

## ***S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes***

**June 21, 2018**

**Lee County Government Center, Gordon Wicker Room**

**Attendees:** Betsy Jungkind, John Kirkman, Bob Hughes, Lesa Price, Tim Burrigs, Marcia Johnson, Hamer Carter, Tami Carter, Adrienne Mullinax, Leah, Angel, Cindy Hall, Brad Simon, Beth List, Cathelin Almonte, Chris Kelley, Laura Spivey, John Paschal, Marilyn Gilliam, Holly Marosites, Kendra Martin, Dave Whittaker, Mary Ann Gaster, Mandy Moss, Michelle Bates, Josh Payne, Carla Carpenter, Brooke Bruner, Johnnye Waller, Tamara Brogan, Zach Horner, Kate Rumely, Karen Kennedy, Rachel Picard, Terry Allebaugh

### **Welcome, Introductions, Mission Statement, Betsy Jungkind**

Introductions were made by all in attendance. The mission statement was read by everyone. May's meeting notes were accepted as presented.

### **S3 Housing Connect's 1st Birthday Celebration**

Mandy Moss made a birthday cake in honor of *S3 Housing Connect's* 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday milestone. Terry Allebaugh and Betsy Jungkind blew out birthday candles and Happy Birthday was sung by everyone.

### **Membership Items, Terry Allebaugh**

According to *S3 Housing Connect* Bylaws, members are expected to attend at least 75% of meetings. As we celebrate S3's birthday, it seems a good time to address organizational duties for the upcoming year. In a review of meeting attendance logs, it was found that JJ Johnson and Heath Cain haven't attended the required amount of meetings to remain active. Therefore, a nomination for removal as a voting member is necessary. There were also four non-voting members whose active status needs to be researched and considered for replacement. It was suggested that the chair and/or staff contact the non-voting members to see if they are still interested in remaining as a non-voting member. Terry A. mentioned that nominations for new members are welcomed. Betsy J. asked if there are any specific qualifications that we need to keep in mind for members. Terry A. replied that individuals representing organizations that may receive funding directly from S3 efforts should be considered as it was when the task force was assembled. Karen Kennedy added that she reached out to JJ Johnson a couple of months ago, and he replied that he has been busy with various items but kept up with activities via email correspondence. Tami Carter added that Heath Cain is on the Service Provision committee and has not replied to any emails. Cindy Hall, Bob Hughes, and Chris Kelley agreed to be on a nominating committee to review the current voting and non-voting members and replace any vacancies. If there are interested individuals in attendance tonight, on committees or other potential participants, please relay their contact information to Cindy Hall. Betsy J. reminded

everyone that removal from the voting/non-voting status is nothing personal or negative, but a way to get new faces and talent for the *S3 Housing Connect* initiative.

**Betsy J. made a nomination to remove JJ Johnson and Heath Cain as voting members. The motion passed.**

**Report from Outreach Mission, Inc., -Marcia Johnson**

The Men's Shelter and Women's Shelter in Sanford have always been run by two organizations: Outreach Mission, Inc. who was the owner of the properties and took care of maintenance, and Christian Faith Ministries, who was in charge of day to day operations. Due to recent changes in administration, Outreach Mission's Board of Director decided to manage the shelters on their own. Since these decisions were made recently, Outreach Mission has informed Pastor Kivett (Christian Faith Ministries) of all of the changes. In addition, he has been invited to continue supporting the organization.

With this new focus, Outreach Mission has gone to a different management and protocol style in collaboration with other Sanford shelters. The work of *S3 Housing Connect* and its partners has encouraged collaborations with Bread of Life, Family Promise and Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action. The goal is to focus mainly on providing a safe place for people to stay. Terry A. and Jeffrey Rawlings have assisted with this new focus via interagency meetings with local shelter providers. It has been decided that both shelters need to stay open 24/7 and will also now be truly low barrier as based on HUD's definition. Outreach Mission Board members met with current residents at both the men and women's shelters. At the Women's Shelter most residents were pleased with the changes. A new house manager will be in place at the women's shelter. The meeting with the Men's Shelter went well also. Brad Simon is becoming case manager for both shelters and will no longer reside in the Men's Shelter. The next steps were to make some security changes to the shelters for safety. The Outreach Board has been meeting frequently with all the changes and a letter to existing supporting churches has been drafted. This letter informed the churches what will be done differently and encouraged them to continue supporting Outreach Mission. Hamer Carter added that most support (80% or better of their funding) comes from local churches. A letter to the editor has also been drafted about all the changes. The goal is to get accurate information into the community so rumors are not spread. Marcia continued that their next step is to figure out salaries for workers and funding sources. Rachel Picard has been assisting Outreach Mission with rebranding, but there are still many changes to be made.

John Paschal said "First, can we start by applauding you" and S3 attendees applauded Outreach Mission's hard work. Marcia said that support and education from *S3 Housing Connect* is what has kept them going and guided them as they made decisions for change. John Kirkman asked if their definition of low barrier will be the same as Bread of Life's, and Marcia said it will be, but

they're still working on the details. Marcia J. added that low barrier doesn't mean no barrier- a person who could harm themselves or others would not be allowed in. Hamer added that when Outreach Mission started, they were technically low barrier. All they cared about was what their mission statement said, which was giving a hot shower and a hot meal. Over the years they transformed into something different than originally discussed. He also stated that the cold weather of this past December was eye opening, because it showed that they did not have the capacity to help everyone. With this new awareness, they decided they needed to be able to reach more people. Lastly, Brad Simon added that there will now be a case plan for each individual staying in the shelter to optimize resources and services for each client. Jeffrey R. will assist with housing options as well as the many partners in this room to make sure clients are housed.

