

COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 2, 2015



The Community Advisory Network Developing Onslow (CAN-DO) met at Trillium Health Resources on this date. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by CAN-DO Co-Chair Kristi Pitchford. Those in attendance were: Anna Jerez, Aubrey Mullen, Ayrien Davis, Brian Fike, Charlie Knox, Chris Slater, Christa Gunderson, Cindy Williams, Cynthia Figueroa, Dan Bornarth, Dee Gardner, Gail Gatewood, Gwendolyn Lane, Janice Graniero, Jason Klein, Jennifer Colley, Jerrick Vernon, Jessamyn Angelastro, John Kerr, Jon Johnson, Junie Christian, Kathleen Holbrook, Kelley Hamilton, Kristi Pitchford, Laura Hagerman, Lillie Gray, Melissa Balto, Michelle Carver, Monique Ivanov, Pamela Brown, Pat Magee, Patty Katora, Penni Ford, Susan Pridgen, Ursulla Ingram, Valentina Burrola-Heuman, William James and William Keller.

Excused absences were received from Amelia Grissett, Carol Long, Christy O'Daniel, Collis Niro, Craig Wagner, Mike Fresia, and Phyllis Isenhardt.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made of members and guests.

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

The minutes of September 4, 2015 were reviewed with one correction noted. Junie Christian motioned to approve the minutes with the correction; his motion was seconded by Jason Klein. The motion carried without opposition.

#### **PRESENTATION ON ABUNDANT LIFE COMMUNITY OUTREACH (ALCO)**

Lillie Gray, ALCO Chairperson, shared that their faith-based non-profit's focus has shifted to affordable housing development, housing counseling services and financial literacy. ALCO desires to be the community leader in affordable housing. They are filling an identified community gap and have held several fundraisers to build capacity. ALCO is currently searching for 5 acres of land upon which to build Eagle Point, an affordable housing complex which will include housing for veterans. ALCO's next fundraiser is a Women's Empowerment Conference to be held March 11-12, 2016 at the Courtyard Marriott. The cost is \$60 for 2 days. Tickets can be purchased at [www.albc.org](http://www.albc.org). There will be a special group rate of Buy 10 tickets, Get 1 free.

#### **EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT**

Kristi Pitchford announced that \$62,403 is available to Onslow County this year. Last year we received \$89,000 to help fund the Solutions for Stability Program. If any agencies wish to apply, they will need to submit an *Intent to Apply*. The letter will be emailed out next week and will need to be returned the following week. CAN-DO will hold a special meeting on October 23, 2015 to vote upon the proposals.

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Only eligible CAN-DO members can vote upon the proposals. Criteria will be sent out regarding membership for those who are unsure. Board members for those agencies wishing to apply will be exempt from voting. Those agencies submitting an *Intent to Apply* will conduct presentations to CAN-DO membership and voting will take place immediately afterwards. Grants are due in Raleigh by November 6, 2015.

Junie Christian stated that his agency, Onslow Women's Center which includes the Safe House, benefits tremendously from the Solutions for Stability Program. Given the reduction in state funding, Junie believes that only one local agency should apply in order to maximize the available funds. He made a motion for the Solutions for Stability Program to apply for the entire ESG grant explaining that having multiple local agencies apply for the grant would dilute the pot. Jennifer Colley agreed and stated that both shelters benefit from the Solutions for Stability Program. Junie reiterated that his shelter did not plan to apply for the grant. Kristi Pitchford advised that we cannot accept motions at this time as we must first allow all agencies the opportunity to apply. As a result, Junie Christian withdrew his motion.

#### **BALANCE OF STATE (BoS) RESTRUCTURING**

Susan Pridgen advised that she sent out the BoS survey to all CAN-DO members more than one time and received a total of 10 responses. She distributed the tally sheet to members in attendance. Responses varied so she averaged out the ratings. Susan stated there were "tons of comments ranging from one end of the spectrum to the other" so she reported all of them to the State. The State has cancelled the BoS Restructuring meeting until the ESG grant period has ended so we will probably receive the results early next year.

#### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

***Coordinated Assessment (CA):*** Susan Pridgen shared that Onslow's CA is heading in the right direction. We currently have no local funding but have developed a local Wait List for VI-SPDATs. Heather Black with 2-1-1 in Raleigh plans to join CAN-DO and will participate in Prevention and Diversion. Susan reiterated that all VI-SPDATs be sent directly to Brian Fike as opposed to Susan. Having one designated portal of entry makes it easier for all involved. The CA Committee will review and prioritize those applications with the greatest need. People must be literally homeless to qualify for Rapid Re-Housing. There is a 1.25 hour in length training on how to complete the VI-SPDAT. Questions were posed from members as to who had been trained. There must also be a Memorandum of Understanding signed between participating agencies. Brian will send out the list. Onslow County Schools is working on being trained. Susan announced the training will be changed in January 2016 and will shorten the amount of time it takes to complete the VI=SPDAT.

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**Onslow Community Outreach:** John Kerr stated that they are still operating but that their dreams of expanding into a new facility have been slowed. He shared a metaphor in that OCO is a First Aid station where they triage the homeless: they take them off the street, clean them up, clothe them and link them with resources. He finished with the fact that their major fundraiser, *Oktoberfest*, will be held October 22-24, 2015 with several events. This year will include a wine tasting and *Miss Oktoberfest* pageant.

**Onslow Women's Center:** Junie Christian introduced two new staff members: Gwen Lane has replaced Laura Cate as the Advocate/Case Manager and Valentina Burrola-Heuman is a student intern serving as Case Manager. Junie stated the shelter is not full to capacity but at times when it is, they partner with other agencies.

Junie announced their major fundraiser, *Dancing Stars of Jacksonville*, will be held on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion. Tickets are \$50 each. Lillie Gray is a dancer this year and has a remarkable personal story to share. The Candlelight Vigil to recognize fatalities resulting from Domestic Violence will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2015. Junie thanked the many agencies at the table for their collaboration with his agency.

**Point in Time Count**

Kristi Pitchford reminded everyone that the PIT Count is right around the corner in late January 2016. Planning will start at the November CAN-DO meeting. The Veterans Stand-down will occur the week following the PIT Count on February 2, 2016.

**Tri-Counties Crusaders:** Ursulla Ingram announced they are selling meals today as a fundraiser at a cost of \$8.00 a plate.

**Phillips Park Homeless Ministry:** Charlie Knox advised that their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Homeless Summit which was scheduled for Phillips Park on October 10<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled to the Spring. Charlie added that Trinity United Methodist Church is currently working to be vetted as a Warming Station. He is seeking advice from other members.

**Onslow County Schools:** Jennifer Colley shared that since school started on 8-24-15, 62 students have been identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. The reasons for their homeless status are as follows: 14 evictions/foreclosures; 11 economic hardship; 2 house fires; 1 condemned/unfit housing; 11 kicked out or abandoned; 1 runaway; 1 awaiting foster care; 17 Domestic Violence or Child Abuse; and 3 Natural Disasters.

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**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cynthia Figueroa advised that OHLA (Onslow Hispanic Latino Association) is hosting a special immunization clinic at the Onslow County Health Department (OCHD). She will send out a flyer.

Kristi Pitchford announced Fire Safety Week kicks off at Lowes Home Improvement on Western Blvd tomorrow, October 3, from 10:00 am -2:00 pm. There will be lots of activities for children.

Pamela Brown announced the Onslow County Community Assessment Survey is on the OCHD website. This assessment is in partnership with Onslow Memorial Hospital. There are 33 SurveyMonkey questions which will take 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey will be available through the end of this year. Pam encourages all members to complete the survey so that specific action plans can be created.

Pam further shared that OCHD applied for and received a grant for Adults with Diabetes, especially those who are non-compliant. The grant is called LEAP. The target population is African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos. The social work case manager is Jessamyn Angelastro who is present at CAN-DO today. Jessamyn stated that LEAP provides intensive case management services both at home and in the hospital. Free medications and testing supplies are also available.

Kelley Hamilton reminded everyone that the Cold Weather Event for Homeless Veterans is October 13, 2015. No transportation is provided so she encouraged folks to provide transportation to those vets needing it. Flyers were distributed to members.

There being no further business, Kristi Pitchford adjourned the meeting at 9:38 am. The next CAN-DO meeting will be held at Trillium Health Resources on **Friday, November 6, 2015 at 8:30 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Holbrook, Recording Secretary