**Northwestern Continuum of Care**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016 – 10:00 AM**

**Steering Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

* **Welcome & Introductions**
  + **Attendees:** Lori Watts (Vaya Health), Bob Taylor, Tina Krause, and Shelby Coleman – intern (Hospitality House), Kim Cashatt (NWRHA), David Barr (Easter Seals), John Rakes (ABCCM), Laura Lewis and Leslie Icenhour (OASIS), Tim Brulet (VA), Branden Lewis (Community Link), Carl Jenkins (Community)
* **Agency Updates**
  + Begin emailing agency updates to attach to minutes?
  + **OASIS:** 2 open positions – associate director & shelter manager – close Dec 9th. 4 people in shelter, moving family to transitional housing unit, 1 opening for permanent housing unit, Laura Lewis is new housing coordinator
  + **ABCCM:** new assistant director – will be here @ meeting in Feb. Homeless Women & Veteran shelter in Asheville – transitional housing – open for female veterans. Working with family at HH
  + **Easter Seals:** Group home in Ashe – full with applicants; moving 2 people in; apartments in Ashe are full; Watauga apartments are full; Wilkes apartments are full; Wintergreen has 2 openings – 1 person has been approved – an applicant is applying for another but still taking applicants & referrals; no one on current waiting list for any places; Lenoir apartments – 1 opening & 2 applicants being interviewed; Lenoir group home currently full
  + **NWRHA:** Close to 100% on leasing vouchers, vouchers will move slowly for a while until people drop off vouchers
  + **Vaya Health:** State money for housing and entry fee grants – less than in the past – 2 regions have run out of funds (Asheville & south of Asheville), still have money in NW 7 counties but running low (below $4,000), more $ in central region/foothill counties; will be asking for more funds but unsure what will happen; targeted unit training will be occurring in new year and may be done by regional housing coordinator Gillian Hampton. Stay tuned for more information as they develop webinar-based program
  + **Hospitality House:** At full capacity last few weeks but still taking people, ran out of cots last night by 6:30 & people slept on the floor (over 25 for winter shelter, in addition to ES beds being full). Physical challenge for space, keeping families separate & safe for young children, mental illness challenges = strain on staff & having issues with getting individuals admitted to the hospital; more staff training & supervision for de-escalation of situations to prevent harm
  + **VA:** Veteran homelessness in service area; if have left message for Tim while out on leave in November, system wiped his voicemail after 30 days so please connect with Tim again if you did not get a response
* **2017 Point in Time Count Planning** – Lori Watts
  + NC Coalition to End Homelessness – Forms are out through Balance of State
  + Survey forms updated from previous years – needs to be out to agencies in all 7 counties that work with unsheltered homeless population to complete surveys
  + Press Release
  + Reach out to agencies
    - Hospitality House – Wilkes & Watauga; Minister Board Member in Avery; Bob Taylor – Alleghany; schools in all 7 counties, law enforcement in all 7 counties
    - OASIS – works with other DV shelters in other counties
    - Lori & Kim – Mitchell, Yancey, & Avery
    - Lori – mental health providers & Ashe County Coalition Homelessness & Catherine Barber Shelter in Wilkes
    - Get veteran information back to ABCCM (has transitional, permanent, rapid rehousing, & prevention resources available to all veterans in CoC)
      * Goal: Literally homeless veterans connected with resources within 30 days & housed within 90 days
      * Next meeting: compare federal benchmarks with what community is doing & move forward
        + Registry of every homeless veteran

Churches, law enforcement, etc., reporting to CoC

* + - * Hosp House – outreach to Community Care Clinic & Hunger & Health
  + State level PIT governance committee planning meeting this afternoon 12/7/16
* **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) & Rapid Rehousing (RRH) update** – Bob Taylor
  + A mother and newborn coming out of hospital needs RRH from HH – coming to stay in shelter first
  + Delayed reimbursement
  + State releasing 2017 information in next 2 weeks
  + RRH going forward – Conversation w/ Deanna from ASHE – discussing how to set up a type of sub-contract partnership for RRH to work for entire region – drafting proposals; also interested in partnering w/ OASIS
    - More effective distribution of funds – serves more people
    - Contacting other CoCs to inquire how RRH is set up within their CoC
    - Once proposals are drafted, HH will reach out to DV shelters in other counties to discuss RRH partnership
    - Idea is that delayed reimbursement will not hold back others from rapidly rehousing someone
    - HH would train & monitor sub-grantees
    - Will discuss in January HH board meeting
* **Planning Grant – scope of work** – Bob Taylor
  + Northwest CoC planning grant
  + $14,200
  + July 2016-June 2017
  + Exploring housing needs & services in Wilkes, as well as other counties
    - Analysis of service gaps/Needs assessment
    - Project in Wilkes complete; shifting service gap analysis to other counties
    - Landlord Forum – Ned
    - Tina – looking at additional units in Wilkes
* **NWCoC Website -**  Bob Taylor
  + 5 pages
    - PIT numbers, PIT press release, Agendas & Minutes, NWCoC Annual Report
  + Service map
    - Utilized by case managers for client referrals
    - Service coordination between service providers
    - Informs service gap analysis
  + System reports
    - Need DV agency information – missing in reports
      * Length of time homeless (length of time in shelter), recidivism rate (exits to permanent housing w/ return to homelessness within 6-12 months & 24 months), # of people 1st time homeless, success rate in permanent housing
      * HH to coordinate effort to retrieve information from DV agencies
      * Idea to report numbers at CoC meetings
  + Idea of agencies sharing information on website – such as agency updates
* **CoC Grants update if any** – Lori Watts – no new information available to report
* **NC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) update** – HH – Bob Taylor
  + AHAR Extended deadline to tomorrow 12/8/16 – has been submitted
  + ES demands & prevalence of family homelessness
  + RRH funds cannot be used for those coming out of transitional housing
  + 2 licenses available to be assigned – David Barr to complete training
* **Governance Committee Update** – Hospitality House – Bob Taylor
  + Under-budget at 1st of year - finance committee – will see savings at end of the year
  + Finance committee sent out proposed new budget
  + HH costs have been lower this year
    - Cut invoice for December
* **Other Business**
* **Upcoming Meetings & Dates**
  + **Tues. 1/17/17, 10AM:** ESG & RRH Sub-Committee meeting – Vaya Health
  + **Wed.** **1/25/17**: Annual Point in Time Count
  + **Wed.** **2/21/17, 10AM:** Steering Committee Meeting – Vaya Health