

Region 12, NC Balance of State Monthly Meeting

NC Tele Center

415 East Blvd., Williamston, NC

Wednesday June 14, 2017-9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Present

Lynn Alligood, Mid-East Regional Housing Authority
Kim Anderson, Pitt County Schools
Ken Becker, Family Endeavors
Nicole Boone, RCCHC/HHA
Wayne Bray, NC Works
Mayreni Santos Castro, Greenville Housing Authority
Lakitra Claude, Trillium Health Resources
Tommy Cloyd, Disability Advocates Resource Center
Melanie Corprew, Beaufort County DSS
Billie Council, Washington County DSS
James Cox, United Way of Pitt County
Darone Dancy, NC Works
Ehren Dohler, NCCEH
Melissa Eastwood, Trillium Health Resources
Deloris Farmer, Pitt County Planning
Mona Gilliam, Bertie County Schools
Seth Laughlin, Beaufort County Planning
Lynne James, Pitt County Planning
Evan Lewis, Attorney (Beaufort County)
Sally Love, Beaufort County United Way
Dot Moate, Open Door Community Center
Roy Moore, CADA
Latria Norman, Bertie County DSS
Danny Perry, Bertie County Schools
V. Phelps, Tyrrell County DSS
James Rhodes, Pitt County Planning
Tina Rodgers, Volunteers of America
Justin Rouse, Disability Advocates Resource Center
Tujuanda Sanders, Greenville Housing Authority
Azucena Warren
Selma Whitaker, Strive
Bob Williams, Community Crossroads Center
Shanice Williams, Bertie County DSS
Comprehensive Interventions

Introductions

Lynn Alligood (Executive Director of Mid-East Housing Authority) welcomed everyone in attendance. She provided a brief overview regarding today's meeting and what the committee hopes to do. She stressed the importance of involvement of all the counties in region 12. Mid-East covers all counties in Region 12 and two counties in Region 11.

Jim Cox welcomed everyone to the first true meeting of the Region 12 Regional Committee. He provided information regarding his background and his current role. Jim is the Region 12 regional committee lead. He works part time with the United Way and his office is located at Community Crossroads Shelter in Pitt County. Jim facilitated introductions. He encouraged everyone to introduce themselves and identify where they are from and their role.

Presentation from Ehren Dohler (NCCEH)

Ehren educated the group and provided an overview regarding NCCEH and the Balance of State. Three things are needed to end homelessness: affordable housing, appropriate services, and adequate income. We do not have enough of these things. The CoC is what we are all part of (regional planning body). The CoC is the backbone of the homeless system. They have a specific focus on funding. He also reviewed the CoC's responsibilities (ex. Submit COC application). There are 12 in North Carolina. The Balance of State consists of 79 counties. Ehren reviewed the regional committee's roles and responsibilities (ex. Coordinate housing services, design and run CA systems, ESG, appoint member of steering committee, conduct PIT/HIC, etc.). Ehren reviewed NCCEH roles (staff COC, written standards, provide support and technical assistance, conduct regular trainings, compile COC application info, staff HMIS, etc.). He also explained the difference between COC funds and ESG funds. CoC funds are utilized for PSH and RRH. In addition, they fund HMIS, CoC planning, Coordinated Assessment, housing and services. ESG funds shelter, prevention/diversion, Rapid Rehousing, outreach, and coordinated assessment (our state has not chosen to fund CA in the past, might in the future). Ehren educated the group regarding SSVF and HUD VASH and how they can be utilized. In addition, Ehren reviewed Coordinated Assessment/Entry. Housing interventions should match the needs of individuals. CA has to comply with HUD and COC requirements. There should be equal access to the system. Lynne James is the Coordinated Assessment lead for Region 12. The Coordinated Assessment Council has representatives from various regions and they review Regional Coordinated Assessment plans and provide feedback. They assist with overseeing the whole system across the COC. Ehren reviewed information regarding the Veteran plan and our goals for 2017. Information discussed today is posted on the NCCEH website. There was a question regarding the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency and their role. Ehren explained that the NCHFA is run by a board and that they are a part of the NC government. Housing development funds flow through them. They govern the low income housing tax credit program. Supportive housing funds flow through NCHFA as well. They partner with DHHS for the Targeted Key Program. There was a question regarding what CA grants are used for. Ehren explained that Coordinated Assessment grants can be used to staff the assessment process, to fund a team of case managers, etc. In Charlotte, they have an outreach office. The staff there is trained in Diversion. They fund the services with a CA grant. The funds are used to organize and manage the system.

