

Sanford/Lee County Meeting Addressing Homelessness  
Thursday, July 27, 2017  
Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive  
Gordon Wicker Room  
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**Meeting Notes**

### **Opening Meeting**

Terry Allebaugh and Mayor Chet Mann opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

### **Review Draft Documents**

- **Goals-** Keith Clark asked what the difference is between Low Barrier Shelter and other forms of shelters, and how they all fit into Rapid Rehousing. Terry Allebaugh answered that Low Barrier Shelter reduces factors that keep homeless people from entering, such as faith/worship requirements, sobriety, etc. In Sanford this is particularly important because many people are living in condemned or unfit areas, but they could not get access to shelters because of local shelter's barriers. Other discussion included needing more than one shelter in Sanford, and encouraging shelters to work in conjunction with other resources in the community. All community resources should be coordinated. Men and women would be allowed at Low Barrier Shelters, but they would be separated. Other goals included having a resource booklet. HAVEN currently has a resource booklet and their intern is working on updating it. Rachel will narrow this booklet down to make it homelessness-specific. The last goal is a written action plan for 2018. This will be written by staff but will include information from subcommittees and be voted on by voting members to accurately reflect goals of everyone.
- **Bylaws-**
  - Article II: Are we limiting ourselves or excluding new people by having a set number of nonvoting members? Comments included:
    - This number was based on initial applications
    - It's important to have a number so if someone steps down from their position you know to replace them
    - You can't put a number range in bylaws, however bylaws do set boundaries
    - If we have to accommodate additional people we could change the bylaws in the future
    - Could we leave voting and nonvoting members numbers out? Keep it unspecified?
    - It's helpful to have the numbers listed. If we make this group too big then progress will become slow and quorum would be difficult.
    - The point is to try to keep this initiative moving. Less is more, and we can expand if we need to in the future.
  - Article II: Term Limit
    - We don't know how long this project will last so it's important to have Article IX: Changes to the Bylaws- If we need to revisit something in the future we can. We want to leave this open because we don't know how this project will morph. Right now we are just looking until 2018 but if this lasts longer we might want to consider a term limit. Ideally, officers will last until a year from now but could continue on.
  - Article II: Go ahead and get new people to join committees without waiting for approval
  - Article III: Nonvoting implies a commitment to this project so Nonvoting members should be able to become committee chairs
  - Article V: If someone isn't representing in the task force the way that they should be (besides attendance), how would we remove them?
    - The chair could talk to this person one on one, but we shouldn't add anything in the bylaws about this because that could create factions.
- **We will be voting on the bylaws at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting**

- **Action Item-** Tami Carter made a motion that *S3 Housing Connect* be the official name. Wayne Chew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. *S3 Housing Connect (with the tagline Shelter, Services, Stability)* is the official name.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Low Barrier Shelter-** The first meeting for LBS was held after Bread of Life's Board meeting. Committee members attended the board meeting to hear about Bread of Life's progress with opening their white flag shelter by winter. This white flag shelter will need to be open during all extreme temperatures and possibly even severe weather conditions (i.e. - tornados, hurricanes). Lastly, the group addressed that the homeless cluster maps need to be updated, transportation for the homeless needs to be found, and we need to ask current shelters about reducing their barriers to help more people.
- **Service Provision-** Coordinated intake includes prevention and diversion, and is the best process to assist with informing individuals about local services.. HAVEN and 2-1-1 could be intake points. This committee believes that one of our top priorities should be to have a "canned response" to give to the homeless, so everyone is telling them the same information about where to go first.
- **Housing-** Housing is currently focusing on adding new community partners to the committee to represent different sections of housing. They also want to get landlords engaged and informed, because many landlords have biases. Some challenges they will face are availability of land and access to use that land for development projects, obtaining financing, and code enforcement.
- **Community Engagement-** A social media campaign will be starting very soon. This will include an open Facebook page to get the community involved, a closed Facebook page for interaction between S3 Housing Connect members, a website, and an Instagram or Twitter to get a younger demographic involved. Other forms of community engagement include going to speak at events, civic clubs, local TV and radio stations, and promotional material such as using the electronic billboard, pamphlets, and brochures.
- **Resource Development-** This committee is focusing on finding more than just money. People and goods can also be resources. However, we don't want to siphon resources away from existing organizations. Lastly, we need to have a documented plan of this initiative that can be used when asking for money.
- **Data and Metrics-** They are currently starting to gather information, then use surveys to get new numbers, and then utilize that information by adding it to a map or other centralized database. We need to validate the data we have before we can start to measure success.

**SWOT Analysis Presentation-** Charles Taylor discussed SWOT analysis results from February, and new opportunities and threats were discussed. A summary of these responses will be provided at the next meeting.

**Closing-** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.