



S3 Housing Connect Meeting Notes

December 10, 2020, Zoom

Attendance: Kendra Martin, Brittany Newman, Cindy Hall, John Paschal, Hamer Carter, Ruth Price, John Kirkman, Max Dolan, Bob Hughes, Tamara Brogan, Marcia Johnson, Kym Weathers Smith, Johnnye Waller, Shadonna Headen, Deb Thompson, John Campbell, Holly Marosites, Jeff Rawlings, Tami Carter, Kerry Bashaw, Laura Spivey, Lillian Hatton, Lesa Price, Heather Garrity, Betsy Jungkind, Hal Hegwer, Karin Duggan

Staff: Karen Kennedy, Rachel Picard, Stan Holt

- I. Welcome, Mission Statement, Tamara Brogan, Chair
- II. Update on Schools and Homeless Children Numbers, Dr. Johnnye Waller

The numbers of homeless children in Sanford/Lee County are increasing significantly. In 2017-2018, 335 children were identified as homeless under McKinney Vento. 354 were identified as homeless the next year, 379 last year, and 227 have already been identified this year. There are most likely more homeless children that haven't been located. The school system is seeing a tremendous increase in homelessness for this time of year, and with the cold weather and possible end to the eviction moratoriums, this number will probably rise even more. The difference between the HUD and McKinney Vento definitions of homelessness can make it difficult for these families to be eligible for homeless services. Also, the lack of transportation in this area makes it difficult. Social workers and counselors are reaching out and trying to contact these children as much as possible to reduce isolation and to help with social/emotional needs. Schools are trying their hardest to take care of kids; Please let Johnnye know if you are aware of any homeless students or families. It's been more difficult to locate homeless families and deliver supplies to them due to the pandemic. Tamara thanked Dr. Waller and everyone in the school system for their hard work.

- III. Coordinated Entry Update & Housing Assistance Review, Tami Carter

Coordinated Entry update will be revised and sent out at a later date.

- IV. Palomino & Prince Motel Outreach Events, Cindy Hall

H3 and a few other agencies have been visiting the Palomino and Prince motels to offer resources, COVID tests and flu shots. During the last visit at the Prince, the parking lot was completely full of people. Cindy has received calls asking when they're planning to come again. This outreach group is only going to these two motels right now, but they would like to add the Sanford Inn to the rotation at some point. Anyone is welcome to join the outreach group. Dr. Hall is trying to find donations and work on a grant for a portable lab testing machine.

- V. Voting Member Replacement, Tamara Brogan, Chair

John Paschal nominated Lisa Bryant to replace Betsy Jungkind as a voting member. Bob Hughes seconded. There was unanimous approval among the voting members.

- VI. Point in Time Count Preparation- Event Date- January 27, 2021, Cindy Hall

First Baptist Church has been reserved as a home base for the evening. We will be hosting virtual training sessions due to Covid. We need donations of blankets, hats and gloves, hand warmers, and pop top food items. Cindy has new locations to add to the homeless site map.

VII. Positive S3 Accomplishments, Stan Holt

Everyone sent positive things that S3 has accomplished in the Zoom chat box. Some of these accomplishments include having no Covid cases in our shelters, S3's Facebook following growing, cooperation between agencies during the pandemic, and H3's hard work. Tamara reminded everyone that we need to take a moment and be proud of everything we accomplished in such a hard year.

VIII. Future ESG Funding Opportunity for Local Agencies, Stan Holt

Another round of COVID-ESG funding was just announced. There are 32 million dollars available across the state, which is double the amount of funding for the first round. The application due date is at the end of January. Several of our organizations are eligible and the application is simple. We will have a meeting to discuss who in our county is applying. Organizations have to be low barrier and non-discriminatory to apply for funding. Region 7 is earmarked to have 2.3 million available, per Hamer.

IX. Committee Reports:

1. Community Outreach and Engagement, Cindy Hall- Did not meet this month. Focused on outreach events and panel discussions. S3's website is getting lots of new hits.
2. Services, Tami Carter- Met to discuss the Lee County crisis brochure. All agencies need to fill out the information form that Tami will be sending out.
3. Housing, Bob Hughes- This committee will be reorganized in the near future.

X. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Happy holidays, and keep up the good work!