

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

Conference call

Wednesday June 10, 2020-9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Present

Adrian Atkinson, City of Greenville
Joseph Beach, Volunteers of America
Ken Becker, Community Crossroads Center
James Cox, United Way, Regional Lead
Devinder Culver, Greenville Police Dept.
Cassandra Daniels, City of Greenville
Melissa Eastwood, Trillium Health Resources
Deloris Farmer, Pitt County Planning
Kim Gaskins, Greene Lamp
Phoenix Hinson, City of Greenville
Lynne James, Pitt County Planning
Sandy Lee, Legal Aid
Sally Love, Beaufort County United Way
Linda Mandell, Pitt County Planning, SOAR
Kelly Maness, Salvation Army
Amy Modlin, Trillium Health Resources
Connie Morris, Salvation Army
Candace Parker, Greenville VA
James Rhodes, Pitt County Planning
Tujuanda Sanders, Greenville Housing Authority
Cierra Swain, Trillium Health Resources

Introductions and Approval of May 2020 Minutes

The June 2020 Pitt Regional Committee (Inner Banks) meeting began with introductions. Jim asked for a motion to approve the minutes (with corrections). Deloris Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes with Devinder Culver 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. ICCHP is working on a 2 part long term response. Safe@Home will focus on prevention and diversion (ex. Mediation with landlord, back rent, etc.). The Back@Home piece will assist people that have become homeless to obtain new, stable housing (Rapid Rehousing model similar to existing Back@Home). The state will hopefully release an RFP on July 1, 2020 for agencies across the state to apply. The funding piece is very complicated. Jim stated that he just joined the Safe@Home planning committee (first call last week). They are still working on funding. This program will assist households that are housed. Jim will keep the group updated.

Amy stated Ann Oliva (Center for Budget Policy and Priorities) will be testifying in front of the House Financial Services Committee, Subcommittee on housing, Community Development and Insurance. Ann plans to share stories of people living in noncongregate shelters due to COVID 19. She will be testifying regarding how important funding is for long term response. The testimony will hopefully help move funding along so we can get programs up and running.

Sandy Lee-Managing Attorney-Legal Aid

Sandy stated that Governor Cooper signed an order stating there would be no evictions from May 30, 2020 to June 20, 2020. Sandy stated that she is preparing to be in court on 6/21. Eviction hearings are postponed until 6/21. There is a piece written into the order that allows rent due during this time to be paid over a 6 month period (5/30-6/20). She stated that she has concerns regarding March, April, and May. Sandy went to a meeting on 5/18. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to safely reopen small claims court. There were just under 200 cases scheduled for the first week of June (Monday through Thursday). The numbers for the weeks after were smaller, however some landlords have been waiting for the moratorium to end to file. At Legal Aid, they are hoping to negotiate with landlords. Sandy stated that there is eviction information on their website, videos, and flyers. She stated that they want tenants to go to Legal Aid so that they can help. There is the possibility of another extension, but she has not seen or heard much about it that indicates it is going to happen. She is hopeful that something will be put in place. Legal Aid handles unemployment cases also. Sandy stated that they have people that specialize in benefits and protections.

Cassandra Daniels/Adrian Atkinson-City of Greenville

Cassandra stated that the city is still looking into a temporary tenant based rental assistance program. A decision has not been made regarding the program. There have been a large number of property owners impacted. Tenants and property managers are facing financial hardships. She is hopeful that a decision will be made soon. Adrian Atkinson stated the city is trying to explore how to best help residents. He stated that the city is still looking into a program to assist. He stated that there will be a meeting tomorrow and he will bring up tenant based rental assistance and find out where the city is in

the process. Adrian stated that he will keep the group updated. Jim suggested that if they are looking for models to reach out to other cities that may be implementing similar programs.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is providing some financial assistance currently. Kelly reported individuals are coming to her that are at risk for eviction. Kelly said most landlords have been really good to work with. However, there has been one landlord that has been difficult to work with. She stated that the landlord went around and put notes on doors that said tenants had to pay by Friday or get out. Kelly said one family was told by the landlord they had to leave so they vacated their unit and now they are homeless. They were not aware of their rights as a tenant. The landlord wouldn't take partial payment from the family. She wouldn't drop late fees either. Sandy confirmed that you cannot evict someone for nonpayment of rent during this time. She also stated that you cannot evict with a note, landlords must go through the formal eviction process. Sandy also stated that landlords cannot charge late fees during the eviction moratorium. She encouraged everyone to contact Legal Aid regarding these issues if they arise. Lynne inquired as to whether it matters if the properties are federally subsidized programs and Sandy said no. Kelly stated that she has been utilizing a referral sheet. She lets people know about resources such as United Way 211. Kelly collaborates with many community agencies.

Beaufort County

Sally reported that Open Door shelter may open back up next week. She stated that she is hosting the monthly meeting tomorrow at 2:00pm via Zoom.

Updates

A. 2020 ESG Grant

Jim stated that the ESG notice came out yesterday. ESG is going to be connected to Back@Home funding. Details continue to evolve. ESG will work through the regional committee. For agencies that decide to go the ESG route, this will be an abbreviated process (2.96 Billion Dollars).

B. CoC Grant Update

Jim stated that there are no updates regarding the COC grant competition at this time. Nothing is moving forward and there was talk of cancellation this year.

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

Lynne got a call yesterday that FEMA noncongregate shelter funding has been extended through 7/7/2020. She reported that they are accepting new referrals. She has not heard from Vidant Foundation about Project Safe Shelter regarding their grant application. She is not sure if they will be able to move forward with Project Safe Shelter at this time.

D. Coordinated Entry Evaluation/SSO-CE grant

Lynne stated that they are scheduled to have a desk monitoring. Documents are due 6/19/2020 to the Balance of State. Lynne stated that they are continuing to do outreach services. Margaret is working on several cases currently. They are continuing to work through the By Name list. The grant cycle runs through the end of August.

Housing Updates

CCC-TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/200%)-Ken reported that they still have TANF funds through June. They are currently negotiating a new contract that will be effective 7/1/2020. For referrals, please call to schedule an appointment. Applicants will be screened over the phone.

GHA-Tujuanda stated that they are accepting applications for public housing and PSH. Tujuanda stated KJ is no longer with Greenville Housing and his position is vacant.

Rapid Rehousing/Pitt County Planning- Deloris reported that they are accepting referrals for Rapid Rehousing.

SOAR Updates-Linda reported that she is working with one person and she is accepting referrals.

Trillium Health Resources-No additional updates at this time.

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

C4FVP-No updates at this time.

Community Crossroads Center-Ken Becker stated the shelter is open and accepting new admissions. If you have someone you would like to refer, have them call the shelter.

Veterans Activities-Joseph Beach with Volunteers of America stated that they have money to spend and they are accepting referrals. They are putting people up in hotels if there is no shelter option available. They are working to try to continue to get veterans housed. He has been working a great deal with Candace. Candace with Greenville VA reported that they are not issuing vouchers right now. They are short staffed currently. Nadia moved to Florida and Ms. Bertie is going to Durham.

Pitt County Schools- No updates at this time.

Vocational Rehabilitation-No updates at this time.

AmeriHealth Caritas-No updates at this time.

Next Meeting: July 8, 2020 @ 9:00am

Conference Call