

S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes
July 12, 2018
Buggy Building Conference Room

Attendees: Michelle Bates, Ben Gardner, Brad Simon, Earl Murphy, Chris Kelley, Tami Carter, Johnnye Waller, Carla Carpenter, Tamara Brogan, Betsy Jungkind, Emily Schwartz, Gary Murray, Lesa Price, John Kirkman, Mary Ann Gaster, Dave Whittaker, Dick Poletti, Bob Hughes, Josh Payne, Sherry Shudra, Laura Spivey, Pat Hawes, Cindy Hall, Wayne Chew, Marcia Johnson, Brooke Bruner, Kate Rumely, Rachel Picard, Karen Kennedy, and Mayor Chet Mann.

Welcome, Introductions, Mission Statement- Jeffrey Rawlings, Chair

New members introduced themselves. Wayne Chew was welcomed back and thanked everyone for their support, cards and outreach.

Membership Items

a. Report From Nominating Committee, Cindy Hall

After discussion of several names, Max Dolan and Pamela Glover have been contacted about becoming a voting member to replace vacancies on the task force. Max Dolan has a strong tie with veterans and works with homelessness in Lee County and Fayetteville. Pam Glover represents *NC Works* which offers financial aid for those wanting to go back to school.

Cindy H. made a motion that S3 accept these nominations. Dick Poletti seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

Karen Kennedy mentioned that other people who are interested in being involved should be added to committees.

b. Promoting Positive Images of S3 Housing Connect and its Partners, Jeffrey Rawlings

Jeffrey R. reinforced to the group that we need to make sure we're on the same team and saying the same things when talking to the media about all partners and activities related to homelessness initiatives. We need to think about how things will be received and only uplift each other.

Sanford/Lee County Homelessness Survey Report- Rachel Picard

Rachel prepared a 13 question survey and it was distributed to several local organizations and businesses, as well as an online link to social media. 245 responses were received and Terry A. told Rachel that was a great response outcome for a community our size. It shows interest in the topic. The respondents were mostly women (174) and 80% of respondents were age 40+. A question for future surveys would be if younger respondents would have a different answer. Rachel read the 13 questions to the group and gave a summary of responses. After Terry and Rachel reviewed two question responses stood out to them. One about whether people knew of the five local shelters and their response led us to believe that the majority do not know about

them. Another question about whether providing local shelter will attract homeless individuals from other communities and respondents felt it would. Therefore, this suggested a better public relations campaign is necessary. As any community grows, the number of homeless will rise. A summary of the responses will be attached to the minutes of this meeting for future reference.

Progress of Local Coordinated Entry Efforts- Jeffrey Rawlings

The North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness is revising the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and the changes are taking longer than expected. With this delay, we have not been able to have any HMIS training. However, coordinated entry is still important. We should be saying the same things when people call and ask for help. Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action should not be the first point- it should be local shelter representatives. Bob Hughes asked if the coordinated entry sites have already been trained. Jeffrey said they have and a refresher training will occur soon. Kate Rumely asked if a contact list could be sent out for people who aren't in HMIS, and Jeffrey said yes. The list is already up on S3's website. We need to think about the type of person we're helping when deciding where to send them. Wayne Chew said Bread of Life has not been trained yet. Jeffrey said we aren't training until the new system is up. Tami Carter said she would coordinate training when the system upgrades are complete.

Six for Six Committee Reports

Resource Development, John Kirkman- Bread of Life presentation materials and a powerpoint for donors have been created and shared with the committee. Bread of Life is now registered for grants. The Linden project is back for consideration as one bedroom efficiencies. Shannon J. and Karen K. are pursuing grants for this project. Tamara Brogan added that the date for Cow Patty Bingo is September 14th. Mayor Chet Mann stated this would be a great advocacy time with 20-30,000 people anticipated to attend the fair. Karen asked how money for Cow Patty tickets should be funneled, and Tamara said Family Promise could do it under a S3 separate account. Rachel and Karen will continue working with city staff about how best to handle the funds if the City takes on the responsibility.

Housing, Bob Hughes- Bob met with City Staff to discuss affordable housing. They discussed rental vs. ownership housing needs and the city's East Sanford redevelopment plans. The Event Subcommittee will meet to plan a landlord engagement event. They will focus on affordable rent options and landlord outreach. Following the committee meetings, it was decided that the Housing Committee will focus on ownership projects later.

Jeffrey Rawlings added that he is working two jobs at the moment with JLHCA- landlord developer and case manager. With his heavy workload he hasn't had as much time to get people into housing. Also, the JLHCA phone system has some features that make it not so user friendly so the best way to reach him is by email or text.

Low Barrier Shelter, Sherry Shudra- HAVEN has filed paperwork relative to an intent to apply to the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness for funds which could allow them to handle rapid rehousing for all domestic violence victims in the area. NCCEH knows a lot about *S3 Housing Connect* and encouraged Sherry to apply for more money than she originally intended.

Lately, most of Low Barrier Committee's focus has been on Bread of Life, but they want to add other shelter representatives to the committee. Jeffrey added that the reason the committee was originally created was because Sanford didn't have a low barrier shelter. Brad Simon added that Outreach Mission's shelters have changed the way they operate, and everyone has been very appreciative of the changes. Brad doesn't want people to think of the shelters as just a place to sleep- they also offer services that should be used. The committee will work closely with the Interagency Committee as discussions continue about local shelter development.

Service Provision, Tami Carter- The committee is waiting on NCCEH for HMIS training and continues to discuss coordinated entry points and goals. The committee would like to partner with Salvation Army and Cindy Hall (Jobseekers) on an employer fair. In addition, the committee thinks classes in resume writing, application assistance, skills, jobs and education would be beneficial to the local population as they seek employment. Kendra Martin presented information to the committee about 211. Finally the committee is working hard to start a service provider network, and this group will have a quarterly meeting once HMIS is up.

Data & Metrics, Emily Schwartz- The committee continues to work on the outreach event set for September 6th. Decisions have been made not to do conduct a fall point in time count. Street outreach will be the focus.

Community Engagement, Cindy Hall- As stated previously, the committee is working hard on the Cow Patty Bingo fundraiser at the local fair. The next event is the Meet and Greet in a few weeks. Rachel and the committee continues to work on S3 media outreach opportunities.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Jeffrey R. informed the group he has been asked to speak at the national homelessness conference on July 24th. The work of *S3 Housing Connect* is being discussed locally, statewide and in some federal level discussions with homelessness agencies.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.