



HOMELESS SERVICES NETWORK MINUTES

November 17, 2016 / 8:30am – 10:00am

Hope Haven Conference Center

ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

- | | |
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| 1) Melissa Morgan | Anuvia |
| 2) Lisa Macdonald | Charlotte Family Housing |
| 3) Julia Hanson | Charlotte Mecklenburg Library |
| 4) Tony Marciano | Charlotte Rescue Mission |
| 5) Branden Lewis | Community Link |
| 6) Tameka Gunn | Community Link |
| 7) Pat Krikorian | Florence Crittenton Services |
| 8) Phyllis Pickens | Hope Haven |
| 9) Laura Anthony | Hope House Foundation |
| 10) Christina Heggins | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 11) Barbara Cross | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 12) Courtney Morton | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 13) Helen Lipman | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 14) Shamika Murray | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 15) Stephanie Shatto | Men's Shelter of Charlotte |
| 16) Liz Clasen-Kelly | Men's Shelter of Charlotte |
| 17) Kelly Lynn | Supportive Housing Communities |
| 18) Pamela Jefsen | Supportive Housing Communities |
| 19) Mike O'Sullivan | Unitarian Church Universalist Church Advocacy Group |
| 20) Justin Markel | Urban Ministry Center HHH / Housing Advisory Board |

GUESTS PRESENT:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 21) Dimitri Cheatham | ARISE, LLC |
| 22) Shalakee Edwards | Carolinas Hierarchy of Needs |
| 23) Traletta Banks | Center for Community Transitions |
| 24) Jan McNeely | Changed Choices |
| 25) Sara Derebery | Charlotte Bridge Home |
| 26) Brandie Meekins | Harvest Center of Charlotte |
| 27) Colin Pinkney | Harvest Center of Charlotte |
| 28) Stephen Valder | Mission Gathering Charlotte |

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & OCTOBER MINUTES

- Meeting called to order by HSN Chair, Liz Clasen-Kelly, at 8:33am
- October meeting minutes were approved by vote.
 - Motion to approve: Pam Jefsen; Second: Mike O'Sullivan.



VICTORIES

- Supportive Housing Communities made decision to open a wing for women at McCreesh Place in response to need in the community. They received 3 referrals within 5 hours of making the opening available (Pam Jefsen).

UPDATES

- **HSN Treasurer's Report**
 - Liz Clasen-Kelly shared that HSN budget currently has \$10,719.
- **HSN Advocacy Committee** (Mike O'Sullivan)
 - Mike shared that two events took place on Monday, November 14th: the Homeless Vigil which was well attended and the Homeless Proclamation was read at City Council.
 - HSN Advocacy Team is focused on advancing affordable housing efforts in the community.
- **Housing Advisory Board: Continuum of Care Committee**
 - Several HSN members who were present for the CoC Meeting shared updates from the past CoC meeting and Coordinated Assessment Oversight Committee, including:
 - Coordinated Assessment Oversight decided that a majority of its members must be present for significant decisions to be made at their committee.
 - CoC reviewed how the scorecard was used at last CoC meeting; CoC members expressed concerns because the scorecard was not used as originally intended; Rebecca took comments and stated that it would be used in next year's process and that communication would be clearer moving forward.
 - The Housing Advisory Board work plan was presented by Mary Gaertner.
 - There is a current opening for the HMIS Administrator. Helen shared that it is an important position with responsibility for reporting and tracking community progress. The position is with Mecklenburg County and will be posted as a Management Analyst. Qualified applicants include those with good data skills and training experience.

VOTE: 2017 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR HSN EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Liz reviewed slate of officers that was presented last month.
 - Chair: Pam Jefsen, Supportive Housing Communities
 - Vice-Chair: Deronda Metz, Salvation Army Center of Hope
 - Secretary: Courtney Morton, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services
 - Treasurer: Tameka Gunn, Community Link
 - Advocacy Co-Chairs: Mike O'Sullivan and Liz Clasen-Kelly
- There were no additional nominations from the floor.
- 2017 Slate of Officers were approved by vote.



THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Denise Neunaber, Executive Director of the NC Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH)

Presentation Highlights (Slide deck is attached)

- 19% of the population experiencing homelessness on the night of the Point-in-Time Count in North Carolina are in Mecklenburg County.
- North Carolina saw a 10% decrease in the Point-in-Time Count overall number from 2015 to 2016 and Mecklenburg County saw a 9% decrease.
- Mecklenburg County has a significantly smaller unsheltered population compared to other Continua of Care.
- Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) is working with NCCEH to build capacity for communities to count homelessness throughout the year.
- Charlotte's women's and men's shelters have been recognized for their innovation, especially with how they do rapid re-housing within the shelter.
- There is a smarter and more strategic way to give assistance.
- System Performance Measures inform system changes and are used to monitor the system; however, the system is not anything without programs feeding into it. This means that communities need to look at program level measures as well.
- Goal for homelessness is to ensure it is rare, brief, and non-recurring.
 - This means that it is important to prevent and divert new episodes of homelessness and help households access resources without having to receive a shelter stay.
 - Whereas prevention can be wide in scope, diversion is done right at shelter door when a household is more likely to become homeless. For households experiencing housing instability, research shows that only 1 in 10 actually become homeless.
 - Need to reduce the length of time persons experience homeless by reducing program stay length and increasing exits to permanent housing.
 - Need to reduce recidivism and provide access to other resources without requiring another shelter stay.
- It is important that communities use resources in a way we can serve more people by creating a system where we can move quickly and one that focuses on getting people into housing.
- Rapid re-housing should be considered an approach versus a program. The core components can be done even outside of a "rapid re-housing" program. For example, Charlotte's 2 big shelters are ahead of the curve, providing rapid re-housing. Others can incorporate rapid re-housing principles into their work, which will positively impact system outcomes.
 - Video on rapid re-housing: www.rapidre-housing.org

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.
- Minutes submitted by HSN Secretary, Courtney Morton.

Next Meeting – December 15, 2016