

**Homeless Alliance of Rutherford County**

**General Membership Meeting**

**City Hall**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Scott Foster, Chair
- II. Old Business:
  - A. Approval of Minutes for July, 2016, October, 2016, January, 2017. One correction was noted to the list of attendees at the October minutes. Judy Williams, not Judy Wells, attended. Bettie Beckwith moved to approve the minutes, Beth Sharber seconded, and the motion carried.
  - B. Executive Committee Report: Scott Foster
    1. Campus project update
      - a. Jackie Jones of the MTSU Conceptual Master Plan development team discussed the progress on the project. The goal has been to hear from agencies about their perspective on the campus project and needs in the community. She presented the proposal to the Planning Committee for feedback last week, and met with Rob Lyons, Murfreesboro City Manager, Jennifer Moody and Jim Crumley, Murfreesboro Assistant City Managers, today. Jackie Jones and HARC leadership will be presenting to the City Council in June in a workshop setting. They have identified the need for a larger systemic approach to meeting the needs of the community; bringing services together to eliminate barriers to accessing resources; creating a shared vision, including coordinated intake and assessment to prevent duplication of services; recognizing different goals among different populations – recidivism, chronic homelessness, family homelessness, trauma-informed care, etc.

Scott Foster said there is a great deal of evidence-based support for coordination of care. Stabilization (meeting immediate needs) services and the transformational piece that helps clients reintegrate into the community and empowers them to move forward are both essential. The team has also met with an architectural firm about space needs and limitations, and discussing what service providers will participate on the campus and which ones will collaborate with the campus, but in a different location, and ensuring transportation is available between those locations.
      - b. Col. Jeff Davidson, Deputy Mayor for Rutherford County discussed ongoing initiatives started by the county to attack the recidivism rate and help find alternatives to keep people from going to jail. These alternatives include the Pre-Trial Risk Assessment (PTRA) Program starting in July and case management services in the Veterans Treatment Court, Mental Health Treatment Court, and Drug Court. Rutherford County Community of Care (RC3) is envisioned as a collaborative group of engaged government agencies, local non–profits, faith based organizations and services working together to improve programs and services for individuals involved with our

criminal justice system, primarily to provide wrap around services from booking, to pre-trial services to re-entry programs/services (also includes services for those with co-occurring substance abuse/Mental health issues) working to establish community partnerships with our county probation department, correctional work center, adult detention center and recovery courts (drug, DUI, veterans, mental health). Reba Carleton has been tasked with finding out if like-minded community leaders are willing to work together to sustain the home repair program as well as work on transitional housing solutions for the county (part of RC3 initiative).

RC3 committee is meeting at Journey Pure by the River (drug addiction treatment center) located 5080 Florence Road, Murfreesboro on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. There will be speakers from DISMAS, Inc. based in Nashville and Community Housing Partnership of Williamson County to look at two different approaches to transitional housing.

- c. Application for funding to continue work – at the March Executive Committee meeting, John Callow was authorized to submit an application to the City for funding for HARC, and he has done that.
2. VISTA Project: Recruitment Phase

Scott Foster gave a brief overview of what VISTA is, for those who were not familiar with it. He stated that the VISTA project is moving forward, and we will be ready to start recruitment soon. We would like to recruit locally. Once the job descriptions are approved we will send them out to the HARC membership, in case members have recommendations.
3. Bylaw Revisions and Additions (Second reading)
  - a. Article VI, paragraph 8 addresses vacancies on the Executive Committee. The proposed language allows the Executive Committee to vote to appoint a representative from an existing member organization to fulfill the duration of an unexpired term, without waiting for a general membership meeting to hold an election. John Callow moved to approve, Bettie Beckwith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
  - b. When HARC was reorganized, there was not a need for a Treasurer. Now we are in a position to receive funding. John Callow moved to revise Article V and add to Article VI language adding the position of Treasurer to the Executive Committee of HARC, and describing the duties of this position. John Adkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
4. Bylaw Revision (First reading)
  - a. The EC recognizes the potential for furthering its cause and activities by creating opportunities for formal leadership relationships with key community organizations. Therefore, the EC proposes that a permanent seat on the Executive Committee be created for the Rutherford County government. This seat is created for the Mayor of Rutherford County (or designee) and contingent on the acceptance of the Mayor or appropriate official(s) of the Rutherford County government. This language would be

added to Article VI, paragraph 1 of the bylaws, if accepted by the Rutherford County government.

