

Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Coalition
Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2011
Meeting Location: Haywood Street Congregation

Welcome: Brian Alexander welcomed the group and introductions were made.

Approval of November 2010 meeting minutes was made.

Agency Updates:

- Bill Walker of the Swannanoa Valley Emergency Shelter reported that the shelter located at the First Baptist Church in Black Mountain is in operation when the temperature drops below 38 degrees. Hours of operation are 5pm to 7am serving women and man with a maximum capacity of 30. Contact number is 828-273-0025
- Millie Hershenson indicated that Steadfast House offers two emergency shelter beds for women. Contact number is 828-259-5365
- Weston Pate reported that the Asheville Homeless Employment Opportunities is offering job placement and vocation planning services. Contact number is 828-768-1473.
- Katherine McCrory distributed a signup sheet for those interested in hosting the coalition meetings at their agency.
- Mark Merrick of FIRST reported that their women's program is targeted to be operational April first. Contact number is 828-669-0011.

SOAR Initiative: presented by Aundry Freeman of Pisgah Legal Services. The program is averaging 3 to 4 approved Social Security Disability claims per month. This program offers outreach to homeless and application assistance to build a strong disability case. Referral should be made before the SSD claim has been filed or denied. Contact Aundry to refer at 828-210-3428

Transportation Proposal (Coalition Task Force): presented by Stan Vincent. Stan provided a subcommittee update with handouts. The Asheville Transportation Authority supports a proposal to offer discounted tickets to the homeless being July 1 of the new fiscal year and plans to recommend this to city council. The coalition voted to support this proposal but to recommend the cost reduction occur before July. The subcommittee plans to continue the process of formulating a bus ticket distribution plan and to meet with the City Council.

Pages Opening People (POP) Project: presented by Jimmy MacKenzie. The projects mission is to provide books to individuals free of charge. They are asking for public spaces to be donated to supply free books to people. They except donations of book and offer free pick up. The contact number is 828-216-8488.

Point In Time Count: presented by Amy Sawyer. Amy distributed information about the PIT count dates. Contact Amy Sawyer at 828-259-5851 or asawyer@ashevillenc.gov

1. Jan 7 Participation forms are due to the homeless Initiative Office
2. Jan 10 conference call
3. Jan 20@1:00 local PIT training
4. Jan 26 actual PIT Count completed
5. Feb 2 all tally sheets are due.

Next Meeting: February 1, 2011 at the Asheville Housing Authority