

COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW
MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2015



The Community Advisory Network Developing Onslow (CAN-DO) met at Northwoods United Methodist Church on this date. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m. by CAN-DO Co-Chair Kristi Pitchford. Those in attendance were: Amelia Grissett, Beverly Jackson, Brian Fike, Chris Slater, Christa Gunderson, Christy O'Daniel, Cindy Wiggins, Craig Wagner, Cynthia Figueroa, Dana Painter, Darlene Hagerman, James Ross, Janice Graniero, Jennifer Colley, Jon Johnson, Karol Davis, Kathleen Holbrook, Ken Becker, Kristi Pitchford, Linda Graham, Melissa Balto, Michelle Carver, Pamela Brown, Ricky Thomas, Susan Pridgen, Tasha McKinney, Trudy Murray and Ursulla Ingram.

Excused absences were received from: Collis Niro, Jason Klein and Mike Fresia.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made of members and guests.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 6, 2015 were approved on a motion from Chris Slater which was seconded by Jon Johnson. The motion carried without opposition.

SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN

Membership had received the plan in advance via email to provide an opportunity to review thoroughly prior to the meeting. The group agreed this plan provided a good outline although there were some minor corrections and revisions that were needed. In addition to severe cold or heat, James Ross requested to add that the plan would be implemented when a State of Emergency was declared in the community. Craig Wagner stated that when local officials declare a state of emergency, the disaster relief fund is launched. Jennifer Colley emphasized the need to move forward quickly while the recent below freezing temperatures were still fresh in everyone's minds so that we would be prepared for future extreme weather conditions. Craig made a motion to approve the plan with corrections. Karol Davis seconded the motion. All voting members in attendance carried the motion; none was opposed. Karol and Ursulla Ingram stated that shelter host sites had been identified within the faith-based community: Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church, St. Julia's AME Zion Church, Northwoods United Methodist Church as well as Ark Of the Covenant Church in Richlands. Discussion ensued related to locating sites in the outlying areas of the county such as Southwest, Swansboro, Sneads Ferry and Holly Ridge. Once arrangements are confirmed with host sites, the plan will be presented to Jacksonville City Council and Onslow County Commissioners.

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POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT JANUARY 28-29, 2015

Kathleen Holbrook had prepared a cumulative report reviewing the numbers for the last 3 years. She asked everyone to review and to note the decrease in numbers this year compared to last year. Susan Pridgen recounted the current issues with CHIN data and speculated as to the accuracy of numbers last year and this year given the current problems. HMIS data this year has been conflicting and has yet to be corrected so final PIT Count tallies have not been submitted. It was suggested that numbers might be down given the number of successful housing programs now in place. This year's PIT Count also occurred on a brutally cold night and a number of unsheltered homeless reported doubling up with others on that particular night so that they could not be counted. The differences in HUD versus McKinney-Vento definitions were reviewed with members. The report will be redistributed to membership once the final CHIN data is received and tallies are submitted.

SCORECARD COMMITTEE ELECTION

Brian Fike held this position in the past so he described what would be required of the designee. Melissa Balto nominated herself for the position. Her nomination was seconded by Ursulla Ingram. The motion carried unopposed.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Coordinated Assessment: Susan Pridgen shared that the designated agencies have been watching training videos. They have now realized that additional partner agencies should be involved during the Prevention and Diversion Phase. This process is bigger than imagined and funding for a position is needed.

Solutions for Stability: Susan Pridgen announced that 171 people have been served to date representing 53 households comprised of 69 adults and 102 children. Susan shared that more than half of the available funds have been expended.

Onslow County Schools: Jennifer Colley reported that 216 school-aged children have been identified during the 2014-15 school year. The reasons for homelessness are as follows: Condemned/Unfit Housing=9; House Fire=7; Runaway=2; Kinship Care=3; Displaced by Natural Disasters=0; Domestic Violence/Child Abuse=56; Kicked Out/Abandoned=19; Eviction/Foreclosure=67 and Economic Hardship=53. The OCS numbers are significantly lower than in past years at this point in the school year. As the current housing programs in Onslow County are for the Literally Homeless, how do we plan help those who are doubled up or "couch surfing" such as the children identified by the school system?

