

## **Tri-County (Bertie, Martin & Washington), NC Balance of State Monthly Meeting**

NC TeleCenter

415 East Blvd., Williamston, NC

Wednesday July 25, 2017-9:00 AM-11:00 AM

### **Present**

Lynn Alligood, Mid-East Regional Housing Authority

Wayne Bray, NC Works

Billie Council, Washington County DSS

James Cox, United Way of Pitt County

Darone Dancy, NC Works

Melissa Eastwood, Trillium Health Resources

Lorina Garrison, Mid-East Regional Housing Authority

Tracy James, Comprehensive Interventions

Erica McCloud, Mid-East Regional Housing Authority

Shanice Williams, Bertie County DSS

### **Introductions and Discussions**

Lynn Alligood (Executive Director of Mid-East Housing Authority) welcomed everyone in attendance to the Tri-County Balance of State Committee's first official meeting. She stated this Committee was established to bring representation from Bertie, Martin and Washington counties to the Region 12 Balance of State as there has been a lack of participation from these three counties in the past. She hopes this Committee can come together and bring needed resources to these counties. Jim Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided background on Region 12's Balance of State mission. He stated the expectation of this Committee is to determine its leadership and then work as a group to help feed information through Region 12. He noted the ESG funding grant is coming up and is anticipated to be opening August 14<sup>th</sup>. There will only be one pot of money for the entire Region. This Committee should focus on the needs within the three counties represented. Focus on the demographics within these counties and understand the goal of Region 12 is to end homelessness in North Carolina. Having a coordinated effort within the region would allow greater access to resources and information. This Committee is required to have a list on ways to measure and develop a dialogue on homelessness and should adopt the housing 1<sup>st</sup> model. Region 12 is here to create a cycle of help.

Lynn stated Mid-East offered to start this Committee as a means to get the conversation going on homelessness. We are in the business of housing people and as we cover seven counties, with some being the poorest counties within the State, we wanted to help bring resources and information to the ones that need it the most.

There was discussion amongst those present on the lack of housing and agencies willing to help those individuals and families facing homelessness. Within the three counties represented, it was noted most people have to be referred out to other counties for help and there were only a few agencies like CADA and Mid-East that can offer limited resources. Jim stated the goal is to prevent people from entering

the shelters and/or getting out of the shelters into permanent housing. He noted Pitt County has a shelter and a rapid rehousing program that identifies individuals coming out of the shelter. There is a screening process that gives a value to the severity of need. Melissa Eastwood (Trillium Health Resources) noted the assessment piece is the 1<sup>st</sup> piece of the process to get someone out of homelessness. Jim also noted everyone must keep in mind of the definition of homelessness. Someone being evicted is not defined as being homeless but someone being placed in a shelter does. He stated the Zion Shelter in Beaufort County received a grant last year and has not been able to implement the rapid rehousing piece and the Beaufort County Committee is exploring ways to keep that money within Beaufort County. The process of rapid rehousing is a lot of work and as a Region; we have to explore this arena. Jim encouraged the Committee to form partnerships and suggested they have Lynne James come to next month's meeting to discuss the comprehensive assessment piece and then arrange to have Kim Crawford with the Department of Health and Human Services come and speak. Kim was the guest speaker at the last Beaufort County BOS Committee meeting and has a heart for what Region 12 is trying to accomplish and is a valuable resource of information.

The Committee members then discussed the assessment form that has to be completed when a person is deemed to be homeless. The members agreed the form could be made to be more user friendly but was glad there was a standard form to help with the process. There was some discussion on the point-in-time count that occurs the last Wednesday in January. Jim stated the process begins that Wednesday at 6pm and then there are seven days to count the homeless within your specified county or service area. Members discussed the parameters of how to classify someone as homeless and how to complete the point-in-time count as a group.

Lynn thanked everyone for coming and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next month's meeting.

**Next Meeting: August 29, 2017 @ 9:00am  
NC TeleCenter – room TBA  
Williamston, NC**