

Meeting Notes

FOOTHILLS HOUSING NETWORK
March 20, 2013
Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission

In attendance: Ginger McAlister, Cathy Zielinski, Andrée Munson, Cheryl Carter, Brandi Day, Karen Brown, Tony Hooper, Jan Selbo, Laura Brown, Jenny Biché

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made to approve the January 2013 meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried.	January 2013 Meeting Minutes Approved	ALL
Grant Updates	<p>HSG: Laura Brown stated that her office has not received many inquiries since December. They have only had 2 requests, and both were for clients who already had housing, just wanted to relocate. Laura stated that when HSG closed in December due to cash flow issues, she and her staff directed clients to contact Tyronne and Cheryl directly. She thinks perhaps that is why her staff has not been receiving any new inquiries, that perhaps folks are still contacting Tyronne and Cheryl directly.</p> <p>Brandi Day stated that Skyline CAP has received inquiries and have referred them, however she didn't think they qualified as they were not homeless at the time or in eminent need.</p> <p>Cathy Zielinski stated that she talked to George Rowland at Culpeper Human Services and he is coordinating the FEMA grant CCDC received. The funds will be used for people who are not quite eligible for HSG or HPP. An example would be someone who moved back to live with family due to the economy, but now wants to find a place of their own and needs assistance with security deposits, first months rent, etc. Funds are also used to help with back rent to keep someone in their current housing.</p> <p>SAFE, Healthy Culpeper and CCDC each received small amounts of money from the FEMA grants in Culpeper and Community Touch, People Helping People and the Fauquier Shelter received similar amounts of money from the FEMA grants in Fauquier.</p>		

Cathy stated that the FEMA grants demonstrate how a small amount of money can plug a hole in the resources available.

HPP: Cheryl Carter stated that CCDC has turned down a total of 9 families (27 people) since January 9th. CCDC will determine how much money is left to use that isn't obligated already to assist current clients. Cheryl stated that they are receiving calls from each county, however, she believes the reason why Fauquier DSS and others are not receiving as many inquiries is because people are receiving and utilizing their tax refund checks. Potential clients are informing their landlords that their tax refunds are coming, and are utilizing those refunds to stay in their current homes. However, she feels that once the tax refunds are used up, more inquiries will be made for assistance. Cheryl stated that CCDC will have used all \$107,000 allocated to the program by the beginning of May. Mostly families have been assisted with the funds. An inquiry was made as to whether more education and outreach was needed in the five counties to generate more inquiries, but Cheryl felt the lack of calls was due specifically to the tax refunds.

Child Services Coordination Grant: Jenny Biche' stated that she has collected information on children resources from all five counties, thanks to assistance from FHN committee members. Jenny will edit the information and attempt to organize the information. Most of the data collected has been recently updated. Once a draft is complete, a link will be posted to the RRRC website for FHN committee members to review and comment on. Jenny is also organizing the first training session, to be held in April, for shelter staff and other case managers or staff that work with children and who would benefit. More information will be shared once the details have been finalized. Suggestions on topics and/or speakers are welcome. Trainings will be offered quarterly throughout the year and will provide an opportunity for staff to network.

CoC: Cathy Zielinski stated there have been no updates, but that the renewals for the Balance of State was approved. If approved, funding would help 12 families, include CPS involvement and provide a permanent source of funding for rental money and case management

	<p>for permanent supportive housing.</p> <p>Others: Laura Brown stated that Fauquier DSS was awarded funding from the Town of Employment grant through the State. DSS plans to use the funds for housing assistance. Clients must be TANIF recipients. Victory has agreed to work with Fauquier DSS for a pilot project. The grant allows for one year of housing and services. Currently Fauquier DSS is assisting one person using this funding and plans to assist four people total. Laura said the biggest barrier is transportation. Fauquier DSS hopes to contract with a used car dealer in Opal who would work with their high risk clients.</p>		
<p>Discussion of ESG NOFA</p>	<p>DHCD released the ESG and HOPWA grants and the NOFA states that CoC or Planning Group may submit one combined application. RRRC must be the lead agency. Funding from the ESG grants may be used for shelter operations, homeless prevention and rapid rehousing. CCDC is planning on applying for funding for all three categories. Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention funds awarded to CCDC will be used to serve all five counties. The application is due at the end of April. If any agency would like to apply, please send a letter of intent to Cathy by Friday, March 22nd.</p> <p>Tyronne and Andree stated that they would not be applying because they do not qualify for the grant due to the fact that they collect fees for some of their services. Cash flow could be an issue because ESG does not provide an allocation. Fauquier DSS has agreed to be the grantee to assist the cash flow burden for the Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention programs. The Fauquier County Administrator will need to review the grant application prior to committing to the project and has requested 7 days to review it. The grant application will need to be submitted to the County Administrator by April 19th in time for the April 26th grant submittal deadline. It was suggested that ESG be set up as a different type of model than HPP/HSG in that the focus would be to help serve less clients but for a longer duration.</p> <p>Cheryl Carter stated that she approached some landlords and inquired if they would be willing to rent to high risk clients if CCDC agreed in writing to guarantee six months of rent payments. The landlords were very</p>		

	<p>receptive, but stated that the lease would be for 6 months only. The client would be the lease holder, but a separate MOU would be developed between the landlord and CCDC to guarantee the rent payments for six months. Cheryl stated that she has had very good success with the clients in her program; none have needed assistance beyond 3-4 months and no one has dropped out of the program or been disqualified.</p> <p>It was recommended that some money be requested to provide monetary support to the Warming Shelter. Perhaps the funds could be used towards a part-time coordinator for the Warming Shelter. Cathy Zielinski stated that FHN would need to develop an agreement on how the money will be allocated should the ESG grant not be funded in full.</p> <p>Cathy will send an email out to FHN members inviting them to submit a letter of intent. Cathy will contact Tyronne to see if Community Touch would be interested in applying. Jan Selbo made a motion to have the FHN submit an ESG application after it has been reviewed by the committee. All were in favor, the motion carried. A sub-committee will be formed consisting of anyone submitting an application for ESG assistance and anyone else interested in participating on the committee.</p>		
<p>Reports from DHCD Input Session for Consolidated Plan</p>			
<p>Committee/Workgroup updates and next meetings</p>	<p>Landlord Network: Data Committee: Coordinated intake and assessment workgroup Planning</p>		
<p>Regular meeting date and time review</p>			

Member Updates			
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Next Meeting

TBD

Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

420 Southridge Parkway Suite 106 Culpeper, VA 22701

FOOTHILLS HOUSING NETWORK

March 20, 2013

2:00 pm

Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes from January 16 meeting
2. Grant Updates
 - HSG – Tyronne or Felicia Champion
 - HPP – Cheryl Carter
 - Child Services Coordination Grant – Jenny Biché
 - CoC – Cathy Zielinski
 - Others
3. Discussion of ESG NOFA
 - Project Proposals due this Friday
 - Action on process for review and prioritization of projects, negotiation process
 - Project discussion
4. Reports from DHCD Input Session for Consolidated Plan
5. Committee/workgroup updates and next meetings
 - Landlord Network
 - Data Committee – Point-in-Time results
 - Coordinated intake and assessment workgroup
 - Planning
6. Regular meeting date and time review
7. Member updates