Shelter PLUS Care: Brian Fike announced serving 12 households representing 24 people at this time. As his agency, CoastalCare, is merging with Eastern Carolina Behavioral Health in the near future, Brian plans to seek additional slots from those allocated to the region.

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ECHSA: Trudy Murray shared that her program has served 148 veterans and their family members since October 1, 2014. They have placed 10 veterans in housing to include 2 with HUD-VASH vouchers.

Family Endeavors: Dana Painter introduced Kent Becker, the newly hired Outreach/Intake Specialist. Their program is serving 42 veterans right now and has 7 intakes scheduled for next week. Dana shared a success story involving a veteran and his girlfriend who attended the Onslow Veterans Stand-down in February and who have both become employed by Walmart since then. They have received publicity for their success which Dana plans to share with the group. Dana added that Onslow County is in line to receive additional HUD-VASH vouchers.

Onslow Community Outreach: No representation today.

Tri-Counties Crusaders: Karol Davis' program assisted 9 new individuals last month to include 3 veterans, two of whom were homeless. Karol proclaimed that community collaboration works! Jason Klein assisted one of her clients to get a HUD-VASH voucher. Through their recent job fair, 18 people got jobs and one new business was started (a job transportation service). Karol announced that they are holding the Onslow Re-Entry Council meeting on March 20 at 10 am at St. Julia's Church. The committee meets once per month and all are encouraged to attend. Karol added that she had a discussion with Federal Probation who plans to release 1200 federal inmates this year into Onslow County. We need to ensure there are employment and housing opportunities so that they can become productive, tax paying citizens.

Philippians Place: No representation today.

Onslow Women's Center: No representation today.

Salvation Army: Darlene Hagerman stated that they are assisting an average of 62 families per week to include 14 veterans with food and clothing. They offer a mobile food drive on the second Tuesday per month at their location on Bell Fork Road. They also offer a \$5.00 bag sale for clothing once per month in Jacksonville and every Friday in Maysville. Darlene shared a success story of a felon who was employed as a bell ringer at Christmas.

Ark of the Covenant/City of Refuge: Beverly Jackson shared that her program has assisted 9 clients since its inception. They utilize extensive community collaboration efforts and have added volunteer counselors to ensure clients remain stable and maintain successful housing.

Swansboro First Baptist: No representation today.

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MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craig Wagner announced that the United Way is hosting their signature *Vine & Dine Taste of the Town* fundraiser on April 10, 2015. Proceeds will benefit the Solutions for Stability Program so all CAN-DO members are encouraged to support this event. Tickets are \$50 each or \$80 per couple.

Brian Fike announced that he, Susan Pridgen and Linda Graham will host another Affordable Housing meeting with landlords in April or May.

Susan Pridgen and Ursulla Ingram will travel to Raleigh on March 30 for a meeting of the Regional and Alternate Leads.

James Ross announced a Veterans Benefit Car Wash to be held on Saturday, April 18th from 10am-4pm at the Western Blvd Lowes. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will be used to purchase items for the 2016 Veterans Stand-down.

Christa Gunderson advised members that the Caring Community Clinic is partnering with Onslow Memorial Hospital. Clients on OMH's Charity Care Program can receive one year of follow-up care, medication and supplies at the clinic which has also expanded its hours.

Pamela Brown shared that the OCHD has partnered with PEERS to offer a 5 week series called Healthy Choices. The class is open to youth and parents who attend separate sessions throughout the program series. This is an evidence-based curriculum.

Kathleen Holbrook announced that Pineland Presbyterian Women's Circle had donated goodie bags for the homeless which were available to all homeless programs after the meeting.

There being no further business, Kristi Pitchford adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am. The April meeting is canceled due to the Good Friday holiday therefore the next meeting of CAN-DO will be held on **Friday, May 1, 2015 at 8:00 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Holbrook, Secretary