

REGION 7 Zoom Meeting Minutes

11.04.2021

Attendance (33): Marie Watson, JLHCA; Savannah Dick; Kam McDonald, Anson County Schools; Renee King-Torres, Alliance; Elle Evans Peterson; Catrina Martin, JLHCA; Kendra Martin, United Way; Barbara Vinson; Rachel Mann, City of Sanford; Cindy Hall, Lee County; Beth Lingerfeldt, Family Promise; Brenda Goss, Sandhills Center; Britney Gibson, Johnston County Schools; Jeff Rawlings, JLHCA; Hamer Carter, OMI; Joy Maynor, Morning Glory Ministries; Lesly Delgado, Safe of Harnett; Katrusia Johnson; Kelly Hutchinson, JLHCA; Kerry Bashaw, BLCDC; Kim Childers, Richmond County; Laura Spivey, OMI; Manuel Hyman, Alliance; Paul Tate, OMI; Rasheeda Sturdivant, Trinity; Renee King Torres, Alliance; Rosa Portillo, BCCDC; Shelley Hudson, Cumberland; Stephanie Alford, Hoke County Schools; Susana Gibson; Tracy Staley, Salvation Army; Winona Coveney, Friend to Friend; Teraefean Goodwin, Rockingham Housing Authority; Tambra Chamberlain, Moore County Schools

1. 10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions

- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Rachel sent out a revised version of the September minutes. Kam McDonald approved the revised minutes and Hamer Carter seconded. There was unanimous approval for the revised minutes.

3. Discuss BOS Meeting - E. Marie Watson

At the last Balance of State meeting, the group discussed the data dashboard and HMIS partnership with the Department of Health. This partnership is an effort to learn about levels of vaccine distributions.

4. Discuss Regional Lead Positions 2022 – E. Marie Watson

Regions have until December 19th to submit the new slate of officers to NCEEH. Karen Kennedy will lead nominating committee. Kay Johnson, Kam McDonald and Kim Childers volunteered to be on nominating committee. Nominating committee must have new slate by the December Region 7 meeting so the new positions can be voted on. The positions that need to be filled are: Regional Lead, Regional Lead Alternate, Coordinated Entry Lead, Webmaster, and Project Review Committee Representative.

5. Discuss PIT/HIC Training – Jeffrey Rawlings and Cindy Hall

Jeff informed everyone that the Point in Time count is going to change this year. It is not expected to be completely done in one night. We should already have data in place, and January 26th should be used to go out and verify that people are in the locations that have already been scouted. In the past we've had issues connecting people with services on the night of the count; That is one of the main goals for this year. The count should be done progressively throughout this year, starting now. Cindy Hall introduced herself and said we will still have the one big outreach event as usual on January 26, but we will continue to collect data year-round as well. This will be a better fit for our region so we can obtain more accurate data. Lee County has been doing an official PIT Count for the past few years, and it's been an amazing way to get the community involved. Goody bags for those experiencing homelessness have been a huge hit and churches and the community have been heavily involved.

We need a PIT lead from each county in our region. Cindy and Jeff will host PIT trainings for the leads via Zoom. Cindy and Jeff educated the group on various Excel spreadsheets that will be used for data collection. Marie asked how we can prevent duplication; Hamer C said coordination is extremely important. Data entered into HMIS also prevents duplication. Cindy reminded everyone that building relationships with those experiencing homelessness is what it's all about. Follow-up and case management is necessary after the count. Prior to the count, think of places where those experiencing homelessness locate and take coffee or treats. The key is to start establishing relationships. Jeff reminded everyone that the PIT is not just about a "feel good moment"; It's not a sprint, it's a marathon, and all of us together can make a difference.

