Health Assist
Lynne James, Pitt County Planning
Nancy Keith, Vidant Medical Center
Gloria Kesler, City of Greenville
Tonette Latham, Community Crossroads
Gloria Leak, Vocational Rehabilitation
Sally Love, United Way of BC
Linda Mandell, Pitt County Planning
Elizabeth McDowell, Greene Lamp
Catonnia Pitt, Center for Family Violence Prevention
James Rhodes, Pitt County Planning
Tina Rodgers. VOA, SSVF
Tujuanda Sanders, Greenville Housing Authority
Bob Williams, Community Crossroads

Introductions/Approval of November 2016 Minutes

After introductions, the December 2016 BOS/Pitt Regional Committee meeting began with approval of the minutes for November 2016. Jim Cox asking for a motion to approve the minutes. Sharon Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes for November 2016 with Lynne James seconding the decision. The committee approved the minutes for November 2016.

Hurricane Matthew

Jim opened discussion for the committee to update any information in reference to Hurricane Matthew. Elizabeth McDowell communicated funds Greene Lamp has allocated for Disaster Relief and those affected by the hurricane. Funds are allocated to include Pitt, Greene, Beaufort and Lenoir. Clients must meet poverty guidelines and provide proof of interaction with FEMA, for potential assistance. According to Elizabeth, clients may be assisted with up to \$600, if they meet criteria. Assistance may be provided with any type of need.

Sharon Alexander shared information as it relates to FEMA. The Department of Social Services has money allocated for victims of Hurricane Matthew, the amount awarded and types of assistance will be announced at a later date.

Gloria Kesler has been informed that no alternative housing (trailers) will be provided for Pitt County due to damage not being great enough. The recovery time for Pitt County is estimated between 3-4yrs or 5-6 depending on the amount of damage and location of those affected.

Sally Love, Regional Lead for Beaufort County inquired about placements for those displaced by Hurricane Matthew. She informed that Beaufort County has no options available for displaced victims.

NC Balance of State Steering Committee & Work Groups

Steering Committee/Conference Call 12-2

Jim communicated of no updates as it pertains to the BOS Steering Committee. Jim stressed the importance of reviewing the summary of activities and what the BOS expects from the regional committees.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Local Process: Update

In reviewing minutes from the Steering Committee/Conference Call, Jim informed that the applicants whom applied for the Emergency Solutions Grant would receive a response within the next few weeks.

Lynne elaborated on the ESG Process and informed that the BOS requested a copy of each application submitted, for review. Copies of applications may be uploaded online and submitted to the BOS.

Regional Restructuring (Update)

Jim updated the committee in regards to regional restructuring. Other agencies and committees inquired about the PIT Count Timeline, general information in regards to the PIT Count and it's relation to regional committees and restructuring.

New involvement includes communication with Mideast Regional Housing Authority and Martin County. Jim has discussed the PIT Count with members from Martin County and informed of interest in focusing on the veteran population within that county. Vidant Medical Center will assist in bridging communication between Pitt County and Bertie County and Pitt County and Beaufort County.

Coordinated Assessment (Update)

April 1, 2017 Regional CA Need for Update/Committee

Linda Mandell attended the conference call held on yesterday, December 13, 2016 for the Coordinated Assessment. The call focused on grievances and the grievance process. Many clients are not aware that a grievance process exists. When assisting clients they should be aware that grievances can be made, if not satisfied with potential services or services provided. Linda shared that individuals interested in filing grievances should also understand that the decision to do so, will not affect their chances for housing assistance. Methods to inform individuals about the grievance process were discussed. Suggestions made included passing out handouts to clients explaining the grievance process. Other discussion related to concerns pertaining to housing options. For those whom have a large family size, poor housing/rental history, prior evictions or damages caused to property, housing options are more challenging.

Jim reminded the Pitt County Regional Committee that by April of 2017, the BOS will expect all regional committees to have a regional Coordinated Assessment.

January 11th Regional Meeting

The next Pitt BOS Pitt Regional Committee will be held on January 11, 2016. Brian Alexander, the Project Specialist with North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness will be in attendance for the meeting.

At a prior regional meeting, some members of the Pitt Regional Committee agreed to form a subcommittee in order to review and discuss the Coordinated Assessment. Brian has

agreed to meet after the regional meeting on January 11th in order to discuss the current Coordinated Assessment and potential changes.

Point in Time Count Wednesday January 25th/Incorporating Beaufort County into PIT/Video (Update)

PIT Count Structure/Need to Submit Name

Linda shared updates as it pertains to the PIT Count, in development are fliers and volunteer sign-up sheets. Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying individuals interested in participating in the count. It is asked that all volunteers have experience with the homeless population and issues of homelessness. Interns or students currently studying areas which relate to homelessness may also volunteer.

Joy Soup kitchen is an organization in which the PIT Count will be held. Volunteers committed to assisting with questionnaires should expect to dedicate time from 10:30-12PM, on January 25th. Flyers will be posted at Hope Station, informing individuals of the count. Local police officers will receive flyers and can pass out to respective individuals whom are homeless.

