

Region 12, Inner Banks, NC Balance of State Monthly Meeting

Conference call

Wednesday May 13, 2020-9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Present

Adrian Atkinson, City of Greenville

Joseph Beach, Volunteers of America

Ken Becker, Community Crossroads Center

Eboni Campbell, AmeriHealth Caritas

James Cox, United Way, Regional Lead

Devinder Culver, Greenville Police Dept.

Cassandra Daniels, City of Greenville

Margaret Dixon, Pitt County Planning

Melissa Eastwood, Trillium Health Resources

Deloris Farmer, Pitt County Planning

Lynne James, Pitt County Planning

Sandy Lee, Legal Aid

Sally Love, Beaufort County United Way

Amy Modlin, Trillium Health Resources

Major Ken Morris, Salvation Army

Candace Parker, Greenville VA

Catonna Pitt, Center for Family Violence Prevention

James Rhodes, Pitt County Planning

Tujuanda Sanders, Greenville Housing Authority

Kelly Maness, Salvation Army

Introductions and Approval of April 2020 Minutes

The May 2020 Pitt Regional Committee (Inner Banks) meeting began with introductions. Jim asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Lynne James made a motion to approve the minutes with Deloris Farmer seconding that motion. The minutes were accepted and approved.

Information Sharing

Amy Modlin-Trillium Health Resources

We are currently in the crisis response phase of Covid 19. Soon the state will release an RFP. They are hoping approximately 20 agencies will respond. Services include Diversion, Prevention, and Rapid Rehousing. The program will model the Back@Home and HPRP program. Amy is unsure about what supporting documentation will be used for the program. They are hoping the majority of funds will be used for diversion and prevention. The program may offer up to 24 months of assistance. This will be on a case by case basis. There will case management to follow households. She is unsure when the RFP will roll out. This has not been announced. RFPS will come through the Balance of State.

FEMA Noncongregate Shelter

Amy reported that Trillium put 10 people in hotels on the 1st day and 3 yesterday. Most of the referrals Trillium received for Hotels4Health have come from the Southern Region. There are 3 eligibility categories 1) Person tests positive for COVID and needs to isolate 2) Needs to be quarantined 3) Unable to shelter or self-quarantine that are high risk. Lynne stated that Pitt County Planning is using FEMA noncongregate sheltering funds and they are working with those that are high risk. They are only assisting category 3 right now. Lynne stated that she needs suggestions regarding a hotel that they can utilize for individuals that test positive for COVID. They are currently assisting 7 households. This is only available through 6/6/2020.

Sandy Lee-Managing Attorney-Legal Aid

There is 120 day moratorium on tenant eviction filing. Tenants can only be removed after 30 days' notice. The CARES Act does not cover evictions for other reasons. No courts are in session except for emergencies until June 1. No evictions can be heard until 6/1. Landlords can go now and file evictions for issues other than nonpayment of rent. Evictions can be filed for nonpayment of rent. Some sheriffs are serving, some are not. On June 1, they will start with cases sitting, already on file (cases filed prior to order). Anything other than nonpayment of rent will be heard. There will be many evictions after this. Some hotels are trying to evict individuals that are residing there (must be primary residence). They cannot do this. They must follow appropriate eviction procedures. There are protections for foreclosures. Legal Aid is trying to provide education. They are hopeful that the landlords are willing to work with them. The best way to contact with questions is to email Sandy directly. They are working remotely. She stated that they are always looking for the opportunity to provide education.

