

**Meeting Minutes NC 506 Cape Fear Homeless  
Continuum of Care Board Meeting**

**DRAFT for Approval**

**March 16, 2023**

Recording Link:

- I. Meeting was Called to order by Michele Bennett, Chair.

**In Attendance:**

Judy Herring, Michele Bennett, Meg McBride, Anne Best, Kyle Abrams, Andrea Stough, Leslie Smiley, Dawn Ferrer, Tommy Taylor, Cecelia Peers, LaCretia Keith, Tufanna Bradley, Jessica Biel, Laura Bullock, Mari McKenzie

**Not In Attendance:** Drew Huver, Thom Moton, David Stanley

**Public Attendees:**

Joe Byrnes, Robert Campbell, Katrina Knight, Deb Hayes, Yolanda Daniels, John Fennell, Kerry Dunaway, Allen Serkin, Paul Witmer, Brian Fike, Vikki Hines

- A. Approve Agenda for 3.16.23

a. Motion made by Meg McBride, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tommy Taylor, motion passes

- B. Approve Meeting Minutes from 1.9.23

a. Motion made by Tufanna Bradley with corrections, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mari McKenzie, motion passes

- II. New Business

A. Andrea Stough made a motion to approve Kyle Abrams as the new Secretary of the Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tufanna Bradley, motion passes.

B. Michele reminded the Board and public attendees that Board Nominations are due by April 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a vetting period after that, but before the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.

C. Tufanna presented on the Getting Home program. She will share the all the numbers she reported on during the meeting to Judy to share with the CoC. She shared Katelyn Maddox is the program lead. A few numbers that were reported were:

a) 61 individuals accessed shelter

- b) 5 individuals housed
  - c) 11 people found employment
  - d) 11 people unified with family
  - e) 27 users of the Bin Den
- D. Annual Meeting will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Brunswick Senior Building from 9am to 12pm. Pastor Rob Campbell will be the Key Note speaker. There will be a Data discussion, Nominations and the Executive Committee will be voted on, and there will be snacks. Board Members must attend.
- E. Kyle made a presentation on the Strategic Plan the Veterans Strategy Committee has been working on. It involves goals, outcomes and action items to achieve these goals. Kyle Abrams made a motion to approve the plan, Leslie Smiley 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passes.
- F. Kyle made a presentation Permanent Supportive Housing data. PIT Count data from 2010 to 2022 was used to show that our overall homeless population has decreased by 50% since 2010. The data shows that when permanent Supportive Housing becomes available the Chronically homeless population has decreased.
- G. Laura discussed the upcoming forum on homelessness that Vigilant Hope is hosting at the Harrelson Center on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. There will be a presentation on the data of homelessness, projects already going on to combat homelessness, and a panel including government officials, local service providers and an individual with lived experience.
- H. Audrey Hart with the Emergency Management department presented on what services they provide. Audrey discussed what homeless services are provide in extreme weather and what services they provide. This includes Cooling Stations, Shelter, White Flag, provided supplies to other shelters. She explained that Emergency Management helps during extreme weather, hurricanes, natural disasters, and hazmat situations. The Emergency Management Committee meets virtually every other month from January to June, then during Hurricane season they meet every month.

### III. Public Comment

- A. Allen Serkin, Executive Director of the Cape Fear Council of Governments, feels PSH rental assistance isn't overly expensive, actually very affordable. Tenant assistance is paying for profit companies and private landlords in our community, creating a cycle of investment in the community. We need to look at how we divide our Federal Funds.

B. Katrina Knight, Executive Director of Good Shepherd Center, announces that the Cape Fear Housing Coalition is hosting their annual breakfast on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at UNCW. Please RSVP ahead of time. The author of The Affordable City will be speaking. Katrina also feels our community has done a good job education elected officials. However, the city presented what they plan to do with HOME-ARP funds and a City Council member disagreed with Housing First Best Practices and PSH., which is concerning to her. She encourages people to reach out to the City Council in support of the City Staff's plan.

1. Michele encouraged attendees to email city council in support of the plan.
2. Andrea Stough made a motion that the CoC sends correspondence to the Wilmington City Council in support of the City Staff's plan. Meg McBride 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passes unanimously. Michele will write the letter.

C. Pastor Rob Campbell, with New Beginnings Church, feels we need to do a better job of building relationships with government staff that are on the Board.

IV. Adjournment - Motion to Adjourn was made by Leslie Smiley, 2nd by Mari McKenzie at 12:48pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

*Kyle Abrams*

Kyle Abrams, Secretary  
3.16.23