



S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes

November 14, 2019 | 4-6 PM

Attendance: Sherry Shudra, Tamara Brogan, Kendra Martin, John Campbell, Kay Heflin, John Kirkman, Beth Kelly, Bob Hughes, Lesa Price, Earl Murphy, Carla Carpenter, Hamer Carter, Johnnye Waller, John Paschal, Kerry Bashaw, Betsy Jungkind, Tami Carter, Jefferey Rawlings, Wayne Chew, Christopher Luettger, Laura Spivey, Pamela Glover, Cindy Hall, Dr. Bill Hall, Chris Kelley, Ruth Price, Byron Buckels, Holly Marosites, Gabby Murillo, Gabrielle Saunders, Dick Poletti

Staff: Karen Kennedy, Rachel Picard, Stan Holt

I. Welcome, Introductions, Mission Statement- *Sherry Shudra, Chair*

II. Point in Time Count- *Cindy Hall/ Stan Holt*

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. There are two PIT training sessions scheduled- January 14th at 6:30 pm at First Baptist Church and January 22th at 12 pm at the Buggy Building. There will be a sign-up sheet at next month's S3 meeting. The PIT Count will be held on Wednesday, January 29. More information on volunteer shifts will come soon. Please start gathering donations now. We need items like socks, scarves, hats, mittens, small blankets, and non-perishable foods. Dollar Tree has all of these items right now for \$1. Sherry reminded everyone that accurate PIT data is necessary for funding opportunities.

III. H3 Update and Street Medicine Conference Highlights- *Dr. Hall*

Dr. Hall and Cindy attended a street medicine conference, which was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the hub of street medicine. There were over 460 people in attendance, from 35 states, 15 countries and five continents. The definition of street medicine is delivery of health care directly onto the streets- it adapts to patient's needs. Dr. Hall explained that people experiencing homelessness usually get discriminated against in normal doctors' offices and hospitals. The average life expectancy of a chronically homeless person is 53 years old, whereas non-homeless people can expect to live to 70 or older. The main causes of death for people experiencing homelessness are hypothermia, renal failure, opioid use, and heart failure. People experiencing homelessness, on average, have twice the ER visits per year, and are hospitalized twice as long in terms of costs. Being homeless also creates trauma, so we need to be transparent, show up and help, and prevent re-trauma.

Every time Dr. Hall is at Bread of Life he sees, on average, six to eight patients in one day. Some can be treated, but some need specialists or extensive care. His future goals are "to see more people". The plan is to find a nurse, social worker, and mental health specialist to add to H3's team. Ideally, the team would go out to encampments and treat people where they're staying. A referral system with specialists is also needed. Dr. Hall ended his presentation by saying there are no written rules to street medicine. "We do the right thing 'til we get caught, and then we do it a different way. We need to meet people where they are."

IV. *My Brother's Keeper Quilt Project- Kay Heflin*

My Brother's Keeper Quilt Project started after a homeless man helped a woman's son, and before parting ways, the homeless man said to the woman, "don't abandon me." The woman and her family then began crafting blankets out of sleeping bags and fabric. Kay attends St. Thomas Episcopal Church, where some of the women are very interested in starting this quilt project. However, Kay asked if these quilts are needed in our area. Sherry and a few others spoke up to say this is a great idea, and each of the nonprofits would love to have some of these blankets. Karen Kennedy said that these would be especially great to hand out on PIT Count night. Someone suggested partnering with the quilt shop in Downtown Sanford.

V. *Bread of Life Report- John Paschal*

Bread of Life's Extreme Weather Shelter has been open seven days in November and seen 21 total different people. They have seen 61 total people (individuals present on each night added together). There are at least seven people who are still homeless from last year. The max amount of people they've seen in one night is 14- BOL can hold 21 at max capacity. BOL opens if it is 35 degrees or below. They are starting to do intakes on clients to learn more about them. Local radio stations announce which nights they are open and it is also posted on Facebook.

VI. *Merry Gadflies Concert- Rachel Picard*

The Merry Gadflies benefit concert will be held at Temple Theatre on November 22, 2019. We have currently sold 28 tickets. There are two ticket options: VIP tickets (\$35), which include a social hour at RE/MAX with hors d'oeuvres, and a general admission (\$20) ticket. Last year's concert was great, and we'll be seeing familiar faces- Terry Allebaugh was our first consultant for S3, and another band member is from Sanford. All proceeds go to S3 Housing Connect, and you can buy tickets online or at the door.

VII. *S3 Task Force Applications/ S3 Restructuring- Stan Holt*

S3 has reviewed the application process, and applications for new voting members were sent out. Past voting and nonvoting members were asked if they wanted to continue. Some stayed and some left, leaving six voting slots open. The nominations committee is comprised of S3's chair, vice chair, and support staff (Karen, Stan, Rachel). Nominations committee will bring a slate of new members to the table, which S3 will then vote on. There has also been a merging of committees. The purpose and direction of S3 hasn't changed, we're just trying new ways to get work accomplished and thinking of new future projects.

VIII. *Project Homeless Connect Videos- Stan Holt*

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) videos from Denver, Colorado and Washington, DC were shared. PHC is a one-day, one-stop shop event where people in need can have access to all resources. It's a powerful day where volunteers and services come together to help. United Way has a guidebook on how to hold a PHC. S3 will plan to conduct PHC in the fall. Everyone agreed that this would be a great eye opener for the community.

IX. Coordinated Entry Review- Jefferey Rawlings

Lee County is part of the Balance of State Region 7. Jefferey showed the nine-county map of Region 7 and explained the funding and decision-making process for Balance of State. Jeff then reviewed the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT), point system, and the needs-based approach to accessing HUD's Rapid Re-Housing program. Two big issues are people returning to homelessness and lack of permanent supportive housing options, locally.

X. Committee Reports

- a. Services, *Tami Carter*- This committee discussed the monthly mental health series, Project Homeless Connect in Fall 2020, and "2-1-1 Jingle Mingle", an educational event for service providers (Check out the Facebook event for 2-1-1 Jingle Mingle! Share it with your friends!).
- b. Community Outreach and Engagement, *Tamara Brogan*- This committee wants to nail down S3's key three messages at their next meeting. They are looking into a public relations campaign, and also working to collect data from each of the shelters.
- c. Housing, *Bob Hughes*- This committee is looking into affordable housing, tiny home villages, and the possibility of acquiring properties in Sanford.

XI. Announcements, Closing Remarks and Adjourn

- a. Family Promise
 - i. Breakfast with Santa on December 7th
 - ii. FP now has an opening for one family or four people
- b. Retirement reception for Kate Rumely, Executive Director of Brick Capital Community Development Corporation- December 9th, 3-5 PM
- c. Outreach Mission's Home for the Holidays fundraiser- Raffle tickets for the playhouse/shed are \$10
- d. Buy Merry Gadflies tickets!