

S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes
November 9, 2017
San Lee Park Nature Center

Attendees: Kendra Martin, Carla Carpenter, Bob Hughes, Brad Simon, Earl Murphy, Janet Ayres, John Paschal, Bill Hicks, Wayne Eric Chew, Gayle Johnson, Johnnye Waller, Luke Schenkel, Beth List, Dick Poletti, Holly Marosites, Turine Hicks, Tamara Brogan, Sherry Overton Shudra, Emily Schwartz, Betsy Jungkind, Lesa Price, Tami Carter, Heather Garrity, Jeffrey Rawlings, Rachel Picard, Marshall Downey, Karen Kennedy and Terry Allebaugh.

Welcome and Introductions, Agenda Review

Jeffrey Rawlings, Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Emergency Shelter Action Items

Jeffrey R. stated that this is the last *S3 Housing Connect* meeting prior to the opening of the extreme weather shelter. The Bread of Life Ministries (BOLM) Board and the Low Barrier Shelter committee made an action item list at their last meeting. At this time, the Resource Development committee has addressed all items on the list! Food options when the shelter is open will be needed. There is a 20 person maximum in the shelter. There will be two BOLM staff onsite at all times when the shelter is open and occupied. Bread of Life would like to have a warm meal ready the day before the weather event if possible. The worst case scenario, would be to at least have frozen food items available for cooking once open. Kendra Martin asked if meals could be made now, frozen and stored. Bill Hicks replied that there is space in their freezer for pre-made meals to be stored and welcomed any contributions. Jeffrey R. suggested that *S3 Housing Connect* could ask local restaurants if they would be willing to donate food when the shelter is open.

Six for Six Committee Reports

- **Data and Metrics-** Emily S. stated that at their last meeting they looked over PIT data again, and started making plans for future PITs. They feel that it might be best if the community takes charge over different aspects of PIT, and want to coordinate with Community Engagement to ensure that the PIT goes well. The list of things needed for January 31st Point in Time count (PIT) will be made soon. There will be different needs for each committee to work on for the event. Brad Simon stated that he felt you had to go out at around 10:00 PM if you want optimal engagement with the homeless. In addition, Brad S. said he will volunteer to count the people in Tramway since he already knows them. Emily's concern is that we don't have enough volunteers willing to go out that late at night. Jeffrey R. made the point that doing this count throughout the entire day is how to get the best numbers. Lastly, one of the committee's goals is to have more specific data about the local homeless population available for anyone to look at when needed.

- **Service Provision-** Tami Carter said the committee is still working on discussing coordinated entry for Lee County. Their vision is for one location to take the initial call and enter information into the HMIS. They have submitted a request to a local agency (HAVEN) requesting partnership, but there has been no official response to date. The lack of funding makes this more challenging. At their next committee meeting, they will be having a coordinated entry training. Any local agencies working with coordinated entry should be trained with coordinated entry techniques and forms. Another goal of the committee is to provide provision boxes. They are hoping to get 120 boxes for the volunteers to give out at the January 31 PIT count.

- **Housing-** Bob Hughes informed the group that at their last meeting a representative from the NC Housing Coalition, Tyran Hill, discussed housing funding options. A main concern for the development of affordable housing is finding developers and the money to build. Options also discussed were tax increases such as “penny for housing”, general obligation bonds by voter referendum and reviewing local policies and incentives to promote affordable housing creation. Another issue is the lack land availability for development. The NC Housing Coalition has a link on their website that shows the overburdened housing stats for each county. The Housing Committee is attempting to work on the Sanford Housing Authority’s Linden Avenue project to create some units for homeless. The issue is finding funds for pre-development items such as environmental, design work, etc. Shannon J. with Sanford Housing Authority is working on revised budget denoting monetary needs for the project. John Kirkman asked if renters and local landlords have been contacted to work with the committee and projects. The reply was that some have been invited to join the committee and a local landlord has been invited to the S3 meeting but no one has committed to the effort yet.

- **Community Engagement-** Betsy Jungkind stated the main goal for the committee has been the BOLM emergency shelter open house on Nov. 15 and the Shelter’s opening date for Dec. 1. Central Carolina hospital will be providing food for the open house and Bill and staff are working hard to make the open house a success. The Mayor and Bill will present at the open house. In addition, charitable contribution envelopes will be available for the event to start the capital campaign. Local Churches, businesses, nonprofits, elected officials and many list serves are invited to the event!!!

- **Resource Development-** Tamara Brogan reported that the committee has gone line by line through Bread of Life’s needs list and identified how to gather each item. The meeting was left with Resource Development asking for a packet of information about the changes Bread of Life is making and all of the facts about their new shelters so businesses can’t say no when asking for money. Resource Development asked for

suggestions on where BOLM could get a donated washer, dryer, and generator. Wayne Chew replied that Duke Energy gives out grants for generators. It was suggested by John Kirkman to visit the Habitat for Humanity store since they frequently have gently used washer and dryer sets in the store. Sherry Shudra suggested going to Lowe's and asking if their displays could be purchased. This committee is also looking for a volunteer who could research for grant opportunities targeted for the resources needed with this homelessness initiative.

- **Low Barrier Shelter-** Sherry Shudra and Bill Hicks reported on several items. The tables for the emergency shelter were delivered November 8th. Fire alarm equipment has been donated along with emergency doors, a security system, and linens. BOLM is working on a training plan for staff. Two Bread of Life volunteers are transitioning to paid staff. BOLM would like six to ten volunteers to go through training to help with overnights in the emergency shelter. There will also be operational and fire training for each volunteer. Volunteers and food are the two biggest needs at this point. After December 1st, new goals will be set. An *S3 Housing Connect* member asked if breakfast has been considered. The reply was that milk, cereal, and fruit are easy things that could be donated. Another question was if there will be shower facilities? Bill H. said there will not be for the emergency shelter portion, but there will be showers in the future McIver Achievement Center. Lastly, Marshall Downey said to reach out to the County's Environmental Health Dept. because they have been sending our information relative to bed bugs which are a huge concern for shelters.

Looking Ahead: S3 Housing Connect- Terry Allebaugh

Terry Allebaugh said that when looking at the mission statement, it seems like it is being well reflected in the efforts of this group! Terry A. suggested beginning each meeting by reading the mission statement because this is what connects everyone. Terry A. also recommended using the language of "extreme weather shelter" because this is better understood than "white flag shelter".

Terry A. reported that several committee chairs met prior to today's meeting and reviewed the committee's goals. The observation all chairs made was that goals are being accomplished and all committees are plugged into the efforts. The committees are focused on established 2018 goals. Great progress has been made and things are lining up well. Furthermore, Terry A. is shifting towards preparing written plans and working individually with committees over the next month.

Closing Comments/Other Business:

Jeffrey R. stated that only 23% of shelters nationwide have made the switch to low barrier. More shelters are making the switch, but with BOLM starting off with a low barrier shelter then we're already ahead of 77% of the country. The committees that are outward facing need to educate the

community and change perceptions, because there are so many misperceptions of the homeless, and you can't prejudge who and what the homeless population is truly like. Jeffrey R, reminded everyone of the importance to foster relationships with homeless within our community and ensure our local citizens understand this sector. We also need to remember to treat everyone equally because we aren't doing anyone a favor when we don't.

Jeffrey R. commended everyone for their hard work in this initiative!

The next meeting will be held on December 14, 2017 from 4-6 pm in the Gordon Wicker Room located on Hillcrest Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.