

COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW  
MINUTES  
JUNE 5, 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 8:10 a.m. by CAN-DO Co-Chair Kristi Pitchford. Those in attendance were: Beverly Jackson, Brian Fike, Cathy Jackson, Chris Slater, Christa Gunderson, Christy O'Daniel, Collis Niro, Craig Wagner, Cynthia Watson, Dan Joy, Diana DeVusser, Deandra Stills, Harold Dunlop, James Ross, Janice Graniero, Jason Klein, Jennifer Colley, John Kerr, Jon Johnson, Junie Christian, Katie Covington, Kelley Hamilton, Ken Becker, Kristi Pitchford, Linda Graham, Loretta Keelin, Melissa Balto, Mike Fresia, Monica Jones, Pamela Brown, Patricia McClarin, Richard Smothers, Rick Moser, Robert Hudson, Shantisha Williams, Susan Pridgen, Ursulla Ingram, Virginia "Vicki" Hill, and William Keller.

Excused absences were received from Amelia Grissett, Kathleen Holbrook and Phyllis Isenhardt.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made of members and guests.

#### **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of May 1, 2015 were reviewed and the following corrections needed. HUD-VASH has 26 vouchers along with a name correction for Family Endeavors-Ken Becker. The minutes for May 1, 2015 were approved with corrections on a motion from William Keller which was seconded by Jason Klein. The motion carried without opposition.

#### **PRESENTATION**

Patricia McClarin, Regional Director for Pride of North Carolina, Inc., provided information on services available and eligibility requirements. Pride of NC offers day programs for individuals with a diagnosed developmental and/or mental health disability. They also offer in-home services to individuals and families with Medicaid. Outpatient services/therapy is available for uninsured. Pride of NC stated they work with families and individuals to improve daily living skills and will assist individuals in applying for Medicaid at their Hargett Street location. Services are available at their Commerce Road location. Pride of NC indicated they partner with Vocational Rehabilitation for employment services and PEER supports.

#### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

**Coordinated Assessment:** Susan Pridgen shared that she, Craig Wagner and Brian Fike will soon have conversations with 211 to conduct the Prevention and Diversion Tool for Onslow County. Susan stated that beginning July 1, 2015, individuals and families who have not received a VI-SPDAT will not be accepted into the Solutions for Stability program because they have instead been scored and diverted to the correct program for appropriate assistance.

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**BoS Update-** Susan Pridgen indicated that someone from CAN-DO needed to be appointed and his/her name submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup> to the State for the Balance of State Project Review Committee. Junie Christian volunteered his intern, Katie Covington, as a part of her Learning Contract. Susan also passed out Point in Time data from the state and noted that homeless overall is down 5.7% with the biggest drop occurring in area of Veteran homelessness by 40% but increase in domestic violence of 6%. The PIT/HIC numbers will be broken down by county and Regional Committee and will be available later.

Susan stated that the Balance of State is considering structuring possibilities which could mean the possibility of connecting Onslow with other counties. This could include sharing/competing for funding. Susan indicated that the State will be sending a survey by mid-June regarding the structuring of our Balance of State. Susan stated that she will send out the survey once it is received and encouraged everyone to respond to the survey.

Susan Pridgen further shared that the State also encourages an inclusive project for our Balance of State. Other agencies have done Project Homeless Connect which is similar to the Veteran Stand Down but all services are available to every homeless individual and family.

**Solutions for Stability:** Susan Pridgen reported that 25 households representing 33 children and 62 individuals have been accepted into the program and served during this grant period. Susan announced that SFS has exceeded the number of households served listed on the grant application as well as funding granted to the program. A waiting list may be implemented for the program but this will be announced at a later date.

**Onslow County Schools:** Jennifer Colley reported that 271 school-aged children have been identified during the 2014-15 school year. The reasons for homelessness are as follows: Condemned/Unfit Housing=11; House Fire=10; Runaway=6; Kinship Care/Foster Care=3; Displaced by Natural Disasters=0; Domestic Violence/Child Abuse=67; Kicked Out/Abandoned=33; Eviction/Foreclosure=78 and Economic Hardship=63.

