**Northwestern Continuum of Care**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2016 – 10-11 AM**

**Steering Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Lori Watts (Smoky Mountain LME/MCO, Janie Finnin (OASIS), Kim Cashatt (Northwestern Regional Housing Authority, Tina Krause and Bob Taylor (Hospitality House), Katherine Buchanan (A Safe Home for Everyone)

* **Welcome & Introductions**
* **Agency Updates**
  + Smoky Mountain – Lori Watts
    - Targeted Unit Training set for Ashe on 6/28 10-12 – Ashe Family Central and Caldwell on 7/26 10:30-12:30 – Smoky Lenoir office
  + Ashe Coalition for the Homeless (ACCH) – Kim Cashatt
    - Able to do Ashe Manor tour – would take a lot of money to be up to Section 8 standards
  + Northwestern Regional Housing Authority – Kim Cashatt
    - Voucher total now below level so will soon be loosening vouchers as the total averages out
  + Hospitality House – Tina Krause
    - Wilkes Scattered site accepting referrals for families, duplexes/townhouse style – 3 bedrooms, 2 bath; must be homeless and disabled (documented by physician)
    - Looking at Ashe for individual unit in future
  + OASIS – Janie Finnin
    - Fully staffed, moving 1 Transitional & 1 Permanent Supportive unit to new location – should have these units available in August
    - 2 openings with Edgecliff PSH
    - People in Need grant – Housing First in Avery
    - Shelter full, Avery busy
    - July 1st – Family Justice Center funding – similar to Hendersonville
* **CoC Grants update** – Lori Watts
  + CoC Registration Review submitted – due in Esnaps by Mon. 5/20 - next step in 2016 Competition for CoC grant funds
  + Grant Inventory Worksheet Verification – submitted to HUD Field Office by Thurs. 5/26
  + HUD likely accelerating 2016 CoC Competition – expected late June through late Sept with project applications being open in August
  + **CoC 2015 Competition Score (question of where can we improve by 7 to 10 points)** 
    - CoC Engagement: 40 out of 55
      * Good score: is it worth inviting local gov't (does COG count?), hospital, Crisis response team, youth advocates to CoC meetings?
    - Homeless Management Information System: 25.5 out of 27
    - System Performance: 71 out of 98
      * Some curious lines in this section:
      * Prioritizing CH (3B-1.4) – across the state, no CoC scored higher than 3/6
      * 3A-3 – length of time homeless: only go 2/6 after tremendous reduction in LOS in each category (CH, vets, families) {whereas 3A-5, recidivism, we got 5/5 despite a slight increase from previous year (13% vs 11%)}
      * 4B-2 – percentage of PSH, RR, SSO, & TH adopted Housing First = 2/6 - what distinguished the programs establishing Housing First that HH and Wintergreen can adopt?
    - Accessing Mainstream Benefits: 10.75 out of 19
    - Leveraging: 1 out of 1
    - CoC Application Score: 148.25 (erroneously reported as 151.25 b/c of HUD addition error)
    - Bonus Points – Early Submission: 3 out of 3
    - Total Score w/Bonus Points: 151.25 (not 154.25) out of 203
    - Highest Score among CoC’s Nationwide: 188
    - Lowest Score amond CoC’s Nationwide: 49.5
    - Median Score for all CoC’s Nationwide: 149.75 so our CoC slightly above at 151.25 – and fourth highest in the state (BoS, Wake, and Durham scored higher)
    - Weighted Median Score for all CoC’s Nationwide: 158.25 – CoC’s that scored higher than the weighted median score more likely to gain funding relative to their Annual Renewal Demand, while CoC’s that scored lower than the weighted median were more likely to lose money relative to their Annual Renewal Demand.
  + **CoC System Performance Measures** – New element in CoC application – Opening soon in HDX and reporting period will be from 10/1/2014 through 9/30/2015 (Federal Fiscal Year) – will include all adults in not just CoC Program Funded projects; will be graded on these system performance results for this time period going forward for CoC with HUD looking for improvement each year on each measure.
    1. Length of Time Homeless
    2. Returns to Homelessness
    3. Number of Homeless Persons
    4. Employment and Income Growth (CoC Program Funded Only)
    5. Persons who become Homeless for the First Time
    6. Homeless Prevention and Housing Placement of Persons Defined by Category 3 HUD Homeless Definition (CoC Program Funded Only)

