

***S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes***  
**January 11, 2018**  
**Gordon Wicker Room**

**Attendees:** John Kirkman, Cindy Hall, Gayle Johnson, Luke Schenkel, Sherry Grello, Wayne Eric Chew, Tami Carter, Chris Kelley, Deborah Davis, Alice Gordon, Marcia Johnson, Marilyn Gilliam, Sherry Shudra, Dick Poletti, Kate Rumely, Holly Marosites, Emily Schwartz, Tamara Brogan, Charles Taylor, Byron Buckels, Linda Ware, Brad Simon, John Paschal, Bill Hicks, Jeffrey Rawlings, Rachel Picard, Marshall Downey, Karen Kennedy and Terry Allebaugh.

**Welcome and Introductions, Mission Statement Review**

Jeffrey Rawlings, Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. S3's Mission Statement was read aloud to the group. Jeffrey Rawlings gave recent examples of local homeless situations he had worked on with the group.

**Membership Items-** Item delayed until a future meeting.

**Jan 31- Point in Time (PIT) Count- Wayne Chew and Jeffrey Rawlings**

There will be a PIT Count training next Thursday. At this training, everyone will be receiving the new forms provided for use with this year's count on January 31st.

*S3 Housing Connect* is seeking volunteers for that evening to assist with visiting sites and gathering information. All local marketing opportunities will be used such as Facebook and local radio and newspaper options.

The PIT count is extremely important as we seek future funding. An idea was mentioned to have volunteers wear necklaces (glow sticks) or arm bands while conducting the count. If there are any homeless sites throughout the county that haven't been identified on the homelessness site map, please email Wayne Chew. Dick Poletti asked how many teams would we like to have and Wayne C. that the committee is still working those details out at this time. Byron Buckels suggested that there be at least one male per team and everyone agreed this would be a beneficial idea. Brad Simon asked if men from the shelter could volunteer. Wayne said that would be very helpful, but they have to come to the training sessions. Wayne reminded the group about the S3 Facebook page and asked folks to like the page and follow. Library representatives asked the group not to include the library in the count so a person's anonymity is preserved.

**Bread of Life Ministries Extreme Weather Shelter Update- Bill Hicks**

Bill H. stated that meals and resources have been coming in on a consistent basis since the shelter has opened. At this time, up to 13 ( $\frac{2}{3}$  of capacity) people have utilized the facility. People are able to come in throughout the night. Even on days it doesn't get above 32 degrees, all of the homeless have left in the morning and returned by 6 PM. The staff has 14 hours shifts, and multiple volunteers working at different times.

Bill H. wanted to address some concerns that occurred after last month's meeting and clarify the financial conversation. Bread of Life Ministries is nowhere close to closing. Since the Extreme Weather shelter is a new item for their budget they are utilizing other program funds, as well as contributions, for the shelter until a more consistent revenue stream accumulates. However, many businesses and individuals are starting to donate and for this Bill H. stated his appreciation. The Emergency Weather Shelter plans to remain open and functional. John Paschal felt the shelter has really brought the community together to assist and feels we need to focus on how to help the homeless during the day. In addition, John P. wants to figure out how to have shower facilities available for the shelter users. Bill H. stated that in addition to providing shelter and food, the more important goal is to work with the homeless to find out why they are homeless and how to assist them more. One issue that has been addressed was ensuring there is a female volunteer in place when there are females in the shelter.

**Presentation of Committee Goals-** Jeffrey R. stated that all committees have been working to develop their 2018 goals and once the goals have been discussed, the task force will need to endorse them.

*(A copy of the committee goals discussed is attached to these minutes)*

- **Housing-** Both Shannon J. and Bob H. were absent therefore Karen K. provided the summary of the goals focusing on securing funding for affordable housing and Sanford Housing Authority's Linden Avenue project. The committee is working hard gathering data on local affordable housing needs and seeks to find a dedicated fund for affordable housing. One option is to create an incentive program for developers and expand access to existing affordable housing. John Paschal asked if they are currently working on the Linden Avenue project and Karen K. said that until funds could be secured for environmental testing the project could not move forward. Most grants do not pay for those front end expenses. The work of the housing committee is a long term effort that will take support by the elected officials, community groups and housing developers.
- **Low Barrier Shelter-** Sherry Shudra informed the group the committee is continuing to seek funding support for the Extreme Weather Shelter the McIver Achievement Center.

Bread of Life is continuing to work towards the steps necessary to seek funding later in the year for Emergency Shelter Grant funds (ESG). Bill H. said he wanted to make a checklist to make sure they're preparing for that process correctly. Terry A. asked that they add "becoming grant ready" to goals, and Sherry S. said they could work with Resource Development committee on this.

