

**S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes**  
**September 14th, 2017**  
**Buggy Building**

**Attendees:**

Brad Simon, Dick Poletti, Gayle Johnson, Chet Mann, Lesa Price, Angela Cobb, Leon Jackson, Bob Hughes, Bill Hicks, Luke Schenkel, Betsy Jungkind, Byron Buckels, Beth List, Zachary Horner, Tamara Brogan, Chris Kelley, Alina Miller, Jen Tisdall, Tami Carter, Sherry Shudra, Heather Garrity, Cindy Hall, Charles Taylor, John Kirkman, Emily Schwarz, Cameron Sharpe, Wayne Chew, Jefferey Rawlings, Marshall Downey, Karen Kennedy and Rachel Picard.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jefferey Rawlings welcomed everyone and guests introduced themselves.

**Membership Items:**

Chet Mann read a resignation letter from Keith Clark. He is resigning from S3 due to health reasons. A get well card for Mr. Clark was passed around. Jefferey R. asked for a motion to accept the nomination. A motion was made and seconded. Jefferey R. then asked for a replacement to fill the vacant voting member position. Betsy Jungkind nominated Emily Schwarz. Emily S. accepted the nomination. Jefferey R. closed nominations and the vote for Emily S. passed unanimously. Therefore, Emily S. will fill the vacant voting position for *S3 Housing Connect*.

**Q and A with K-** (Questions and Answers with Karen Kennedy)

Karen K. reviewed the notebook binder contents and stated that future items will be disseminated with three holes for adding to the notebook. In addition, committee minutes will be added to the website for all to see and print for their notebooks if desired.

Karen K. explained that there have been comments made to her about possible concerns from the group with processes to date in formation of the task force and related committees. Therefore, city staff would like to open the floor for open dialogue and to hear from people with either positive or negative feedback so as to ensure the success of this initiative and *S3 Housing Connect*.

- Tamara Brogan stated that she is happy everyone has come together for this project. She is optimistic that we can do good things. However, she would like to continue to get down into the weeds, and do more than just surface work. The immediate need is a “White Flag” shelter but *S3 Housing Connect* is becoming so much more than that.
- John Kirkman stated that the local homeless problem is a lot more serious than we originally thought and we aren't meeting the current needs- the shelters aren't doing

enough right now. However, we've brought together the right people to solve the problem and he is encouraged that we can get a lot accomplished.

- Chet Mann stated that the City Council members are extremely grateful that everyone is working together.
- Dick Poletti stated that he felt there are two objectives: how to help and how to understand the homeless. He would like to see the group focus on how to turn the homeless issues around and get the community to help and understand the homeless in this city.

### **Building Our Knowledge Base, Terry Allebaugh, North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH)**

Handouts for this presentation were given to each attendee.

- There are a multitude of different needs to address the homeless population, so finding responses for each need is challenging; then finding funding and structure for these needs gets even more complex.
- Terry A. reviewed the Criteria for Defining Homelessness handout
  - A lot of work has to been focused on Category 1 and 4- these are the most common types of homelessness, and the ones currently prioritized for much of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. We need to focus on working with those who need us most. Other categories need help too, but these are most common and we have limited resources- how can we help the most with what we have?
- NC Continuum of Care (CoC) map- There are two primary uses of a CoC- regional groups that gather around that have representation from everybody to work on solutions to end homelessness, but in HUD language it's also a process to get funding
  - In NC, on this map, there are 12 CoC's- the one that's really important is green- that's the Balance of State (BoS.) It used to be that the colored counties shown on the map only received funding however now, all counties can receive funding.
- NC BoS CoC map- Now all counties are colored. We are region 7, there are 13. Lee County shares the region and funding with 9 other counties. This regional committee is very young. The work we're doing here will have a large impact on the rest of region 7. JLHCA representatives, as well as Karen K. attend these quarterly meetings. If others are interested in attending the meetings, please let Jefferey R. or Karen K. know of your interest.
  - Point in Time (PIT) Count- The website for the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness - [www.ncceh.org](http://www.ncceh.org) has a tremendous amount of resources. There are training materials, videos, etc. Terry A. stated that we need to have an outreach sometime before January, and take goodie bags to homeless individuals and gather information more informally as a forerunner to the big January count. We

aren't by ourselves in any of this, we're fitting into a bigger system. Lee County's region was about 25% of all of region 7.

