



S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes December 12, 2019

Attendance: John Kirkman, Kendra Martin, Maria Johnson, Sherry Shudra, Dick Poletti, Bob Hughes, Heather Garrity, Dr. Hall, Marty Pate, John Paschal, Cindy Hall, John Campbell, Carla Carpenter, Tamara Brogan, Kerry Bashaw, Katie Lemke, Tami Carter, Holly Marosites, Johnnye Waller

Support Staff: Karen Kennedy, Rachel Picard, Stan Holt

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

II. 2020 Point in Time Count, *Cindy Hall*

The Point in Time (PIT) Count will be held on January 29, 2020. There will be two shifts for volunteers- 11/11:30 PM and 4/4:30 AM. Counting Us, an app, will be used to complete the count and interview people. Community Engagement committee is beginning to start marketing the 2020 PIT Count. There will be two trainings for volunteers- January 14th at noon in the Buggy Building and January 22nd at 6:30 PM at First Baptist Church. We need to start collecting donations to hand out the night of the count. Things like small blankets, pop-top non-perishable foods, hats, scarves, socks and gloves would be most useful. Donations can be dropped off at the Buggy Building, First Baptist Church, or the Enrichment Center.

- a. **Homelessness Sites Map Review** – The 2019 map of homelessness sites was shared, and the group discussed possible other locations to add. We need to figure out where people experiencing homelessness are at in Lee County and Broadway and add those sites to the map.

III. Task Force Application Review and Member Recruitment, *Sherry Shudra*

Nominating committee is still reviewing applications and meeting with people who are potentially interested in joining S3. The goal for 2020 was to expand and diversify the group, so we are still looking for business people to join. Follow up calls will be made to SAGA to inquire about interested business people. The slate will be finalized and ready to vote on at the January S3 meeting.

IV. Project Homeless Connect Event- Fall 2020, *Sherry Shudra*

At last month's S3 meeting, we watched videos about Project Homeless Connect (PHC) and learned more about the event. Now, we want to get feedback- is this our next project? The ideal date for PHC is Fall 2020. We would need to find a location. S3 members agreed Project Homeless Connect is a great idea, and for the first year it would be smart to partner with First Baptist and Salvation Army's Job Fair. The only issue is that parking is difficult to find at First Baptist. Other suggested locations were

the armory in Downtown Sanford, the Civic Center and Bread of Life. Bread of Life or First Baptist would be ideal, since they have washing machines and showers. A corporate sponsor could reimburse water costs. It was agreed that one of the biggest issues would be transportation and getting people to the event. Someone suggested we reach out to the Baptist Men for shower trucks or tents. Sherry asked S3 to vote on if this would be the next big project, and S3 unanimously voted yes.

V. Merry Gadflies Concert, Rachel Picard

The Merry Gadflies concert raised \$1,300. If the band decides to perform again, we will consider having the show at the Mann Center to cut costs. S3 Housing Connect has not had the best luck with selling tickets for fundraisers and having big turnouts. Because of this, there have been talks about S3 not hosting its own fundraisers anymore. Instead, S3 would support nonprofits with their individual fundraisers.

VI. How Does Being Homeless Impact Everyone? Stan Holt

Stan led a discussion on how homelessness impacts everyone, from those experiencing homelessness to those seeing it. Some of the responses included:

- Health care costs are 3 ½ times as expensive as those who are housed; twice as long a hospital stay; passed on to taxpayer and health insurance premiums
- Police services up
- Dangerous to the homeless - they are afraid to seek shelter because of people stealing from them and threatening them
- Children are more likely to not finish school - limits our success and community workforce
- Media portrays homeless people inaccurately
- People feel very vulnerable when they are homeless and will do anything
- Untreated mental illness
- Cyclical
- Substance abuse can separate from the supportive community
- Reputation of homelessness is inappropriately based on the 10% who are chronically homeless
- Can make us uncomfortable
- Messages we have heard
- Unwillingness to listen to stories
- Fearful because that could be us
- Defining homelessness (motel living, car living). There are many different definitions of homelessness
- Morality issue- If people acknowledge homelessness, they feel they need to do something to help

VII. Committee Reports

Services, Tami Carter- At their last meeting they planned 211 Jingle Mingle, which turned out to be a success! There were 27 people present, and many of those were new faces. Kendra Martin gave a presentation on 211 and the difference between a regular 211 call vs a coordinated entry 211 call. This committee is working to identify available services in the community and increase involvement of mental health providers. This committee discussed doing presentations about S3 in front of the health department and social services boards. They also would like to try case conferencing with people experiencing homelessness to create individual service plans. The next Services meeting will be on January 7, 2020 at 3 PM.

Community Outreach and Engagement, Cindy Hall- At the last meeting the committee discussed the 2020 PIT Count, messaging and marketing. They reviewed a PR Campaign and started narrowing it down. They are also redesigning S3's logo, and will bring an updated version to next month's meeting. Lastly, they discussed the 2018 Homelessness Survey that Rachel Picard put together. This survey was to determine Sanford and Lee County resident's perceptions of homelessness. The next Community Outreach meeting will be on January 7 at 8:30 AM.

Housing, Bob Hughes- This committee is trying to determine options for housing in Lee County. There is still a lot of conversation around tiny homes, so Bob went and met with Tiny Home Development Corporation in Greensboro. Marshall Downey and Karen Kennedy shared information about zoning and local ordinances. This committee has added shelter representatives so the whole housing continuum can be considered when making decisions. The next meeting will be on January 7 at 10:00 AM.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Tamara Brogan reported that Family Promise's Breakfast with Santa event went extremely well!