Approval of May 2017 Minutes

Jim Cox asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 2017 meeting. Lynne James made a motion to approve the minutes for May 2017 with James Rhodes seconding the motion. The committee approved the minutes for May 2017.

Hurricane Matthew (updates)

Jim inquired about updates in reference to Hurricane Matthew. There is a long term recovery group in Pitt County. Jim reported that the group was meeting today at the same time as our meeting. The group is looking at developing infrastructure for future disasters. The group has submitted two grants. They have submitted a grant to Red Cross and a grant to United Way. They have not heard back regarding the grant that was submitted to United Way; however the group was awarded \$7,500.00 from Red Cross. Pitt County Planning staff attended a meeting in Roper regarding Hurricane Matthew to discuss potential CSBG funds through the state (for additional housing services). The buyout plan was submitted to the state, one third of the ones submitted will be approved. They should hear by the end of next week about which properties will be acquired through the program. Pitt County Planning has a repair program through NCHFA. They did information sessions in Pitt County regarding the program. James reported that they received dozens of applications. He reported some homes are too far gone to be repaired. Replacement housing is an unmet need right now. They are hoping for money through CSBG for replacement housing. Jim noted that Pitt County is fortunate because there are caseworkers through Lutheran Family Services and Catholic Charities. Referrals go to the unmet needs committee. No additional reports were provided from other counties.

NC Balance of State Steering Committee & Work Groups Steering Committee/Conference Call 6/6/2017

Jim emailed everyone the summary from the Steering Committee call on 6/6/2017. Jim reviewed the information discussed on the call. He provided a brief overview regarding the steering committee. Jim was on the Steering Committee workgroup to look at revamping the composition of the steering committee. We are down to 13 regional committees (previously 26). A vote was passed to restructure the Steering Committee. The revision for the steering committee is complete and has been posted on the Balance of State website. Ehren noted that the Steering committee makes a lot of important decisions that affect the regional committees. They will bring outsiders from mainstream resources. They would like to include representatives from DHHS, education, businesses, health care organizations, DV programs, etc. They would like to look at running the committee more like a board. The Steering Committee would have more input in the day to day governance of the CoC. Calls will be more effective/efficient moving forward. Agendas will be restructured. Summaries will continue to go out after the meeting calls.

COC funding process

Lynne updated the group regarding the CoC application process. Pitt County submitted an application that did not get funded last year. We submitted an intent to apply again this year. Pitt County has identified gaps in services. Lynne reported they currently have Rapid Rehousing, however the county plans to request additional funds for more extensive case management and RR. They looked back at the previous application and reviewed deficiencies so that the application this year will be stronger. The

application will need to comply with best practice guidelines. The NOFA is not out yet (should go out soon, date unknown). The COC competition is becoming more competitive. There is more interest in new projects this year.

Tonette Latham volunteered to serve on the score card committee. The scorecard committee has successfully developed the scorecard.

Ken Becker volunteered to be on the Project Review Committee. There have been no calls yet.

Point in Time Count

Ehren showed everyone the numbers from the January 2017 Point in Time count. The information from the count is available and posted online. Jim encouraged everyone to go on the website to look at the numbers. We had numbers from Beaufort, Pitt, and Martin County this time. Jim reminded everyone that the PIT count is always the last Wednesday of January. There is a night count and then individuals can be counted up to 7 days after that night (service count). Jim encouraged everyone to start planning early. Wayne Bray led the PIT count in Martin County. He reported that he learned a lot during the process. He stated that the police in Martin County were very helpful. They couldn't go out with the teams to look for homeless individuals because they would have to arrest them if found. However, they drew a map for the team that was going out that identified where to find individuals that were homeless. Wayne reported that he found several individuals. Sally Love led the count in Beaufort County. She stated that most of the individuals counted came from the shelter (Soup Kitchen). She stated that the police did not want them to go out in Beaufort County. Dot Moate inquired about whether we can count people that run away from us or that won't talk to us. We cannot count them in the PIT count, however we can document on our own internal spreadsheet. Someone suggested that we have homeless events during the time of the count (ex. Veteran stand downs, resource fairs, etc.).

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Local Process: Update

The ESG application process will be coming up in the Fall. As we move into the ESG season, we need to be aware that the processes will be more complex because we are looking at 5 counties. Pitt and Beaufort were awarded ESG funds during the last cycle. Deloris Farmer reported things are up and running in Pitt County in regards to Rapid Rehousing. Sally Love stated that Beaufort County is just starting (Rapid Rehousing). They have ESG funds for the shelter and for Rapid Rehousing.