- Funding Opportunity- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) handout. This grant opportunity may or may not work right now for Sanford, but it's worth looking into.
  - The funds were money that originated with HUD on a federal level and then is filtered to the state level. These funds used to be titled Emergency Shelter Grant but then shifted to the title Emergency Solutions Grant. This is a KEY grant but it's coming up very quickly. It is due to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHHS) on October 30th. The Region 7 housing committee has to review applications first to bring forward recommendations. It can be used for street outreach, shelter (staff, operations), housing stabilization (prevention and rehousing split), HMIS database and administrative expenses.
  - You don't have to be an operating emergency shelter to apply initially. However, there is a dollar for dollar match
  - Some webinars are happening immediately on this topic if interested in applying. Local staff are discussing how best to use this opportunity and if we are ready for an application.
- Questions:
  - When would funds be released? Early in the year. There is a pretty quick turnaround
  - Does this grant give you an advance? No - very few government grants do that, most are reimbursement which means the applicant must have an ability to pay for expenses within their current budget.
  - For the matching grants can you get credit for volunteer hours? Yes, it has to be documented, but this is an eligible in-kind expense. The crucial part is to document volunteer hours. A website to review this type of activity is: [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)- Even the hours of all in this room if documented may be utilized as in-kind. Therefore, all attendees should sign in at the registration tables at the meetings and meeting notes should document the attendees and the timeframe each meeting lasted. Furthermore, any activities of S3 Housing Connect should have documentation by individuals for volunteer hours.

Jefferey Rawlings introduced the Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action intern that has begun working with his office- Asiyah Alston.

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

- Data and Metrics- Focusing on doing internal PIT to see trends in Sanford. They would like to do this four times a year. A one page survey in both English and Spanish was

created to use during the PIT. A copy is in the binder. There will be a training event on September 28th at 5:30 in the Public Works Center training room. There is a goal of 100 volunteers but they would at least like 50. Charles T. will reach out to the Sanford Police Department to have the community police officers attend.

- Resource Development- John Kirkman is the new liaison for this committee. Sanford Job Express is willing to work with us for transportation to white flag shelters if they can get \$4000-\$6000 in funding. COLTs is also a possibility. *S3 Housing Connect* either needs to obtain 501C3 status or utilize local nonprofits and apply through their tax status for grant writing. The city can apply for grants also on behalf of *S3 Housing Connect*. This committee will visit the Inasmuch shelter in Fayetteville next Tuesday.
- Community Engagement- Focusing on public relation strategies, media relations, and guest speakers at local civic clubs and agencies about the *S3 Housing Connect* project. This committee will be most active at the middle and end of the project to get information out. They need information from the group so they can best tell others about our activities.
- Housing- The Sanford Housing Authority (SHA) is transitioning their current properties to a Rental Assistance Development (RAD) project via rehabilitation and related upgrades. In addition, neglect of local single family units limits the quantity of affordable housing units. Several new affordable housing apartment buildings have been developed over the last few years. SHA is the owner of a vacant building on Linden Avenue that it would like to renovate and use for homeless families. The hindrance is the lack of funding for pre-development costs and the Housing Committee would like to discuss this with the Resource Development Committee soon. Finding land and financing is also another reason development of local affordable units is not happening. The committee is researching an affordable housing funding stream based on other cities success where a tax increase by the local governments is approved and designated specifically for affordable housing. Some localities call this a “Penny for Housing”.
- Service Provision- Ashley Braxton came and discussed the *Finleigh’s Free Pantry* project and stated that several of the small boxes will be placed around the community. People can then take food products as needed. Another topic discussed at the last meeting was the Coordinated Intake process so that members understood the importance of a local community working with the individuals in need in a coordinated manner. Ehren Dohler with the NCEH attended the meeting to discuss homelessness related topics with the committee. There were also 2-1-1 and HAVEN presentations about their services of coordinated intake. Laura Marx represented NC 2-1-1 and informed the committee how it is utilized in larger cities. *S3 Housing Connect* needs to see what our local needs are and Service Provision will evaluate which of the options discussed may best serve us locally. From there they can make a recommendation and we can vote at a future *S3 Housing Connect* meeting.

- Low Barrier Shelter- The movable tables are ordered and will be delivered in October. There are 78 days until the White Flag Shelter should be open. A general contractor has been selected. Bill Hicks is working with the City's Planning Department to meet various deadlines for the project.

### Emergency Community Response Conversation

- Jefferey R. yielded the chair position to Betsy J. so he could represent JLH Community Action and discuss a recent issue related to a homeless individual in Sanford.
- There was a local homeless man on a sidewalk and the current outreach system in place had failed this man. After interest and kind actions from several interested individuals the man had to be outsourced to Wake County for shelter and assistance. Jefferey R. stated the need exists right now in our own community and Sanford is failing to help currently.
- No emergency response system in Sanford- There is a need for a funding stream to assist individuals in crisis with lodging and hotel emergency funds.
  - There should be one agency serving as gatekeeper for funds- once the need is identified and verified then they'd be sent straight to the gatekeeper
  - There will be some abuse in this system, know it and accept it, but our main goal is to help and get people in housing
  - One cent restaurant or hotel chain tax suggested may be called the homeless tax and dedicated to the cause.
  - Lots of local benefactors may be willing to help - local churches want to get involved and this could be a way. Several local Churches already provide funds for hotel stays, etc.
  - JLHCA is willing to take on the gatekeeper role since the organization already has an emergency response system in place.

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### Closing Remarks

Jefferey R. thanked everyone for their attendance. Karen K. stated she would let everyone know the location of the next meeting and apologized for the inconsistency in meeting rooms for this project to date. The next *S3 Housing Connect* meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. at a place to be determined.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.