



S3 Housing Connect Zoom Meeting

August 12, 2021

Attendance (27): John Paschal, Kendra Martin, Marcia Johnson, Kimberly Rau, Cindy Hall, Hamer Carter, Bob Hughes, Quiotti Ratliffe, Lesa Price, April Buie, John Campbell, Tamara Brogan, Joey Mosley, Katherine Holt, Laura Spivey, Holly Marosites, Darla Molina, Max Dolan, Eddie Hill, Sandra Torres, Kerry Bashaw, Commissioner Bill Carver, Pam Glover, Ruth Price, Shadonna Headen

Staff: Karen Kennedy, Rachel Mann, Stan Holt

1. **Welcome, Mission Statement-** Tamara Brogan, Chair
2. **Written/Email Agency Reports VS. Agenda Item at Monthly S3 Meeting-** Rachel Mann

Rachel asked if the monthly emailed agency reports are helpful or if S3 members would prefer to discuss agency reports at monthly meetings. Kendra said that emailed reports are easier to look back on and to use for reference. Everyone unanimously agreed.

3. **S3 Housing Connect Bylaws Revisions Discussion- Virtual Meetings,** Karen Kennedy

Karen, Stan and Rachel added a section to the bylaws about virtual meetings. Karen asked the group to look over the draft of this addition to see if it captures what is needed. Kendra suggested adding an option to secretly vote via chat features during online meetings or to vote through email. Tamara added that she liked the suggestion of the email/chat option; We don't want to box ourselves in and create a situation where we can only vote during in-person meetings. Ruth suggested putting voting options in their own section of the bylaws. Karen will send the draft bylaws to voting members, who will vote on them during September's meeting.

4. **Announcement of 2021 CDBG NR Public Hearing- August 17,** Karen Kennedy

There is a public hearing during Tuesday night's City Council meeting. Some S3 members will be speaking. Someone suggested that Advocacy Committee put together three talking points to send out to S3 so more members could speak and maintain consistent messaging during their presentations.

5. **Success Story,** Cindy Hall

Cindy Hall shared a story about a man experiencing homelessness. Almost all of our local S3 agencies were involved with getting the man back on his feet. This story is a great example of local agencies working together to help someone.

6. **Eviction Moratorium Updates,** Kerry Bashaw

The eviction moratorium was extended in counties experiencing high Covid numbers; That includes roughly 90% of counties in the country. This revised moratorium is set to expire on October 3rd. However, due to court challenges it might not last that long. The HOPE Program is working well. Kerry said that approvals are seamless, and there are quick fund turnaround times. Roughly 10% of this federal funding has been used. However, it's difficult to get word to clients about this program. Brick Capital has been counseling clients on this funding and preparing them for the eventual end of the eviction moratorium. If clients have official eviction notices, please refer them to legal aid.

7. S3 Survey Results, Stan Holt

Stan reported that the priorities of agencies included improving awareness and perception, board/volunteer development, needing specific things/services, and housing options. S3's priorities were 1) housing, 2) building capacity of programs, 3) improving awareness and perception, 4) eviction prevention, and 5) collaboration and coordination. After reviewing the results, Stan decided that a helpful next step would be virtual trainings that are focused on improving awareness and perception. There will be two 2-hour trainings in September and October. Stan asked if S3 would be interested in fundraising training in the Spring; Everyone unanimously agreed that fundraising training is needed.

8. S3 Vision Exercise w/breakout discussions, Stan Holt

It is time to revisit the strategic direction for S3. The group split into pairs, then filled out a Google Doc with their input on items S3 should focus their efforts on. Some topics that were discussed were empathy/compassion from community, outreach to get community involved, how to "sell" S3, and how to continue encouraging active organizations to work together. The group agreed that we need to figure out effective ways to market S3 formally and informally.

9. Committee Reports:

1. Services, Kendra Martin- At the last Services meeting, Kelli Laudate provided an update on Downtown Sanford. The group discussed Depot Park and the importance of policies and boundaries. There was also a discussion on data collection.

2. Housing, Bob Hughes- On August 25th, Patrick Brien, CEO of Cape Fear Collective, will have a presentation in Sanford on impact investing.

3. Community Outreach and Engagement, Cindy Hall- At the last Community Engagement meeting, the group discussed and planned for Project Homeless Connect. The event is still scheduled for September 8th. However, CCCC is making decisions around Covid. The committee is also focusing on collecting stories and creating new goals.

4. Advocacy, Kerry Bashaw- At the first Advocacy meeting, the group discussed the role of the committee, and determined that the committee's focus is advocating to local and state elected leaders.

10. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

- Pam Glover shared that jobs are available if people want to work! Companies are very lenient right now. She encouraged everyone to tell clients to apply. Unemployment money is ending on September 4th.
- New members introduced themselves, including Eddie Hill and Katherine Holt from St Luke Church and April Buie from Abundant Exchange Services.
- Commissioner Bill Carver reported that the City and County want to work together on ARP funding.
- United Way has masks available for agencies.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on September 9, 2021.