



## Services Committee Meeting Minutes

8/4/20 3PM / Zoom Conference

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
  - a. Members Present: Kendra Martin, Marcia Johnson, Karen Kennedy, Rachel Picard, Stan Holt, Chris Kelley, Deb Thompson, Lesa Price, John Paschal, Heather Garrity, Jeffrey Rawlings, Hamer Carter, Bob Hughes, Holly Hight, Cindy Hall, William Hall, Pastor Covington (Bread of Life), Tami Carter (chair), Renee Liles, Sam McLeod (City of Sanford PD), Kelli Laudate (DSI)
- III. Old Business
  - a. Review of Meeting 7/07/2020
- IV. New Business
  - a. Covid 19 – Service Provision Agency Reports
    - i. OMI-continuing extensive cleaning; if anyone places DHHS order for masks, gloves, sanitizers-didn't receive theirs; still no COVID cases, only taking lee county residents, 11 women, 8 men currently, getting a lot of additional calls due to evictions; applied for COVID 19 grant that will allow them to hire additional staff-hoping to provide twenty four hour coverage, housing specialist, and case manager; referrals, life skills, etc; intake specialist
    - ii. Salvation Army-continuing food pantry; meals for kids wrapping up next week; financial assistance-rent is typically; case manager working with Wayne BOL-meeting with people over the phone to do assessments to get a feel for their needs; Ms. Wengers on Wednesdays when Life Springs does meals; day center-start strategic plan in next couple weeks as well as property/building plans;
    - iii. S3/Dr. Hall-seeing patients twice a week and on saturday, 25 people last week, 8-10 new patients, no COVID patients, most are wearing masks, overall group is pretty healthy
    - iv. Bread of Life- Day Center 12:30-5:30 everyday now, will change to 3 hours a day in September; heightened cleaning efforts, giving out masks, doing temp checks, great having Dr Hall there checking patients, volunteers are still helping, seeing some new homeless individuals coming into shelters
    - v. City of Sanford-let them know if you have any agenda items for next week's meeting
    - vi. DSS-no report
    - vii. Partnership-Continuing to work from home, except for appointments for subsidy and NC PreK applications. Held drive thru NC PreK registration event last week. Still taking applications. The state has not yet announced how NC PreK will start the school year. Those sites that are part of the school system will follow the same schedule as the schools.

- viii. United Way-new 211 materials coming in; please throw away old materials and use new ones; impact survey please complete ; the more the participation, the better the data
- ix. Enrichment Center-continuing to have meals m-f; out of fans-given around 90, still not working face to face
- x. JLHCA-Jeffrey moving to Supportive Services position-street outreach will be part of his job. Ask if they have called 211, and calls with them if they havent yet. First two counties will be Johnston and Lee; moving away from doing Rapid Rehousing. If issues downtown, call police as well as Jeffrey; CARES funding available, COVID for Rapid Rehousing, New RR person will be starting, lacking emergency hotel funds, but do have housing funds; imminent risk of homelessness (within 14 days of losing housing); waving 14 day waiting period currently; working on educating tenants as well
- b. Community Engagement Outreach Event /CCCC - Cindy Hall
  - i. Moved to the spring due to COVID
- c. Job Fair Outreach / Chris Kelly
  - i. Put on hold currently due to COVID
- d. Discussion by Kelli Laudate, Executive Director, Downtown Sanford, Inc.
  - i. Have been receiving a lot of calls from business owners about seeing homeless sleeping on benches a lot more in the past month. Reached out to the City and the Downtown Police to put some steps into place. Want to educate those individuals on the resources that are available. Distributed 211 cards, posters, etc to individuals and downtown businesses. Police have been educated as well. Spoke with businesses on how to handle situations when they see it.
  - ii. Homeless camp was set up in parking deck behind Dossenbach's and Sandra's. Kelli and two officers went to talk to them. Lady and her significant other have been staying there. They have also been sleeping on benches downtown. Sam asked, "What do you need right now the most?" She said she needed a place to store her items, a place to plug her fan in, etc. Laws prohibit them from sleeping in front of businesses. They asked her if she goes to the resources in town. They know where to go and when and what to do. They were asked about going to the shelters. She said she is fearful of staying in the shelters. Scared of sexual favors being expected, hierarchy of people in the situation, of her belongings being stolen. They are being told who can do what and when by the hierarchy. The population has grown in the past month.
  - iii. The park is being used as a public bathroom, using elevator in Lee building to use bathroom. Feces and vomit, laying out belongings, drying clothes in Depot Park.
  - iv. DSI will listen to businesses, but will continue to have the businesses call the police and work with Public Works for cleaning up as needed.
  - v. What can we do to help them feel safer going into the shelters?
  - vi. Sam-business owners were concerned about them sitting out in front of shops. They don't feel like anything will be done from calling police...they are encouraging them to report it. The park...its a public space...so it's a tough situation. They are setting up shop behind businesses. Another camp is being set up not too far from Depot. Not many options when shelters are full. Compiles with mental health, substance abuse, assaults,

- drinking, etc. Store owners are concerned for safety. Have to ensure public safety, as well as safety of the homeless. Moving slow to get where we need to be.
- vii. News article-mentioned from the person that they ask for money and all until they are asked to leave.
  - viii. Want to help, but it is also DSI's job to advocate for businesses downtown. What needs to happen to make them feel safe in shelters? To not sleep in front of businesses? Had to make the hard call yesterday to have a couple's belongings removed because they wouldn't move them.
  - ix. Karen discussed having an outreach team to make some efforts in the downtown area. Truly listening to their stories and helping come to a resolution is what is going to be needed to make a difference.
  - x. Kendra recommended OMI and BOL coming together to "mainstream" the overall shelter rules
  - xi. Jeffrey-ideally when you engage someone downtown, ask them if there is ANYWHERE they can go. Community Action has helped facilitate transporting individuals out of town or out of state to avoid them being homeless.
  - xii. The realistic order that a homeless individual should navigate resources: Bread of Life, OMI, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Sanford Housing Authority
  - xiii. Wake County is renting a Marriott and has a caterer for their homeless
  - xiv. Evictions are starting to happen; the homeless are making themselves visible so that these conversations are happening; we need to have hard discussions-this is people's lives
  - xv. Commends the officers-they have taken it as their mission to educate and not just ask them to leave.

#### V. Other Business

- a. Client Case Review
- b. Transportation is still a major issue for homeless individuals that we need to leave on the table. Debbie Davidson from COLTS can come to the next meeting. Friendly Rides is a new service in town that may be something to look into.

Adjournment – Next regularly scheduled meeting

Tuesday, September 01, 2020 –3:00 PM

SPC Goal Objectives 2020-21 will be discussed at this meeting

*The Service Provision Committee's goal is to identify existing services and support for the homeless as well as gaps in those services and supports, and to bring those resources into a coordinated, community wide plan. The committee is tasked to focus on key areas such outreach and engagement with the unsheltered homeless; coordinated intake and assessment; prevention and diversion; and other social services.*