Regional Restructuring (Update)

We are now a regional committee of 5 counties. We agreed to come together 2 times a year for a regional meeting. Jim encouraged counties to schedule to meet monthly. He encouraged them to work together to share resources and participate in the regional coordinated assessment process. He reminded everyone that meetings can be held anytime.

Our Regional Committee does not have a name yet. Jim asked for proposals for a name for Region 12. Please submit ideas/suggestions to Jim.

Lynn Alligood suggested that Martin, Washington, and Bertie start meeting together for monthly housing meetings. She offered to coordinate meetings and arrange for meeting space. Staff from Mid-East Housing will be participating in the regional housing meetings (regions 11 and 12).

Coordinated Assessment (Update)

Lynne reported that our Coordinated Assessment Plan for Region 12 was approved at the last Steering Committee meeting. Lynne encouraged each county to have a housing committee to identify how to get people housed/placed. Each of the 5 counties in Region 12 are reflected in the CA plan, Pitt will keep an inventory until committees are established in each county. Pitt County has a Housing Stabilization committee that meets weekly to discuss cases. Each county is encouraged to schedule meetings that work for them. Our counties need to work to increase communication so that we will be better able to triage homeless individuals and reduce periods/instances of homelessness. The Region 12 Coordinated Assessment plan is posted on the NCCEH website under our regional committee page. Lynne plans to reach out to various contacts across the region to discuss implementation. Jim encouraged everyone to go online and review the Coordinated Assessment plan.

Veterans' plan

Ken Becker reported that the Veteran plan was approved. He reiterated that this is a working document. Ken stated that he and Tina Rodgers from Volunteers of America worked on this together. He discussed the importance of identifying Veterans. They are depending on community partners to provide referrals. They would like to compile information and track Veterans by name. Ken stated that even if Veterans are not eligible for SSVF, they can be referred to the Coordinated Assessment process. It will take everyone working together to ensure that Veteran Homelessness is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. Dot Moate informed everyone that there is a home opening up in Washington called Pamlico Rose (the house has already been purchased). She stated that this is a new project and they are concentrating on Historic Districts. The home will be a shelter/home for female Veterans.

Housing Updates

CCC/Tonette Latham-Bob Williams reported that they have reached the hundred family mark with TANF funds in regards to preventing homelessness. He noted that Pitt County is 1 of 2 counties in the state using TANF funds this way. James Rhodes noted that it has been really helpful. It helps to stretch ESG funds and helps to keep families housed throughout the year.

GHA-Accepting applications, but currently no slots are available.

Rapid Rehousing/Pitt County Planning-Deloris Farmer reported that she is still accepting referrals. She is working on several referrals currently.

SOAR Updates-Linda Mandell was absent today. Jim made everyone aware that the SOAR program works with high risk homeless. They assist with obtaining Social Security/Disability benefits.

Trillium Health Resources-Trillium is hosting a Fair Housing training on 6/20/17 for landlords and service providers (morning session will be for service providers, afternoon session will be for landlords).

Miscellaneous

- Jim will send out the contact information for everyone from today's meeting.
- James Rhodes stated that we need funding for a 10 year plan for the region. He asked Ehren Dohler about this and for potential financial resources.
- CADA-reported that it is difficult to find financial resources. He noted that CSBG funds are limited. He has received 2 calls this week regarding financial assistance. He reported that one lady got behind on her rent because her hours were cut. He had to do a great deal of work, but finally was able to secure assistance. Three churches donated to help the individual.
- Dot Moate (Beaufort County) reported that there a number of churches in Beaufort County that offer assistance. She reported that there is a list that is given out to individuals in need with information regarding the resources that are available.
- Sally announced that Beaufort County will be utilizing Charity Tracker. The United Way will be the Beaufort County administrator. There will be a meeting at Beaufort County DSS on Friday 6/16/2017 at 10:00am. She invited anyone that might be interested to attend.

Pitt County

Next Meeting: July 12, 2017 @ 9:00am
Multipurpose Room-Greenville Housing Authority
1103 Broad Street, Greenville NC

Beaufort County

Next meeting: July 13, 2017 @ 2:00pm
Beaufort County Health Department
1436 Highland Drive, Washington, NC 27889

Bertie, Martin, and Washington County
TBA