ESG FUNDED AGENCY REPORTS

Friend to Friend, Winona Coveney- The shelter is at capacity (three families and four single clients). Friend to Friend has been on Covid restrictions since May, but opened capacity back up recently (two clients per room). Almost all of ESG money has been spent. The Butterfly Cottage (specifically for human trafficking survivors/victims) is completely finished and the first clients stayed there recently. In the last fiscal year, 472 people were served in person. Provided 3099 nights of shelter, over 10,000 meals, over 1,000 crisis calls. Supported 770 individuals with protective services. Started domestic violence intervention program (provides therapy to DV perpetrators).

Outreach Mission, Hamer Carter- OMI served 32 clients last month and 304 this year. The men's shelter is full and 4/5 beds are available for the women's shelter. Occupancy is going up as cold weather approaches. OMI is operating Sanford's extreme weather shelter this year. There is capacity for 10 men and six women. OMI placed seven households into stable housing last month (some through diversion, some through rentals). OMI has started a street outreach program, which has provided great community interaction. OMI is on track to spend their ESG money.

Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.- Kelly Hutchinson: Housed 11 in October, 10 of those were ESG. 23 on Back@Home waitlist, 21 ESG waitlist. Caty Martin, Lee: 20 in RRH, 12 seeking housing. 6 in homeless prevention, 4 of those seeking housing. 43 in CV, 26 of those seeking housing. Jeff R: Coordinate RRH for Randolph County; Randolph is being serviced but more guidance coming soon. JLHCA has not spent all of their ESG money.

Safe of Harnett County, Lesly Delgado- On track with ESG spending. Shelter is at capacity (3 families and 5 singles).

Committee Reports

Discuss SSO – Coordinated Entry – Jeffrey Rawlings- Back@Home- 596 on list. 385 for CE. 5% overlap. Between 800-900 persons seeking housing between two programs. The need is great; The issue is lack of landlords. Without housing there is no way to help clients on the waitlist. If you see a "for rent" sign or listing, please let Jeff know! Shared housing is encouraged. SRO (single residence occupancy) is a new, creative concept with case managers involved. Marie asked if every county is represented on coordinated entry meetings; Jeff said yes.

AGENCY REPORTS

Anson County Schools, Kam McDonald- There are currently 25 McKinney Vento students. Working to get Christmas and Thanksgiving meals for families, along with flu and Covid vaccines.

Moore County Schools, Tandra Chamberlain- 91 families experiencing homelessness under McKinney Vento. Tandra Place is open; There are four beds for young women ages 18-24. This is the first youth home in the area. Two beds are currently available.

Hoke County Schools, Stephanie Alford- 26 McKinney Vento students. Working on Thanksgiving and Christmas sponsorships for families.

Johnston County Schools, Britney Gibson- 183 McKinney Vento students. More homeless students than usual at this time of year. Johnston County schools got a grant from Rack Room, so they have been able to give shoe donations to students. Still working with Purposity app to get donations from the community. Marie said she has some extra grant funding that could assist with needs as well.

Rockingham Housing Authority, Terafean Goodwin- RHA has not received any referrals for EHV program.

Richmond County Schools, Kim Childers- 69 students currently experiencing homelessness. Working on Thanksgiving meals and Christmas sponsorships.

Alliance, Manuel Hyman – ILI (Independent Living Initiative) training dates upcoming.

Salvation Army, Tracy Staley – 650 client visits at the Navigation Center in October. Vaccine clinics are on Wednesday. Currently collecting sleeping bags, tents, and cold weather gear to give to those in need.

Family Promise Moore County, Beth Lingerfeldt- There are two families currently in the shelter and two beds available now. Two families were just placed in housing.

JLHCA, Tina Ray- It's extremely difficult to find affordable housing and landlords right now. Tina shared information about the Stars program.

Morning Glory Ministries, Joy Maynor – Morning Glory gave out over 600 coats between two locations at a coat drive. They also had a great meeting with Family Promise, where they discussed the PIT Count and the need for community support. Joy asked what HMIS is; Jeff said it's the storehouse for data for clients. Jeff will call Joy to get her set up for HMIS training.

ADJOURNMENT- Kendra motioned to adjourn and Marie seconded. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Region 7 meeting is December 2, 2021.