### **Fall Fundraising Opportunity, Tamara Brogan**

Tamara B. stated that Family Promise had been planning a joint fundraiser and had the majority of the planning complete but one of their key partners backed out. With a new partner needed, Tamara suggested that S3 Housing Connect might be a great partner for the fundraiser to assist with our project fundraising goals. The first project was for a ping pong ball drop, but the Resource Development committee decided it was too last minute to accomplish this year. We could hold the event next spring or fall. The next idea was introduced by Bill Stone and he suggested the idea for Cow Patty Bingo. Tamara explained that a field is divided into squares, the squares are sold, and whichever square the cow patty lands in is the winner. Tamara stated the excitement Bill S. had for the project and his willingness to coordinate was awesome. Therefore, he has researched the event and it will be held on September 14th at the Lee County Fair. Better still, the Lions Club will be a sponsor! If this event goes well then possibly it would be our yearly fall fundraising event and in the spring we could have a different event. *S3 Housing Connect*, can be the umbrella organization and money raised could be split between all homelessness organizations in Sanford. Details of that piece will still need to be discussed.

### **Six for Six Committee Reports**

- 1. Data and Metrics-** The committee has been meeting however Emily was out of town this week. Karen K. said the group has been working on an outreach event for the homeless to be held in September. Details at a future meeting.
- 2. Housing, Bob Hughes-** Housing recently met with the Service Provision committee. Out of that came a small group to plan a fall event for landlord engagement. The goal is to let landlords know how Sanford has few affordable housing options and a need exist for much more. They also discussed tiny houses as an option. Tami Carter added that five or six people have come in to the Enrichment Center looking for housing, but the first available apartment isn't open until August. There are also only about 10 apartments from low end to high end that will be available. The low number available and high costs

has been eye opening for the committee. Bob H. added that Jeffrey R. was trying to help around 20 people find housing. Brad S. added that another issue is criminal histories, and rapid rehousing won't pay for a room in a boarding house, which is the most lenient with criminal histories. Bob H. said that people need to be mentored when they get into housing. John Kirkman asked if room sharing or roommates have been considered, and Bob H. said they would look into that option. John K. also asked about the Linden project, and Bob said that is dead at this time. Lastly, John K. asked about the emergency hotel funding and how to access that, and Karen K. replied it still exists and goes through Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action.

- 3. Low Barrier Shelter, *John Paschal***- Bread of Life is working on their facility so they can open for extreme heat. They have done a lot with their financial structure over the past few months and to obtain a solicitation license. Karen K. added that Zach Horner called her to ask where to send people for extreme heat. Bread of Life is currently not ready for this, but they will be soon. They hope to have the technical specs and bid packages ready soon. Funding is in place for this project, as well as plumbing upgrades for a shower in the existing men and women's bathroom. Hamer added that Outreach Mission's shelters have been temporarily open 24/7 because of the heat and is an option when space is available.
- 4. Community Engagement, *Betsy Jungkind***- They are looking forward to getting the community excited for Cow Patty Bingo. The Homelessness Survey got around 230 responses, and we will begin analyzing that data. If you have a Facebook please like *S3 Housing Connect's* page, and start sharing and liking the posts. Engagement with the Facebook is how we can get other community members involved with S3!
- 5. Resource Development, *John Kirkman***- Irene Smith has helped prepare Bread of Life for writing grants and has come up with guidelines for funding presentations. People, including the Mayor, are ready and willing to go out and seek funding. One of the Mayor's suggestions was finding donors to continuously give donations over time instead of one time giving. Most of their recent meeting was spent discussing Cow Patty Bingo.
- 6. Service Provision, *Tami Carter***-At their first meeting of the month, they discussed the questionnaires for the service provider network. They also discussed HMIS, and training for that will hopefully come this month. At their latest meeting, they met with the Housing committee about landlord outreach. Also, United Way brought up the 211 system, which will be reviewed next month. Job skills and job searches were discussed, and they would like to potentially partner with Salvation Army's program to add components.

**“Keep Our Mojo Working”, Terry Allebaugh**

Terry started his presentation by standing up and playing “When the Saints Go Marching In” on harmonica. The display of his talent was awesome and attendees in the room appeared moved by his rendition of the song. Terry A. stated that instead of hearing “saints go marching in”, he hears “saints go marching home”. If you have the opportunity to see people who have been homeless find a new home, it is a wonderful thing. Those are the saints heading home. It gets in your heart, and it has gotten in the hearts of Sanford’s people. Every time Terry leaves Sanford he feels revitalized and he said he is so moved by how Sanford has taken up the cause for homelessness. *S3 Housing Connect* is maintaining its energy, and it’s because we’ve tapped into a shared passion. A few things that have driven us and created shared value include: Outreach Mission and their courage to forego the status quo, struggles such as learning coordinated entry and Housing First, energy like displayed at the Service Provider Breakfast, the Mayor and local officials staying involved and helping with fundraising, the Extreme Weather Shelter working hard to open in a new season, and obtaining funding from the city, county and state. All of this happened because we spoke up for our shared value. Terry encouraged the group to please continue coming to meetings and working hard so more “saints marching home” can be experienced by all. ***“Keep the Mojo”*** working because there is so much good energy here.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2018, from 4 to 6 PM in the Gordon Wicker Room (Lee County Government Center).