**Lee-Harnett County Regional Housing Committee**

**NC Balance of State Continuum of Care**

**Meeting June 17, 2015–11:00 am**

**Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.**

**225 South Steele Street, Sanford, NC 27330**

**(919) 776-0746**

**In Attendance:**

Dr. Johnnie Waller, Lee County Schools

Vanessa Colvin-McLaughlin, Secretary

Miya Horsey, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.

Jean Kilpatrick, Haven of Lee County

Fredrika Cooke, Family Promise of Lee County

Tina Ray, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.

Sherry Overton-Shurda, Haven of Lee County

Jean Kilpatrick, Haven of Lee County

Larry Lingenfelter, N.C. Commerce

Mary Pat Buie, Sandhills Center

Chris Kelley, Salvation Army

Camille Neal, Volunteers of America

Kevin L. Orgias, Family Endeavors

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Miya Horsey welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

**Introductions**

All in attendance introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

May minutes will be available during the next meeting.

**Rapid Re-Housing**

Currently there is no more Rapid Re-Housing funding but once the committee has fully merged with Harnett County they maybe more funding set in place. The number of applicants for RRH is steadily growing. T. Ray was suggesting the Rapid Re-Housing disbursement of funds need to handle differently so it may assist more than a handful of residents. I (V.C McLaughlin) mentioned how Miya and Vanessa had a discussion about the cases who received the funding last year and how many are still in the same homes. Out of 10 to 12 cases only two families are still stable in the same homes after receiving RRH funds. The point was made that some of the same families who were recipients of last year, reapplied this year as well and they are called “Habitual Users”- Individuals who apply to all the resources in their county to receive assistance. J. Kilpatrick made a valid point by stating; what is the underline drive about why these “habitual users” repeat these patterns and shelter hop in and out of different counties. F. Cooke stated we are doing a disservice to our clients when we bring in our own values and beliefs. We must meet them on the level they are use too operating on. It is our job as Human Service Professionals, to solicit information from the client and asks what do they want *but* why? We can then add safety measures for them as the client and ourselves as the case managers, the clients will *then* have the knowledge to advocate for themselves.

**Coordinated Assessment Report**

The Coordinated Assessment for Lee-Harnett County Regional Housing Committee has yet to be submitted but F. Cooke is very hopeful it will be by July 1, 2015 once all data is given about Harnett County from Tonya Gray, the representative for Harnett County.

**Announcements**

**HIV-**As of now Lee County does not have transitional housing to individuals diagnosed with HIV. There are programs however, that may assist these persons with stable housing because they qualify under different circumstances.

**Mary Pat Buie** from **Sandhills Center** mentioned about the Targeting Program and how the numbers are extremely low in Lee County and not many people are signing up for it. The Targeting Housing Programs assist individuals with a pronounced mental disorder but are stable and viable enough to live independently. J. Kilpatrick and Vanessa mentioned how Lee County no longer has any agencies willingly to be Key Point Entries for the Targeting Program and the housing apartment units affiliated with the program are no longer able to hold the amount of units needed because of several reasons. The applicants do not meet the criteria of income or have a criminal record, or they are evicted for breaking lease agreements or are too unstable to handle being on their own.

M.P. Buie then announced Sandhills has a Pilot Project that assist people like the ones mentioned. The Pilot Project will identity people who have family members who are willing to take on the responsibility of making sure the individual has a good and stable support system because the potential client does not qualify to receive services from places like Vocational Rehabilitation, who usually provide people with case management. F. Cooke asked if clients, who have been in programs such as Family Promise, would qualify under the Pilot Program considering, FPLC provides stable 12 month case management for graduates? M.P. Buie declared the individual or head of household would need a Letter of Commendation from the Case Worker, stating the services that will be provided for them while in case management. M.P. Buie said call the center at Sandhills to get potential clients set-up with services.

**Charity Tracker is now Live-**all agencies that participated in the training will receive their information needed to do the introductory period via e-mail. Charity Tracker is the new data entry software introduced by United Way to support local agencies, non-profit organizations and churches of Lee County with a better way to serve local residents with their needs.

**Kevin Orgias** from **Family Endeavors** in Fayetteville gave a small synopsis of the services they provide for Veterans in Cumberland County:

-homelessness

-funding of rent for 1 to 2 months and deposits

-link with Veterans Affairs

-referrals to Vocational Rehabilitation for younger veterans

-employment assistance with local manufacturing plants such as Mountaire Farms, Pilgrim Pride, Smithfield Packing

\_transportation-30 day bus passes with F.A.S.T (Fayetteville Area System Transit) or links with van services for certain employment establishments

-case management

Family Endeavors does not assist with former military that have been dishonorable discharged. K. Orgias added, in his years of social work he has come across individuals who are “habitual users” but they call it “Round Table” clients who go around to resources to resources with changing sob stories. He feels these individuals need a little push in a different direction because no matter how many times the story changes the premise remains the same; they are seeking help. Clients have barriers that need to be identified and case managers need be able to recognize these hindrances and assist the clients to choose the right therapy.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held at Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, 225 S. Steele Street, Sanford, NC on Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

Submitted by:

Vanessa Colvin-McLaughlin, Secretary