

S3 Housing Connect Housing Committee Meeting Notes

Zoom

June 2, 2020 10:00 AM

Attendance: Bob Hughes, Rachel Picard, Stan Holt, Karen Kennedy, Kerry Bashaw, Dick Poletti, Marcia Johnson, Shannon Judd, Jeff Rawlings

1. Sanford Housing Authority (SHA) Report, Shannon Judd
 - There is a 756-voucher limit, but it is tied to a capped pot of money. There are enough vouchers to help, but not enough landlords and housing units. People can get the vouchers directly from SHA. SHA also has 15 VASH vouchers, but those people must come in through the Fayetteville VA office. There are currently 200+ vouchers available. When the waiting list opened, over 1000 applications were received. It's important to use the resources or HUD could recapture them.
 - i. Should S3 try another push to get landlords? This is a huge need.
 1. Different organizations have put ads in the newspapers and mentioned the need for landlords at meetings. However, being a landlord often is perceived incorrectly; People don't know how Section 8 housing works.
 - ii. Community Engagement committee wants to have Project Homeless Connect at CCCC and connect students with housing. Shannon said this is a possibility, because people in the 18-24 age range can apply for vouchers. CCCC students would be applicable.
 - People experiencing homelessness receive a preference for housing at SHA. The Linden Avenue project will be prioritized for homelessness when completed.
 - Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action and SHA vouchers could be coordinated.
2. OMI Updates, Marcia Johnson
 - OMI is preparing for an influx of new clients once moratoriums end. The number of clients is currently very low. Older clients are staying in one secluded part of the house in case there is a COVID outbreak, but luckily there have been no signs of COVID to date. The Board is currently searching for a new Women's Shelter staff member.
3. Brick Capital Community Development Updates, Kerry Bashaw
 - Currently, they are focused on building affordable houses. There are some vacancies in rentals. Kerry is working to find funding for later construction.
4. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
 - BCCDC is applying for PSH funding. Jeff will talk to Marie Watson (JLHCA) to see if they are also looking into PSH funding.
 - Reminder- PSH is specifically for chronically homeless individuals or those with disabilities.
5. Other Business
 - It was mentioned that we reach out to Habitat for Humanity to get them involved with S3 and our housing initiative. Stan said that a lot of Habitats don't connect with affordable housing. Karen stated that the local Habitat for Humanity Executive Director has been on the email distribution list since S3 began.