***S3 Housing Connect* Meeting Notes**

October 14th, 2021- Zoom Call

**Attendance** (29 present): Kendra Martin, John Kirkman, Max Dolan, Nadia Lopez, Laura Spivey, Tami Carter, John Campbell, Paul Tate, April Buie, Brittany Newman, Constancita “Tita” Nieves, Ruth Price, Tamara Brogan, Marcia Johnson, Bob Hughes, Joey Mosley, Dehra Green, Tracy Staley, Johnnye Waller, Quiotti Ratliffe, Kerry Bashaw, Commissioner Bill Carver, Delisa Williams, Lesa Price

Staff: Hal Hegwer, Stan Holt, Karen Kennedy, Rachel Mann, Holly Marosites

1. **Welcome, Mission Statement**, Tamara Brogan, Chair

Nadia Lopez, dietetic intern with the Cooperative Extension, and Constancita Nieves introduced themselves.

1. **Success Stories**, Commissioner Bill Carver & Paul Tate

Paul Tate from Outreach Mission Inc. shared a success story about a young man who came to OMI that was partially blind. With the help of Helping Hand Clinic, H3 and other resources, OMI was able to coordinate eye surgery for him. They were then able set up a savings plan so that he could work towards purchasing his own car; which in turn, allowed him to go live with his daughter.

Commissioner Bill Carver then shared that he had been assisting a man who was going through hard times for several years. Through the help of S3, Commissioner Carver was able to connect the man with OMI’s shelter. The man’s father found out, felt badly and allowed him to return home. The fact that Commissioner Carver knew who to ask for help is a sign that the S3 network is working!

1. **Discussion about Revised S3 ARP Request Letter to City/County**, Kerry Bashaw

Earlier this year, S3 collaboratively crafted a letter regarding American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. The letter was sent to local elected leaders and the city and county managers. The letter contained ideas of projects that could help with homelessness and affordable housing locally. S3 Partners have inquired the status of the letter and local distribution of the ARP monies. The City of Sanford will receive around &8 million and Lee County approximately $11 million. City Manager, Hal Hegwer, informed the group that city/county staff have been meeting to discuss what to do with the funds and which projects are eligible. The funds are very restricted and there is not full guidance on how they can be used at this time. The City and County staff have been working to get clarification on eligible uses for funds. Although, news reports have discussed larger cities like Raleigh have plans for their funds, local Staff are trying not to move too quickly because they have been advised to look at other funding sources that will be released soon which can be paired with ARP money.

If you have any ideas for projects, please contact Hal and City staff; They are willing to review any ideas! However, areas that are in qualified census tracts (302 and 303) have less restrictions for the funds. Funding will be much easier to work with in those areas. Karen asked what the timeline is for funding. The money has to be spent by 2026. Hal shared that an example of a good program would be more funding for Urgent Repair, especially since it’s a City and County program. The program helps stabilize existing homes and allows people to stay in their homes. It also helps give local contractors work. Karen added that we have been receiving URP money since 2006; 10-14 houses per year are assisted.

Kerry asked what the best way to communicate ideas is, and what the timeframe is for making decisions? City staff believes they will receive final guidance in late November, then the ARP committee will be reconvened and decisions will be made. City representatives will be communicating and working with Lee County fully.

Tamara said it would be helpful to get feedback from the City and County on the letter that was originally sent. Kerry shared his screen with the letter that was sent out. Some of the items mentioned are still relevant, but some need to be redesigned. Commissioner Carver said that it’s clear that ARP guidelines request community input, so input from S3 paired with success stories is valuable.

S3 needs to think of tangible projects. Also, remember this funding is once in a lifetime- We should pick projects that couldn’t be done otherwise. The proposed shelter is within the qualified census tract; That might be a project that meets all the criteria. Commissioner Carver also suggested getting community backing for projects. It was suggested that S3 set up a session for people to come voice their thoughts. Kerry said the committee chairs could come together to assist with revising the letter. Ruth asked for specifics on what projects would check all the boxes. Kerry said guidance is still coming, but we have a better idea now. Commissioner Carver said the focus is set in stone (disadvantaged persons, census tracts), and we have plenty of information to make an ask. Hal agreed, and advised the group not to wait for final guidance. The City is looking at investments that assist the community for years- a project that can last and return benefits.