**Shelter PLUS Care:** Brian Fike announced serving 24 people at this time. Brian indicated that his agency was audited with no findings. CoastalCare is targeted to merge with Eastern Carolina Behavioral Health on July 1 to become Trillium. Brian plans to seek additional slots from those allocated to the region.

**ECHSA:** Trudy Murray was not present but had Linda Graham report on her behalf. During May 2015, 7 rapid re-housing clients were served; 6 housed; 2 clients were served for prevention and 11 HUD-VASH clients with 3 pending for Jacksonville.

**Family Endeavors:** Ken Becker shared that their program served 16 literally homeless veterans and 9 prevention clients for the month of May.

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**HUD-VASH:** Jason Klein stated that Onslow/Jacksonville has 40 HUD-VASH vouchers and indicated that they are designated for literally homeless veterans below the 50% AMI. He is working to fill the slots available.

**Onslow Community Outreach:** Deandra Stills stated that the shelter served 40 residents for May, including 4 veterans and 8 children. Deandra indicated there is an increasing need for childcare for residents with children who are not school age. Christa Gunderson presented DSS's Work First program as a possible solution. Deandra announced that planning for Octoberfest is underway as well as the new building on Hargett Street. Rev. John Kerr, OCO Board Member, stated they cannot comment on the lawsuit at this time but CAN-DO will receive updates.

**Tri-Counties Crusaders:** Shantisha Williams shared that Tri-Counties Crusaders assisted 40 clients during May. Ten of these were new intakes; 15 were employed; 21 received employment/training services; 1 received assistance with a Social Security Card; and 3 were housed. Referrals were made to Family Endeavors, HUD VASH, CoastalCare, Solutions for Stability and the Department of Corrections. In addition, referrals are sent to the Lutheran Church as well as the Salvation Army. Eligibility requirements were discussed. No criminal convictions are required in order for Tri-Counties Crusaders to assist. Mentoring is available. In addition, Shantisha indicated that Tri-Counties Crusaders have been very busy with 20 people being assisted from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Philippians Place:** No representation today.

**Onslow Women's Center:** Junie Christian stated that they currently have 10 residents to include 3 children (1 boy and 2 girls). Junie announced that they have an opportunity to provide free counseling services to residents and that Lowes and the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Class raised \$22,000 with \$10,000 in free items donated to the kitchen at the shelter. The shelter's kitchen has been updated. Junie indicated a need for sellable items and offered to pick up items if individuals need this service.

**Salvation Army:** No representation today.

**Ark of the Covenant/City of Refuge:** Beverly Jackson shared that during May, 2 female referrals were received from the penal system and indicated most referrals are received from the county but they are beginning to receive more referrals from the penal system. Beverly indicated that they are connecting individuals in the residential program with needed services within the community.

**Swansboro First Baptist:** No representation today.

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**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Veteran's Benefit Action Center-Tuesday, June 16 through Thursday, June 18, 2015 from 9am to 5pm daily. Clients will be seen according to SSN Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>- SSN ending 00-33; Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>- SSN ending 34-67; Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>- SSN ending 68-99.

Portable showers @ Trinity UMC every Saturday in June from 9am to 1pm.

NCWorks Career Center-Veterans Job Fair and Career Expo on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. Veterans and Active Duty from 10am to 11am. All Job Seekers 11am to 2pm.

Tri-Counties Crusaders- 5K Run and Car Show to be held Saturday, June 13, 2015 (Rain Date June 27<sup>th</sup>)

GRCA 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Festival & Celebration-June 19 and 20, 2015. BBQ and Food Bank on June 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am to 1:30pm. The Juneteenth Parade June 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

Presented card and poem to Pastor Rick Moser upon his retirement for his services to CAN-DO.

Announcement that future CAN-DO meetings will be held at CoastalCare's conference room located at 165 Center Street, Jacksonville.

There being no further business, Kristi Pitchford adjourned the meeting at 9:15 am. The next CAN-DO meeting will be held on **Friday, August, 2015 at 8:00 am**. \*July Meeting Cancelled due to Holiday\*

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Balto, Volunteer Fill-In for Kathleen Holbrook, Secretary