- b. Discussion – The county government also bears the cost of homelessness, through their law enforcement, EMS, and other services. Rutherford County Schools has long been a member of HARC, and a Rutherford County Commissioner serves on the Executive Committee. This language would not obligate Rutherford County to participate in HARC, it would simply give them an opportunity to play an important role if they choose to do so.
- c. John Callow moved to approve this bylaw revision on the first reading. Cliff Sharp seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Family Promise interest meeting (3/17/17)

Family Promise is a nationwide organization that provides family shelter and strong case management to the families in their program. There were about 30 members at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and enough interest to plan a follow-up meeting in May. Members of HARC are encouraged to attend, and especially to talk about it with their churches. Family Promise is based on an interfaith hospitality network. It takes about 18 – 24 months to get it started, and Captain Joe Irvin with Salvation Army has worked with them in a different location.

6. HMIS

Last year United Way introduced Charity Tracker to the community. Now, Charity Tracker has a program that has been HMIS approved, and they want to present it to us. The presentation to the Executive Committee will be Thursday, June 1 at 1:00 at Murfreesboro Housing Authority. Any agencies that use public funding for programs related to HUD are invited to come to the presentation.

7. EC Roles 2017

- a. Chair, Scott Foster, The Journey Home – this is Scott's last year to serve as chairman in this term. He will roll off the Executive Committee in January.
- b. Vice-Chair, Karen Lampert, Domestic Violence Program
- c. Secretary, Kim Snell, ATLAS Program, Rutherford County Schools
- d. Treasurer, Chantho Sourinho, Laotian-American Community
- e. Working Group Chairs
  - i. Membership/Advocacy, Scott Walker, WGNS
  - ii. Service Delivery, Christy Spangler, The Guidance Center
  - iii. Consumer Council, Mary Tidwell, Community Member
  - iv. Project Review/Ranking, John Callow, City of Murfreesboro
  - v. Planning, Kathy Ferrell, St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital
  - vi. HMIS Lead Agency, Thomas Rowe, Murfreesboro Housing Authority

III. Reports from Working Groups:

A. Membership/Advocacy: Scott Walker

This committee is advocating for better discharge policies for persons exiting jail, workhouse, and hospital who have no place to go.

- B. Consumer Council: Mary Tidwell
  - 1. Resource books have been printed, and are also available online.
  - 2. Trying to help people get replacements of ID/Drivers License/Social Security Cards/Birth Certificates, especially out of state BC.
  - 3. Talking to churches to ask them to allow people to sleep in their cars the church parking lots in designated spots overnight, using hanging tags or something to show that they have permission to be there.
  - 4. Needs reps from law enforcement, probation, and the court to talk with people.
  - 5. Single biggest issue in our community is a lack of affordable housing.
- C. Service Delivery: Scott Foster for Christy Spangler
  - 1. Meets monthly at Greenhouse Ministries.
  - 2. Next meeting is May 10, 2:00.
  - 3. Beginning work on the coordinated entry process.
    - a. HUD requires this to be in place by February, 2018.
    - b. Currently in the data collection and self-assessment phase.
    - c. Agencies, please bring your intake policies to the Service Delivery meeting, to be included in the self-assessment.
    - d. Grateful to Captain Joe Irvin, Salvation Army, for sharing the Tri-Cities process with us, to help us get the ball rolling.
- D. Planning: Scott Foster for Kathy Ferrell
  - 1. Meets monthly at McFadden Community Center.
  - 2. Next meeting is May 9 at 10:00 am.
  - 3. Defined focus areas:
    - a. Define the purpose for VISTA volunteers
    - b. Develop the job description for a HARC Interim Director and/or Executive Director
    - c. Work to support the conceptual transition of the master plan to a solid architectural proposal
- E. Project Review and Ranking: John Callow
  - 1. HUD has issued a call for registrations. The City has registered.
  - 2. Waiting for Notice of Funding Availability
  - 3. All agencies applying for ESG funding attended the meeting on February 23 for application planning. All expected applications were submitted to the City and/or THDA.
- IV. Announcements:
  - A. Cold Patrol is continuing to work in camps and on the streets.
  - B. Boys & Girls Clubs are accepting registrations for their summer program, and will take as many homeless children as apply, ages 5 – 18.
  - C. Life of Victory can help with applications for the Principal Reduction Recast Program with Lien Extinguishment (PRRPLE) through THDA .
- V. Adjourned at 3:15 pm.

**Next meeting will be July 20, 2017, 2:00 pm in City Hall.**