

Homeless Alliance of Rutherford County

General Membership Meeting

City Hall

Thursday, July 20, 2017

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Scott Foster, Chair
- II. Old Business:
 - A. Approval of Minutes for April, 2017, John Callow moved to approve the minutes, Chantho Sourinho seconded, and the motion carried.
 - B. Executive Committee Report: Scott Foster
 1. Campus project update
 - a. Update on the Campus Project. The project is still moving forward. Jackie presented to City Council during a workshop setting on July 14th. There were 20 plus attendees, and she did a great job with her presentation. Jackie has been the leader of the project, under Dr. Sherr. John will post PowerPoint on City's website.
 - b. Jackie will continue this term, and continue the process. MTSU will work on policies and procedures, and how we will work together, along with additional data and research.
 2. HMIS Charity Tracker Presentation

We are currently using HMIS through Bowmen. The Murfreesboro Housing Authority is our lead agency. Scott Foster explains that Charity Tracker has a lot of good benefits and features, but are still lacking some elements. During the July Executive Council meeting, it has been decided that we need to continue with Bowmen for now, but also continue having discussions with Charity Tracker for next year. There is not enough time to have the proper training needed before the contract with Bowmen expires on September 30th. There needs to be more facts and features added to Charity Tracker before making the switch. Journey Home is entering data into both, Charity Tracker and HMIS. Journey Home is going to use the ID system. This is so real time data is available. The hope is that other agencies will use Charity Tracker as well, so that we can see how it works for us.
 3. EC Appointed
 - a. There has been a vacancy on the Executive Committee with Ed Grimes that needed filled. The Executive Committee appointed Major Joe Irvin. He came from Bristol, TN. He will help with the Coordinated Entry Process. He is familiar with the Coordinated Entry Process because ARCH COC is actively using it. He will be a great benefit to the committee.

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 (Second review)

a. The revision was announced and distributed in April. The Bylaw change has to be announced within 28 days. Revision: 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.

There was an approved revision. Reba Carlton was welcomed. The committee is happy to have both bodies of government involved.

III. Reports from Working Groups:

A. Membership/Advocacy: Scott Walker

This committee is trying to get more involved in healthcare. They need a professional to go out to homeless camps and provide group like counseling. Most homeless individuals are suffering from past or current abuse, and substance and alcohol addictions. Scott Walker spoke to a volunteer at Greenhouse Ministries, and they would like to have someone from Celebrate Recovery to hold weekly meetings at camps. They have not found anyone to do so. If you know of anyone, or you have any ideas, please contact Scott Walker.

B. Consumer Council: Mary Tidwell

1. Continued discussion regarding designated spots for people to park their cars. Churches may be an option. Is currently creating a list of individuals who may be able to utilize this program.
2. Mary discussed the need of more cooling stations in Murfreesboro. Cold Patrol has been letting individuals come in to their office to cool down, and to get water.
3. Individuals living under the bridge are being displaced. They have to move out by next Saturday. A question being asked is, where can they go?

C. Service Delivery: Christy Spangler

1. Meets monthly at Greenhouse Ministries.
2. Next meeting is August 9th, at 2:00.

3. Has continued work on the coordinated entry process.
 - a. HUD requires this to be in place by February, 2018.
 - b. Currently in the policies and procedures phase.
 - c. More than likely there will be an emergency and day time point of entry.
 - d. Rutherford County has a great start to the process due to having a 211 and the Community Resource List that Mary Tidwell has put together.

D. Planning: Scott Foster for Kathy Ferrell

1. Meets monthly at McFadden Community Center.
2. Next meeting is TBA.
3. Kathy is changing employment. She has been with St. Thomas of Rutherford as director of the mobile health unit, and she is now the executive director at the Red Cross. The Red Cross has encouraged her to continue her work with the Executive Committee.

a. There has been planning for the need of beds when Room In the Inn closed. The Salvation Army has been gracious enough to work on solutions. They are now on the final stages of adding beds there.

b. Please contact Karen if you know of anyone interested in becoming a VISTA volunteer. They will serve for one year, and there may be opportunity to continue for a second year.

E. Project Review and Ranking: John Callow

1. There will be no money for new projects., only continuing work on old projects. Final date for application deadline is in September.
2. The city is revamping the website on August 20th, to enhance content. There will be an added information on the homeless section of the website. If you have a website, and would like to add a link to it, please email John Callow.
3. Family Promise: On Tuesday, August 22, at 7pm, there will be a meeting at First Baptist Church to discuss ways to network. There will be a discussion on overnight accommodations and meals for homeless families. Please come out to the meeting.

IV. Announcements:

- A. Cold Patrol now has an office at 800 Park Ave Suite P. They do not have designated hours as of now. They have been open as a cooling station. They are in the process of creating transitional housing for men. This will be a 6 month program.
- B. Back to School Drive at 231 S Church of Christ. All day they will be giving away backpacks, haircuts, etc.

- C. National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 1st. Sites include: Patterson Park, Spring Valley, SportsCom, Public Square, and Smyrna Police Department. The event is from 5pm-8pm.
 - D. The Executive Committee has now established a banking account. Chantho Sourinho will be creating a policy for financing and banking. If you have a procedure in place, please send it to Chantho.
 - E. Scott Foster encourages HARC members to get involved in different groups, for example, Southeast Homeless Coalition, Department of Justice, Department of Labor. This could help access funding options.
 - F. There needs to be a safe place for pets to stay temporarily for those transitioning, or temporarily in a homeless situation. The Service Delivery group can reach out to PAWS to see if there are any options available.
 - G. Waiting list is currently closed at Murfreesboro Housing Authority. Shelter Plus is still open. Affordable housing is lacking in Rutherford County, and HARC recognizes this concern.
 - H. Women who have felony charges can not get into public housing. Some landlords will take felons, but they are usually private individuals.
 - I. The Journey Home is putting together an application for a housing trust fund. This has never been done before in Rutherford County.
- V. Adjourned

Next meeting will be October 19, 2017, 2:00 pm in City Hall.