

S3 Housing Connect- Shelter, Services Stability

Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 10, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:36 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Beth Kelly gave a presentation on Sanford Cares

Approval of Bylaws

Jefferey Rawlings motioned that the bylaws pass. Wayne Chew seconded this motion. Keith Clark brought up discussion on bylaws. He stated that the bylaws had been handled correctly for now. The form isn't completely correct, but we all realize that this will be an evolving document. The bylaws passed unanimously.

Nomination and Approval of Chair and Vice Chair

Keith Clark nominated Sherry Shudra, and Sherry accepted. Lesa Price nominated Jefferey Rawlings, and Jefferey accepted. With a vote of five to four Jefferey became the new chair. Dick Poletti nominated Sherry Shudra for vice chair, and Lesa Price nominated Betsy Jungkind. With a vote of five to four Betsy Jungkind became the vice chair.

Approval of S3 Housing Connect Goals, Committee Descriptions and Tasks

Keith Clark started discussion by saying he is not ready to give approval for goals. He believes that organizationally it is a mistake to line the goals up with committees because it doesn't give us an overarching vision, common goal, or anything to help bring the committees together. Keith would like to see a vision added. It was brought up that our mission statement should cover this. Jefferey Rawling motioned that we approve goals, committee descriptions, and tasks. Johnnye Waller moved, and Wayne Chew seconded. Tamara Brogan brought up that S3 Housing Connect was created for finding shelter, but we need to add something to the goals about working to find the underlying root of homelessness. We need to go further than shelter and find what's causing homelessness in Sanford. Dick Poletti added that we need to see something in the goals about what issues we address before getting the homeless to shelter. Keith Clark restated that lining committees up with goals can cause people to not focus on the overall picture, and just focus on one area of the project. It was agreed that we should approve bylaws now, and they can be added to in the future if needed. Jefferey called for approval of goals, committee definitions and tasks, and they were unanimously approved.

Discussion/Presentation of Opening White Flag Shelter by Winter- Bill Hicks, Bread of Life

Bread of Life is planning to open an emergency/White Flag shelter by December 1st for the 2017-2018 winter months. An architect has finalized drawings for it, and Bread of Life is moving forward to present these to the planning and zoning board by the end of the month. The top priority for Bread of Life is getting a place so people won't freeze this winter. There isn't a lot of cost for this project, and it should be less than \$6,000. Bread of Life plans to reach out to the community and start a capital campaign for this and the longer term

Low Barrier Shelter project. Bread of Life is hoping to run this shelter with volunteers for the first year, and S3 Housing Connect can hopefully procure those volunteers! The ideal operating hours are 6 PM to 8 AM unless there is extreme weather conditions that would cause the shelter to stay open longer. Bread of Life hopes to work hand in hand with S3 Housing Connect on this project.

“Six for Six” Committee Reports

- **Low Barrier Shelter-** At their last meeting LBS voted to support the Bread of Life facility. We have 113 days to get the White Flag shelter up and running (from the date of this meeting). The steps needed for opening this facility are: the heating system might need to be looked at, take the completed architectural design before the zoning board and have it rezoned, general contractor, smoke detection and alarm systems, moveable tables, bedding and linens, feeding plan, staffing and volunteers, bedroom and bathroom facilities, an intake method, a solicitation license, law enforcement, and emergency generators. LBS also discussed an operating system for this shelter, a transportation system, and a notification system to let the homeless know when it is white flag conditions.
- **Service Provision-** At their last meeting Service Provision discussed coordinated assessment. We will be having a group training on this later. Right now we are deciding between two points of entry to use- 2-1-1 or HAVEN. The President of United Way of NC and Sherry Shudra will be coming to a later meeting to discuss both possibilities. However, we have to establish what we want our system to do before we can decide which system will be right for us. The resource booklet is being streamlined for homeless specific needs. Tami Carter spoke on the Enrichment Center’s Provision Box, which is a meal box of all nonperishable foods to hand out to the homeless. We want to have two homeless events- a door to door silent outreach event, and a community event. We want to be trusted and asked to come into the homeless community instead of barging in. Service Provision also discussed the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Charity Tracker. These tools allow organizations to see where a homeless person has gone for services.
- **Housing-** There hasn’t been another Housing meeting recently, but at the next meeting they will be defining different types of housing, looking at Sanford Housing Authority’s homeless and domestic violence preference points programs, and looking at a potential permanent housing opportunity. There will be new committee members at the next meeting.
- **Community Engagement-** There hasn’t been another Community Engagement meeting recently, but Rachel has been working on the website and social media with Kelly Miller and Byron Buckels. The website and social media are almost complete, but Rachel has to do a bit more formatting and a logo has to be chosen before we can release the website and social media to the public.
- **Resource Development-** A few new committee members have been added. Resource Development has looked into COLTs, but they have no extra money to provide transportation for the homeless. There is a mechanism they could use for billing so we could potentially use COLTs if we could find a way to fund that. Housing committee has requested funding, and Resource Development is looking into that.
- **Data and Metrics-** This committee is still working on getting data from the schools and validating those numbers. They are looking into doing PIT counts more frequently. They also want to look at involving and identifying the Hispanic homeless population.

Discussion about Point in Time Count- Sherry Shudra, HAVEN

Sherry Shudra did last January's PIT count with volunteers and staff from HAVEN. For PIT, you count people on a single night from 6 PM to 6 AM. You are counting sheltered and unsheltered people, but you have to keep in mind the HUD definitions of what homeless means. You can't just count everybody you see. You have to ask questions because this information gets reported back, and this is a federal requirement. Sherry prepared for this for about a week beforehand by reviewing instructions and surveys with the participating shelters and programs. The actual number of homeless is a lot higher than what is recorded because a lot of people hide, don't want to be counted, or don't want to share their information. You also can't count any questionnaires that were started but not completed. The questions on these surveys are intense, and sometimes the homeless don't feel comfortable answering, especially if there are people nearby. Because of this, the less we can make it like a survey and the more we can make it like "how can we help", the better. It takes a lot of time to weed out duplicate surveys and collect data. We should start out by doing a quarterly PIT to get more data and be prepared for the real one in January. We need well trained volunteers for this who are used to working with the homeless. A good idea would be to hire formerly homeless to do this count because they have rapport already. Going out with police officers isn't very useful, because it makes the homeless scared and they distrust you. However, this is very dangerous work and you need to be prepared for it. "It's dangerous, but doing nothing to help is more dangerous". Sherry said she was never frightened when doing it, because the people knew she was there to help. It was suggested that we could go out to homeless camps and let them know we're coming so they won't scatter, but would this skew the data? The next official count will happen in January. Before this, we need training and dry runs to get used to the process. It was suggested that we bring food to encourage a relationship and to get the homeless to give us information.

SWOT Analysis- Charles Taylor

Top weaknesses were discussed

Closing Remarks, Evaluation Form & Adjourn

The next meeting will be on September 14th. Time is TBA.