

Present: Jonathan Crooms, Doneicia Johnson, Tara May, Sharron Reid, Megan Raymond, Corey Root, Charlotte Stewart

- Agency Updates
  - Veterans Pro Bono Network – suspended temporarily, NC Bar Association is looking for funding
  - OCPEH – The 2017 Point-in-Time count will be Wed. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Our focus this year is expanding the Service Count, specifically counting for one week following night of count, asking as many people as possible, “Where did you sleep on Wed. Jan 25<sup>th</sup>? Have you done this survey?”
    - **Corey will send out meeting location details for PIT**
  - VA – waiting to see how federal administration will impact funding; Will establish an outreach day at IFC Community Kitchen, this can be a good time for other agencies to meet with VA staff as well
  - Empowerment now providing housing assistance for veterans with honorable discharges including relocation, loan modifications, new homebuyer assistance
    - **Sharron send detailed program info, Corey will forward to group**
    - Tight timeframe – money to be spend by May 2017
    - Contact Sharron for more info or with referral info: 919-269-3071 (personal cell; do not share with clients at this time)
    - Interested in organizing an event getting all veteran service organizations together; could be more effective for Empowerment to join existing Veteran Stand Down events
  - NC Housing Finance Agency - Charlotte exploring options for working on veteran issues, how to ensure veterans are being served in the least restrictive setting possible – this is a big focus of NCHFA and NC DHHS work to come into compliance with the DOJ settlement; Charlotte is now sitting on the Balance of State veterans committee
  - VoA - Preparing for site visit from SSVF regional office (audit)-Tuesday & Wednesday; Hoping to increase outreach in all VoA counties
  - IFC - 1 new veterans in Community House in the last month and 1 other veteran who has been at Community House for a while
  - Orange County DSS - Department on Aging is currently working on the Master Aging Plan regarding transportation and would like to ensure the needs of all vulnerable populations

- USICH certification
  - Review Questions for Communities document:
    - [https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Questions To Assess Veteran Progress.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Questions_To_Assess_Veteran_Progress.pdf)
  - Realistic goal to end veteran homelessness in Orange
    - Barriers to certification:
      - Accessible shelter; Good Neighbor Plan at IFC presents a significant challenge
      - Being able to move people quickly to permanent housing – people are not able to find affordable units quickly
- Corey has a meeting with her counterparts in Durham to talk about how we can share data and information across counties to best serve people experiencing homelessness – more to come
- Update on consent & confidentiality forms – forms were reviewed by Charlotte and Jess. They recommend to remove the language about minors in the consent agreement as this will not apply to veterans.
  - **Corey will revise forms and distribute to group**, we will put these in place to begin work of reviewing the by-name list in February.

Next meeting: Friday February 17, 9-10 AM