1. **Adverse Weather Shelter Update,** Laura Spivey

BOLM board members met with OMI representatives and said they would not be able to staff or operate the adverse weather shelter this year. Both boards discussed options. OMI had extra funding from ESG-CV and their board agreed to manage the adverse weather shelter this year. This shelter will be operated in conjunction with the Navigation Center and BOLM’s food pantry. OMI and BOLM are looking for volunteers to assist with the overnight shelter needs and OMI is looking to hire staff. The adverse weather shelter will operate as overflow for OMI shelters when extreme weather is present. OMI will make the final decision about how best to open the shelter. The adverse weather shelter will operate under OMI’s policies and procedures. The upstairs of BOLM’s facility has been converted to include beds, which are already on site. The single frame beds were donated from the EMS facility. BOLM will pay utilities for the building. Entry will take place via OMI’s men’s shelter, where the white flag will fly. If there are four or less people for overflow they will be placed in hotels. Clients will be entered into HMIS. Security will be set at 10 PM; No one leaves until breakfast from 6-8:00 AM. The shelter can open on nights 36 degrees and below. Clients may then go to the Navigation Center when it opens at 9 am. Community Engagement will help spread the word when documents have been created. OMI will still be encouraging the community to donate goods. Meals can be brought to the Men’s Shelter. Joey M asked how OMI would address parents with opposite sex children. Stan suggested hotel vouchers could be used for those situations; Laura agreed hotel stays would be used in that instance.

1. **Discussion about Cow Patty Bingo Event Funds, Karen Kennedy-$ 7,079.85**

Staff and committee chairs still struggle to determine the best use of Cow Patty Bingo funds. Committee chairs decided to hold off until the first of the year to make a decision on how best to spend the funds. If you have suggestions, please send Karen an email!

1. **Role of Federal monies locally, Stan Holt**

Stan reminded the group that last month, we discussed NCCEH’s role in federal funding, and today we’ve discussed ARP funds. However, Stan encouraged us not to solely focus on federal funding and lose the ability to be responsive to the community and other funding opportunities/needs. Federal dollars are just one funding source; don’t put all your eggs in one basket!!

**7. Committee Reports:**

**1. Services,** Kendra Martin- Services last met on October 5th and reviewed committee goals. They will be holding a compassion fatigue workshop and looking into volunteer training and mental health first aid. Continued data collection was part of the conversation and then they held a client case review session.

**2. Housing**, Bob Hughes- Housing continued to discuss Cape Fear Collective (CFC). Agreements are being created between Brick Capital (BCCDC) and CFC. BCCDC submitted a Continuum of Care funding application for Permanent Supportive Housing. The committee discussed the need for a landlord database and are still discussing the master leasing idea.

**3. Community Outreach and Engagement**, Tamara Brogan-Project Homeless Connect at CCCC has been postponed to Spring 2022. Cindy Hall encouraged all to share success stories. They discussed committee goals. Cindy is working on PIT Count preparations. Darla was on the radio talking about S3 and the Navigation Center last week!

**4. Advocacy**, Kerry Bashaw- No meeting.

**5. Eviction**, Kerry Bashaw-No meeting. However, the magistrate said eviction floodgates haven’t opened as much as we thought they would with the moratorium ending. BCCDC is still offering eviction prevention counseling and helping with guidance around the HOPE program. Tamara shared that at Family Promise (FP), by the time clients come to staff for help it’s too late for preventative measures. Over the past few weeks FP has received a lot of calls from families wanting to join their program.

**8. Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

* Stan shared that part two of the training series is coming up in late October! This session will be about building messages for your organization and S3. Register via Google Docs; 31 have signed up so far!
* National Homeless Remembrance Day on December 21; Raise awareness for extreme weather shelter and honor those who have died in the homeless community.
* Karen shared that there is a ribbon cutting for Kiwanis Children’s Family Park tomorrow at 10 am.
* Tami Carter reported that there is a new veteran’s service representative at the Enrichment Center.

November’s meeting will be held on **Thursday November 18th at 4 PM** due to the Veteran’s Day Holiday on November 11!

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.