- **Service Provision-** Tami Carter stated that some of the goals for the committee are to engage community service providers creating a rapport to implement a process for coordinated assessment and entry, coordinated diversion, and working with the emergency shelter hotel program. The creation of a Google Doc database of available shelter beds is crucial. Providing the homeless population with food boxes, how to best support the library which often serves as our current day shelter, and increase income opportunities. Marcia Johnson asked who our point of contact at CCCC is and Tami Carter replied that we currently don't have one main one. John Paschal said there aren't currently enough resources for children and teens. Terry Allebaugh suggested that "identify and coordinate mental health services and services for children" be added as a goal. Dick Poletti asked if we should get involved with Boys and Girls Club. Tami replied that there are several entities we can start working with, but our goals are extremely broad right now.
- **Community Engagement-** Wayne Chew informed the group that some of the most immediate goals for them is to create a public information campaign, including social media, to promote *S3 Housing Connect*, serve as lead for this year's PIT Count, oversee a community volunteer program, and sponsor a community forum with formerly homeless participants.
- **Resource Development-** Tamara Brogan stated a major goal is to start a public and private campaign to address local homelessness projects, the first being the Bread of Life Shelter and McIver Achievement Center. The committee has sent an email asking S3 members to each donate \$100 and find two others to donate \$100. In addition, the committee would like to obtain funding to assist with environmental assessment needs of the Linden Avenue project, donations for food boxes and seek and procure grants. John Paschal said that the Bread of Life Board has seen many donations coming from S3's efforts to find funding. Bill Hicks asked if funding efforts could start to be focused on the McIver Achievement Center, since that is the more impactful project. Tamara Brogan said yes, but as of now we're just focusing on this season and what is important right now.

- **Data and Metrics-** Emily Schwartz stated the committee's efforts have been working toward establishing baseline numbers about the local homeless, developing a quarterly inflow/outflow homelessness chart, creating a coordinated entry Google Doc, and working towards a 2018 numeric goal to reduce homelessness, as well as determine the financial impact of reduced homelessness, and provide data research to other committees. Terry A. suggested that maybe the local hospital could begin asking patients if they are homeless to provide numbers for what we are spending on the homeless and how much it costs. Dick Poletti asked if we're following our mission, shouldn't homelessness in Sanford be decreasing instead of growing? And S3's work should be getting less and less instead of more and more? Terry A. replied that once the data is in there are steps that can be taken to tell a story. Wayne C. stated that homeless people on the street are prone to disease, which makes medical costs for assisting the homeless more challenging. John Paschal stated that the majority of the people who utilized the shelter to date have been working and were struggling to find affordable housing to not be homeless anymore.

Jeffrey Rawlings asked for a motion to accept the committee's goals with corrections. **Sherry Shudra made a motion to accept the goals as presented and Lesa Price seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Six For Six Committee Reports**

Jeffrey R. asked if there were additional committee reports.

**Resource Development-** John Kirkman said that one of the projects he has been working on the committee with is targeted towards the City of Sanford hiring 3-5 homeless individuals to work as day laborers. One of the needs was utilizing a local nonprofit as a sub-recipient of the funds and pay the workers. The Salvation Army is discussing the opportunity and Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action has agreed. Karen Kennedy wanted to clarify that meetings with the City Manager and staff about the project are just in the research phase. Supervision, liability, transportation, etc. would have to be discussed in more detail. In addition, the City Council has not been approached by staff, nor approved the project at this time. Dick Poletti asked if the worker's income would be reported and Jeffrey said yes. John K. and Karen K. will continue to work with city staff about how best to proceed.

#### **Discussion of Final Work Plan & Next Steps- Terry Allebaugh**

Terry Allebaugh thanked the committees for their hard work and is preparing a final work plan based on his work with *S3 Housing Connect* to date. The plan is to make a presentation to both the City and County elected officials in February about the project. The presentation would

include comments from Jeffrey R. as chair, Terry A. and possibly Rachel Picard, Intern. Terry A. encouraged as many people within this group should attend and show their support. The presentation is not to ask for money. However, the goal is to make everyone aware of the work this group has been doing over the past year and discuss future goals and strategies to address homelessness.

Charles Taylor said two variables in this community are 1) incarcerated people getting released and staying here, so there will always be new homeless from this, and 2) the possibility that us being successful will bring more homeless here, so we should not get discouraged that our work isn't becoming less, as Dick asked about earlier. Jeffrey R. said as in Durham, when you put good things in place people will come to it. Terry A. said we don't want to become a homeless magnet, but we want to be a good resource for homeless individuals when they are here!

### **Closing Remarks, Evaluation & Adjourn**

Evaluation Forms were given to each attendee to complete.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.