7a. Successful Placement from Street Outreach

7b. Successful Placement in or retention of Permanent Housing

* **Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Count questions –** Lori Watts
  + Answered questions from Technical Assistance Collaborative in regards to 2016 PIT & HIC data submitted. Veterans’ families included as dedicated family beds for ABCCM RRH program beds
* **PIT Issues –** There was a large decrease in the unsheltered number of homeless persons, from 639 to 404. Please verify these figures, and if they are correct, please explain the decrease.
* **The decrease in the number of unsheltered homeless persons from 639 to 404 (a difference of 235) can be attributed to our increased training of school systems staff, particularly in one of our largest rurally populated county - Wilkes. The NWCoC covers seven rural counties in Northwestern North Carolina and thus seven school systems. CoC agencies worked with school systems to help them understand the Point In Time Count requirements for tracking homeless persons according to HUD’s Homeless definition and only report students and their households who were homeless according to this definition.** **Also a change from 2015 to 2016 is that the unemployment rate was significantly higher in 2015 than in 2016 particularly in Wilkes leading some families into homelessness.**
* There was a large decrease in the unsheltered number of persons in households with at least one adult and one child, from 492 to 257. Please verify these figures, and if they are correct, please explain the decrease. **The decrease in the number of unsheltered households with children** **from 492 to 257 (a difference of 235, same as the difference above for total unsheltered persons) can be attributed to our increased training of school systems staff, particularly in one of our largest rurally populated county - Wilkes. The NWCoC covers seven rural counties in Northwestern North Carolina and thus seven school systems. CoC agencies worked with school systems to help them understand the Point In Time Count requirements for tracking homeless persons according to HUD’s Homeless definition and only report students and their households who were homeless according to this definition.  Also a change from 2015 to 2016 is that the unemployment rate was significantly higher in 2015 than in 2016 particularly in Wilkes leading some families into homelessness.**
* **HIC Issues –** The following projects appear to target veterans (based either on the name or the federal funding sources selected), yet you have reported fewer veteran beds than year-round beds:
* **Project**: Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry - Mitchell Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Row 263612) **Veteran Beds**: 1 **Year-Round Beds**: 4
* **Project**: Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry - Watauga Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Row 263613) **Veteran Beds**: 1 **Year-Round Beds**: 3
* If a project has dedicated veterans beds for veterans in families, the number of dedicated veterans beds should include beds dedicated to BOTH the veterans themselves AND their family members. Please confirm that the numbers of dedicated veteran beds for households with children reported for the following projects are counting beds dedicated to both the veterans themselves and their family members:
* **Project**: Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry - Mitchell Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Row 263612) **Dedicated Veterans Beds for Households with Children**: 1
* **Project**: Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry - Watauga Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Row 263613) **Dedicated Veterans Beds for Households with Children**: 1
  + - **Our understanding of the guidance from HUD regarding Dedicated Veteran Beds resulted in our indicating too few Veterans beds dedicated.  With your clarification above, we need to correct our total Veteran Dedicated Beds to 4 for the Mitchell Supportive Services for Veteran Families and 3 for the Watauga Supportive Services for Veteran Families since dedicated beds include both veterans and veterans’ families.  Please accept our apologies for an incorrect interpretation.**
* **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) & Rapid Rehousing (RRH) update** – Tina Krause
  + Still waiting on reimbursement before can take additional persons into program, $50,000 for this year waiting on reimbursement, $2500 from last year waiting on reimbursement
* **NC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) update** – HH – Bob Taylor
* **Governance Committee Update** – Hospitality House - Bob Taylor
* **Other Business –** Bob Taylor met with new HUD field office representative Michael Johnson; recommended we apply for Technical Assistance; new HUD Field Director 7/11/16
* **Upcoming Meetings and Dates:**
* **Wed. 7/20/16, 10 AM:** Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) & Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Sub-Committee – Smoky Mountain
* **Tues. 8/16/16, 10 AM:** Steering Committee meeting – Smoky Mountain