

Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Coalition
Meeting Minutes: April 5, 2011
Meeting Location: Steadfast House

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

Agency Updates:

- Millie Hershenson director of Steadfast house reported that staff restructuring is in process. The program is seeking to hire a full time master's level senior case manager that will supervise two part time case managers.
- Teri Sferlazza reported that shelter plus care may be opening their waiting list. Contact her for updates.
- Jonathan Stansell shared that OnTrack currently has security deposit resources for qualified clients.
- Alvin Long reported being in the process of opening a group home named Biltmore Housing offering substance rehabilitation and case management services.
- Shannon Tuch with planning and development in the City of Asheville provided an overview of what the departments function is. This included reviewing all zoning permits and offering incentives to defray the cost of building affordable housing. Handouts were provided to the members.

Overview of 10 Year Plan: Amy Sawyer thanked the members for their utilization of the HMIS system. Data outcomes were distributed to the members and reviewed. Some highlights include a noted increase of supported housing, a larger number of the chronic homeless are accessing permanent supported housing and that 1032 individuals were counted in FY 2010. The data from HMIS will be reflected in the strategic plan to end homelessness.

Results of Community Interviews: Robin Merrell provided a 10-Year Plan Update Qualitative Outcomes report to the members and opened discussion for addition feedback. Accomplishments identified were improved crisis response, housing first implementation, HMIS utilization, prevention and coordination. Opportunities were community education, collaboration, coordination, services, housing, prevention, HMIS, funding, consumers. The members provided additional feedback as follows:

- Greater political activity is needed to influence federal, state and local legislators to protect funding that supports the 10 Year Plan
- Accomplishment is the City council approving ½ price tickets to agencies serving homeless
- Some foster children aging out of system are at risk of homelessness
- Project CHALENG survey outcome continues to identify an unmet need being emergency shelter
- HPRP funding ends 2012 (prevention and rapid rehousing)
- There continues to be barriers to homeless being approved for affordable housing

Discussion of the HEARTH Academy: Amy Sawyer reported that members of the coalition will be attended a HEARTH Academy meeting on May 11 and 12 in Winston Salem. The purposes of the meeting are to being the process of analyzing HMIS data and create benchmarks to measure progress on ending homelessness.

Next Meeting: May 3 @ 12:30 at the Salvation Army