

Homeless/Housing Taskforce
BC360 Task Force on Family/Women's Shelter

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The Homeless/Housing Taskforce/BC360 Task Force on Family/Women's Shelter met at the Beaufort County Health Department on this date (7/20/2017). The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Sally Love (Beaufort County Chairperson/Beaufort County United Way). Those in attendance were: Evan Lewis (attorney/BC360 representative), Tamyra Jovel (Mideast Commission Area Agency on Aging), Melissa Eastwood (Trillium Health Resources), Lorina Garrison (Mid-East Regional Housing Authority), Kelly Reinsmith (ECU), Jim Cox (Regional Lead for Region 12, United Way), and Kim Crawford (DHHS ESG office).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were sent out via email prior to today's meeting (May and June). Minutes were unanimously approved.

FAMILY/WOMENS SHELTER

Sally provided an update regarding the Family/Womens Shelter. The committee has found a potential house that they have made an offer on. The listing price for the house is \$135,000.00. They have made 2 offers that were turned down and they will make a third offer today (\$125,000). Sally reported that the home is a Cape Cod style home. Sally reported that the home is very nice. There could be potentially 2 rooms for families, dorm rooms for women, office, large living room, big kitchen, and there is a greenhouse as well. There is lots of built ins. There is a 2 car garage. If this house is purchased, they will add another bathroom. The committee will have to go to the city planning board for approval. Sally stated that they will need to speak with residents in the neighborhood. She stated that it is on 6th street behind Pam's Diner. The group is ready to go with fundraising.

There will be a home for female veterans opening in 2018 on 3rd Street in Washington.

Kim Crawford-ESG funds

Kim Crawford met with the group today to talk with us about ESG funds/applications and the Rapid Rehousing program at the Zion Shelter. She stated that her goal is for the next ESG application to be released on 8/14/2017 (Monday) and if not on this date then 8/21/2017 (Monday) at the latest. The ESG applications will be due 10/15/2017. Sally inquired about whether the Family/Women's shelter would be eligible to apply for ESG funds. Kim stated that they will be able to apply for funds. We do not know what the prorata will be this upcoming year. Kim is estimating it will be close to the same.

The Zion Shelter was awarded \$25,421.00 for shelter and rapid rehousing this year. \$10,168.00 is for rapid rehousing. Zion applied for the allocation allotted for Beaufort County. Zion has declined the

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rapid rehousing funds. They would like to return the funds. They feel they do not have the capacity at this time to administer a rapid rehousing program.

The group discussed what we can do with the money and ideas for keeping it in the region. Kim stated that you cannot shift the funds between programs. Some things are put in place by HUD (allocations between ES and Housing stabilization). Across the state, 40% of funds are to be utilized for shelter and they want 60% of the funding to be utilized for housing stabilization. The goal is to go from homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible. The crisis housing system consists of prevention and diversion, shelter, street outreach, RR, and some HMIS. Under the contract you have to do the following: Submit paperwork monthly. You have to request to draw down monthly (whether you spend funds or not). If you did not spend anything you must put 0. Kim stated that there are about 80 contracts across the state of North Carolina. Sixteen haven't asked for any money. DHHS has been letting people know where they are in regards to spending. Anyone can turn money back in. The question came up as to whether or not agencies can apply for next year if they don't spend their money or turn funds back in etc. Kim stated they can apply, however this may negatively impact your scorecard. She reminded the group that this is a contract. Someone signed the application/contract. There are concerns about organizations not adhering to their contracts. However, money can be returned and it will be reallocated. The application/contract says we will follow the housing first model. Where are people going when they leave shelter and how are they housing them? The best practices across the country show that RR and wrapping people in services is effective. There is not enough affordable housing.

This funding is not designed to eliminate poverty; it's designed to eliminate homelessness. To house an individual, find a place; pay a deposit, pay 1st month's rent, etc. You don't have to put a number on the funds. This is designed to help house the most vulnerable. You cannot use RR funds to place individuals in public housing. Zion is concerned about not having a caseworker in place and not being able to monitor as they should. They had questions about matching. Kim stated do not let case management be a barrier to housing someone. There are no set definitions regarding what case management has to look like. Kim encouraged us to get people housed. Be creative and innovative. She offered suggestions regarding how to make rapid rehousing work and utilize the money that we were allotted without a case manager. She encouraged us to figure out a way to help Zion shelter. Lorina offered to assist with developing folders for the paperwork. We discussed having another conversation with them. The group talked about having a case manager with Pitt County mentor someone in Beaufort County to ensure Beaufort County is successful. We can help the other counties (Washington, Bertie, and Martin) in the same way. Washington, Bertie, and Martin have never accessed ESG funds. Could you contract with another county to administer funds? Kim stated that a MOU must be sent with application.

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The rapid rehousing funds are for Beaufort County. Kim reminded everyone that you don't have to be a shelter resident to access rapid rehousing funds; you just have to be homeless. Kim stated that they are expecting rapid rehousing and shelters to be closely linked moving forward. The shelter should be a piece of the crisis housing process. Who is the most vulnerable? Anyone can do the case management, you can pay for case management but you don't have to. Sally has a list of landlords in Beaufort County.

Sally inquired about whether organizations will be reimbursed in a timely manner. Kim stated that agencies/organizations are reimbursed within 30 days now. The Zion Shelter has been paid timely since May. If requisitions are incorrect and have to go back, the 30 days starts over.

The ESG regional and project applications will be revised this year. They are going to look at how you are measuring up to HUDs system performance measures. There will be a guide with the application to aid in completion. We do not have the prorata yet for our five county regions (region 12). We will submit 1 regional application. The region can be the fiscal agent or there can be individual contracts.

Miscellaneous

Kim informed us that approximately \$500,000 is left sitting on the table each year. They are distributing \$450,000 this year for Hurricane Matthew. Robeson County will receive a large portion of this.

Kim stated that they are hoping to have some supplemental funds out by 8/4/2017.

Mid-East has a preference/priority for homeless. Waitlist depends on property.

Jim will be the ESG lead for Region 12. He hopes to have a representative from each county for an ESG subcommittee.

The CoC grant is due 9/28/2017.

Plan for next meeting:

Sally will follow up with the Zion Shelter to determine whether they will administer Rapid Rehousing funds or return the funds.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Sally Love adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: August 10, 2017 @ 2:00pm

Beaufort County Health Department