Linda informed that Devinder Culver will not be able to provide specifics on the police department's interaction for the PIT Count until more information is obtained relating to their work schedules. Further discussion will be made after schedules are received. According to Linda, work schedules for the police should be available, before the end of this month. In previous years, night counts have not been successful. Unsheltered homeless are not present during the night of the count or may become apprehensive, prior to being approached.

At this time, volunteers are needed. After volunteers are secured, a training session will be scheduled for discussion about the questionnaire. Jim suggested appropriate ways to include the police in the PIT Count. Instead of conducting counts with the police at night, it may be more successful, if counts are administered in the same locations on the following day. Others ideas were to engage other police departments within the region for insight on locations of homeless individuals and to conduct counts in teams instead of individually. Receiving information from the homeless population, such as locations of current residing, may prove beneficial in increasing numbers for the count.

From discussing the count with other counties, Linda made suggestions to have the police assist with the count by wearing "plain clothes" instead of uniforms. Also suggested was to have the police arrive in regular cars instead of squad cars.

Jim reminded the committee of key members of the regional committee who are involved in the PIT Count. For the Pitt Regional Committee, Jim is the lead contact person for count, Linda will serve as the chair person and Sally Love is the lead person for Beaufort County.

Linda will meet on January 12, 2017, for PIT Training, in Beaufort County at the Health Department. The location of interest is in Beaufort County at the Health Department.

For Pitt County, Linda has confirmed training for the PIT Count at Community Crossroads Center from 12:30PM-1:30PM on January 9, 2017.

Election of New Officers

Jim informed the regional committee of expectations from the BOS as it pertains to officers. The expectations are that each committee has a lead person, an alternate lead person, 5 county chairs (chairperson from each county), Webmaster, PIT Lead, Coordinated Assessment Lead and a Funding Committee Lead.

Jim volunteered to be the lead person for the Pitt BOS Regional Committee and also the chair person for the Pitt Regional Committee. James Rhodes motioned to approve Jim as the lead person for the Pitt Regional Committee with Lynne James seconded the decision.

Lynne James volunteered to be the lead person for the Coordinated Assessment. Bob Williams motioned to approve Lynne James as the Coordinated Assessment Lead with Gloria Kesler seconding the decision.

An alternate lead was not selected members from the committee are interested in nominated an outside member. The suggestion was for Margaret Dixon, Pitt County DSS, Social Work Program Administrator. Margaret is currently not a member of the Pitt BOS Regional Committee, the intentions are to inquire about Margaret's interest in joining the committee and then discussing the alternate lead position.

Melissa Eastwood volunteered to be the secretary and member whom will complete minutes for the regional meetings.

Jim aspires that all counties within the regional committees will communicate with other members in order to elect officers, from these respective counties.

Over the Counter Medication Distribution

Crystal Jackson updated the group on information pertaining to the OTC Giveaway. The OTC Giveaway will take place at Koinonia Christian Church. The date will be on March 25, 2017, the time has not been confirmed for the event. Crystal hopes that set-up for the event can begin on the Friday prior to the event. Volunteers will be needed the day of the event, in order to obtain OTC items for consumers requesting medications. Space will be available for agencies that may be able to assist clients. The agencies will be provided the opportunity to set-up tables and to distribute information to consumers waiting for medication assistance. Those interested in volunteering may send a list to Jim, Jim will then send the list to Crystal.

After flyers for volunteers are submitted and the date for the event is confirmed Crystal will send this information to Jim, whom will distribute to the committee.

Housing Updates

Trillium-Currently has openings for PSH.

GHA/Tujuanda Sanders-Currently there is no openings for PSH.

CCC/Tonette Latham- For the month of December 7 families have been assisted with TANF funds.

Rapid Rehousing/Deloris Farmer: Currently has no money available for RRH; ESG funds have been exhausted as well as supplemental funds.

Elizabeth McDowell presented information to the group about Greene Lamp. Greene Lamp is a new program offered in Pitt and Beaufort Counties. The agency is most known for Head Start in Lenoir and Greene Counties. It's a Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program which strives to assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient (working Full-Time, Independent of assistance).

The program using the method of Life Coaching, in order to provide services such as resume writing, promoting job skills and interviewing skills. Other services may include funding for short-term programs, if individuals are interested in furthering their education. If an individual currently has their NA I and are interested in pursuing their NA II the program may fund items such as books, uniforms or tuition. The program may also assist with gas if individuals lack the resources necessary to get back and forth to work.

Housing assistance may be provided, if there is evidence of progress towards self-sufficiency. Any agency interested in referring a client of interest may complete a pre-application. Elizabeth will review and then contact the client, clients must meet the income /poverty guidelines for their particular family size. Income is assessed for the past 90 days, if the client has no income, they may provide a signed, notarized statement informing Greene Lamp that they currently have no income. Identification and social security card are required.

SOAR Updates

No Updates Provided

Announcements

No announcements were reported

Next Meeting: January 11, 2017