



## **S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes May 9, 2019**

**Attendance:** Jeffrey Rawlings, Kendra Martin, Tami Carter, Pam Glover, Sherry Shudra, Tamara Brogan, John Kirkman, Lesa Price, Brad Simon, Earl Murphy, Laura Spivey, Cindy Hall, Johnnye Waller, Bob Hughes, Chris Kelley, Wayne Chew, Stan Holt

### **1. Coordinated Entry (Ehren, NCCEH), 211 Update (Heather, UWNC)**

Coordinated entry is necessary because it is the front door to services. Up until now, coordinated entry has just been from local community agencies. 211 will make it a centralized process. The only other community in North Carolina that is doing this is Charlotte. Charlotte is its own stand-alone Continuum of Care, but Sanford is part of the Balance of State Region 7. We have worked with the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness on this and some of the different protocols. This has been an 18-month process, but it's not over yet! There will be more conversations during and after the 211 launch. A lot of time has been spent on the privacy and security piece. The 211 office has done a live training with their staff that will be answering the phones. Remote staff will be available from 11 PM-7 AM; We will still need to train them. A Release of Information statement needs to be done in a way that works over the phone. It's important that we stick to all of the rules, even though this is usually done face to face. We're aiming to launch in mid-June. One of S3's biggest struggles is whether or not there is availability for someone to get in a shelter. Now, we will be entering data in 211, which will help us keep track of which shelters have availability. 211 has the ability to share and compare data. NC Care 360 will be starting in the next few years. This will be the first statewide coordinated care platform in the US. There have been some preliminary conversations about this, and everyone agrees it will not replace coordinated entry. A question was asked about domestic violence clients. The answer was that all DV cases get referred to HAVEN immediately. HMIS data is not entered for them, for security and safety reasons. Someone asked about people who are not eligible for services. Those who are not eligible for services will be taken out of the queue from the places that we know have limited target audiences. Someone else asked, "why have things been so problematic with 211?" The answer was that this is the first time 211/HMIS has been used as a front door. All stakeholders have to be at the table, and, as Ehren put it, "all kinks have to be worked out". HMIS is only as good as the folks who are using it; We have to train people slowly and deliberately instead of doing it too rapidly. As of now, a lot of the information on available services have been updated. Please start calling 211 now, because the service is there with updated information.

### **2. Fundraisers for S3**

Service Provision and Community Engagement committees were tasked with doing an outreach event that welcomes people who are currently homeless. The plan is to have an event at Depot Park in the summer. It could be called Community Summer Fellowship. Jeffrey and Terry could perform at the event. It could be held on a Sunday afternoon, after church with food trucks. Local churches could have a singing competition with an award. Categories could be individual, duet, small group, and large group. There could be testimonials between the contest participants. Could this event somehow be turned into a fundraiser? Churches could give a love

offering. The next upcoming fundraiser is Cow Patty Bingo in September. The Merry Gadflies are also willing to come back and donate 100% of proceeds to local homelessness. The date will be Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30-9:30 PM.

### **3. Future goals**

We have already accomplished a lot. The awareness that S3 has brought to the issue of homelessness has increased the use of local services. Next month will be Jeffrey's last month as chair of S3. He said he wants to fall back and focus on rehousing. This work is greater than any one person, and he wants to fulfill his role of getting people into housing. The group thanked Jeffrey for all of his amazing leadership, dedication, and passion to the cause.

### **4. Six for Six Committee Reports**

**Service Provision**, Tami Carter– Has been focused on 211, coordinated entry and fundraisers. See the above reports.

**Resource Development**, Tamara Brogan– This committee is looking for Cow Patty Bingo volunteers! They also have been working on a fundraising strategy incorporating individuals, businesses and grant writing. People are asking to see plans and financial reports from S3 and our partner agencies. They have been pursuing pro bono support from accounting firms.

**Low Barrier Shelter**, Sherry Shudra- Sherry will officially be leaving HAVEN on August 30. Rosa Portia will be training to become the new CEO. Sherry will now become board chair.

**Community Engagement**, Wayne Chew- This committee has been meeting with Service Provision to plan the summer event.

**Housing**, Bob Hughes- Housing committee has been waiting on the Triangle J affordable housing report. They hope to release it publicly and go before the city council and county commissioners. This initiative came out of Housing Committee. They currently have some statistics and recommended strategies that local government and S3 can use.

**Other announcements:** OMI received the award for outstanding volunteerism in NC. OMI was the only organization to receive this award; the other 20 awards were to individuals.

**With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.**