Cassandra Daniels-City of Greenville

Cassandra stated that her primary responsibility is to handle the challenges that tenants and landlords face. Tenants and property managers are facing financial hardships. The pandemic is preventing people from meeting their rent obligations. The city is considering a tenant based rental assistance program (internal, temporary, short term). She is unsure about the criteria and infrastructure currently. She is contacting a number of landlords and they are experiencing a high number of people unable to pay rent

(ex. 10-15 at one property). The city will consider putting something in place. This will help the tenant as well as the property owners. This would be a temporary program. However, she is hopeful that the program will push on even after COVID 19. Everyone needs to work together to ensure there is no duplication. She suggested that we work with property managers and landlords. Adrian Atkinson stated the city is trying to explore how to best help residents. Funds are limited. He stated that they do not have a program currently. If they are able to help, he would like to ensure that the program is sustainable and that they can grow it. He stated that any suggestions or assistance would be appreciated.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is providing some financial assistance currently. Kelly stated that they are assisting with rent and utilities. They are putting people in hotels, however they cannot do long term hotel stays. Kelly stated Salvation Army has put 3 people in hotels so far. She has been able to secure a \$50 per night rate. She recently assisted a single mom with a 3 year old who couldn't get into shelter. She reported she has assisted people sleeping in cars. Kelly stated that they are assisting approximately 10-12 clients per week. They have been verifying people have been laid off and getting supporting documentation. She stated that they have limited funding. She stated that they have a food bank and they are doing food boxes. Major Ken Morris stated they are continuing their feeding program. In the thrift store, sales have dropped and they have had to lay off about 10 employees. Sales have picked up some. Major Morris stated that they are encouraging people to come now if they are behind on rent.

Updates

A. 2020 ESG Grant

Jim stated that historically ESG has been funded at approximately 290 million, this year it's around 4 billion. There are more resources and more funding. The ESG office asked some questions. Jim reviewed these with the group: What are the biggest needs you see? How do you mitigate those issues? What help are you looking for from the state? How would you engage your community and stakeholders? The group had open discussion.

B. CoC Grant Update

Jim stated that the NOFA has been delayed.

C. Project Safe Shelter (PSS); Vidant Foundation Grant

No updates. Lynne requested that we share if we have updates regarding food or hotels that would accept individuals that have tested positive for COVID.

D. Coordinated Entry Evaluation/SSO-CE grant

Tujuanda talked with the group about having eligible rapid rehousing clients to transfer to Permanent Supportive Housing. This needs to be included in the coordinated entry plan. Tujuanda made the motion to add this. Lynne seconded the motion. The group unanimously voted to pass this motion. Lynne stated that we continue to have weekly CE meetings. Margaret Dixon continues to provide outreach.

Housing Updates

CCC-TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/200%)-No updates at this time.

GHA-Tujuanda stated that they are accepting applications for public housing and PSH. Tujuanda stated that most staff have been working from home.

Rapid Rehousing/Pitt County Planning- Deloris reported that they are seeing clients as usual and still housing people. There are 11 clients in the CoC Rapid Rehousing program.

SOAR Updates-No updates at this time.

Trillium Health Resources-All employees are remote currently. We are doing a great deal of outreach currently (to members and providers). Amy updated regarding Hotels4Health.

Mid-East Regional Housing Authority-No updates at this time.

C4FVP-Catonna stated that they are still housing victims of domestic violence, however they are not going directly to the shelter. New admissions are going to a hotel first (14 days) and then transitioning to the shelter.

Community Crossroads Center-Ken Becker stated the shelter may reopen during Phase II (5/22). The shelter has not been accepting new admissions since 3/16. They are operating at 100% in regards to staff. They are averaging 28 residents per night currently. They are implementing all CDC and NCCEH guidelines. He stated that they are looking forward to opening back up as soon as they can.

Veterans Activities-Joseph Beach with Volunteers of America stated that they are putting people up in hotels if there is no shelter option available. They are working to try to continue to get people housed. They have offered extensions for some Veterans that are enrolled. He stated that they have been providing groceries in some cases. They are continuing to help Veterans as much as they can.

Pitt County Schools- No updates at this time.

Vocational Rehabilitation-No updates at this time.

AmeriHealth Caritas-No updates at this time.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2020 @ 9:00am

Conference Call