

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

The Homeless/Housing Taskforce/BC360 Task Force met at the Beaufort County Health Department on this date (2/8/2018). The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Sally Love (Beaufort County Chairperson/Beaufort County United Way). Those in attendance were: Stacy Drakeford, Darone Dancy (NC Works), Jason Perry, Valerie Kines (Ruth's House), Justin Rouse (Disability Advocates and Resource Center), Linda Thornton and Larry McAvoy (Zion Shelter) and Lakitra Claude (Trillium Health Resources).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were sent out via email prior to today's meeting. Sally asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sally mentioned that after the minutes were emailed to everyone, a change was made to page 2, Emergency Solutions Grant. The following sentence was added, "One household will be served by GHA (meets criteria for Permanent Supportive Housing and the household is on the public housing waitlist)." Lakitra made a motion to approve the minutes with Valerie seconding the motion. The committee approved the minutes for January 11, 2018.

**POINT IN TIME COUNT**

The Point in Time count was held on January 31, 2018. Beaufort County had a total of 6 or 7 people. Belhaven did not report any numbers. Jason mentioned that Vidant is interested in helping out with the PIT Count in the future. As a result of the PIT count, Zion is assisting a family that consists of a mother and two children. Backpacks were distributed to those that completed surveys. There are about 12 to 13 backpacks left. Valerie stated that she would like to have about 5 backpacks for Ruth's House and the rest will go to the Salvation Army. It was suggested that in the future, the committee could reach out the Probation office, the Salvation Army and to the Psych Ward and the hospital to see if they could assist with the surveys.

**COORDINATED ASSESSMENT**

Nothing to report at this time. Sally did state that she thought that it needed to be updated. Sally is also working on a Resource List for the county. Lakitra chimed in and stated that beginning February 12<sup>th</sup>, Trillium's call center staff will be able to do VI-SPDAT screenings. The number to the call center is 866-998-2597 and the process is as follows:

- ❖ The VI-SPDAT will be completed in the following situations:
  - Caller is "literally" homeless according to HUD's homeless definition:
  - Living in an emergency shelter for 14 days
  - Living on the street
  - And/or living in a place not meant for human habitation (i.e., barn, car, abandoned building, laundromat, tent in the woods, etc.)
  - Fleeing a domestic violence situation.

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- ❖ The VI-SPDAT will not be completed and the caller will be referred to other resources (i.e., housing coordinator, provider, 211, etc.) in the following situations:
  - Living in a unit but wants to move
  - “Couch surfing” with family/friends
  - About to be evicted from current unit and needs funds to move
- ❖ When the VI-SPDAT is complete the assessor will inform the caller that they will receive a
- ❖ When the Housing Department receives the completed VI-SPDAT they will:
  - Contact the caller within 5-10 days and explain the process and what will happen next
  - Disseminate the assessments to the appropriate Housing Coordinators based on geographic location.
  - The Housing Coordinators will then take the assessments to regional housing groups in order to case conference each individual/family which will result in housing assistance or being placed on a waiting list depending on program criteria and resource availability.

The committee was also informed that those agencies that are currently administering the VI-SPDAT, should continue to do so. Sally reminded everyone that the housing stabilization committee will continue to meet every other Tuesday at 1:00pm at the Health Department. Email Sally if you have someone to present to the group. All referrals need to go through the committee.

### **SOAR AND TANF**

The committee was presented with information concerning the SOAR program and TANF. SOAR is a program designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. Valerie is going to look into seeing if someone from Ruth’s House would be interested in becoming a SOAR Caseworker. TANF is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. Families can visit the Department of Social Services to see if they qualify for TANF.

### **Balance of State Steering Committee Call**

- The Balance of State had their Steering Committee call on 2/7/18. Sally shared with the committee the statistics from the Homeless Assessment Report by handing out the information for the committee to review.

### **VAWA Emergency Transfer Policy**

- The Violence Against Women Act of 2013 established “emergency transfers.” Emergency transfers guarantee people receiving housing assistance (CoC, ESG, and any other housing subsidized through HUD funding) can quickly move to flee domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault and retain their housing assistance.
- CoCs and HUD-funded housing providers must have a plan for emergency transfers.

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- Each housing provider must include the model emergency transfer plan in their agency policies. The model emergency transfer plan for providers is Appendix V in the NC BoS CoC's Emergency Transfer Plan.
- CoCs must also edit TH, RRH, and PSH written standards. VAWA regulations require that people who need emergency transfers to other programs or organizations will have priority over other applicants for open appropriate housing slots (as long as they are eligible for those programs).

**UPDATES/REPORTS**

- ❖ ARC Housing – Sally received a letter from The ARC of North Carolina and shared the information with the committee. The ARC currently has 450 properties in North Carolina. Their vacancy list can be found on their website. For more information, contact JoAnn Caine – Housing Resource Service Coordinator
- ❖ Darone will be emailing the committee members a community needs assessment from Greene Lamp (a community action agency). Each member is asked to complete the survey.
- ❖ Sally shared with the committee that if we had anyone that applied for Hurricane Matthew funds and was denied/rejected, please refer them to United Way. They have money, but the family/individual must present a letter saying they were declined and must have registered with FEMA. The funds can be used for furniture, carpet, etc.
- ❖ Ruth's House – Trying to find housing for a mother with 7 children.
- ❖ Zion Shelter – Updated policy to reflect the change in hours for inclement. The number of people that the shelter has fed has increased; have seen an increase in women and children. The shelter is feeding an average of 45 people a day.
- ❖ The Women's Shelter – Open Door Community Center has a hearing a week from today at 7pm with the Board of Adjustments at the city. They have purchased a property on Cowell Farm Road and are asking for permission to have the shelter in that spot.
- ❖ A new women's shelter (Hope Floats) has opened in Carteret County. The shelter has 7 beds.
- ❖ NC Works – Darone explained to the committee the different programs and services that are offered by the agency.

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- ❖ Trillium Health Resources – The Call Center will administer VI-SPDATs beginning February 12<sup>th</sup> and Rapid Re-housing should began March 1, 2018.
- ❖ "Bringing it Home: Ending Homelessness in NC" Conference will be held April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> in Raleigh, NC.

**SHARING/CASE CONFERENCING**

- ❖ No cases were staffed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- ❖ With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be at 2pm on March 8, 2018.