

North Carolina State Disaster Recovery Task Force
Housing Recovery Support Function Meeting
March 11, 2019, 10am – 12pm
Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St, Raleigh, NC 27603

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Lead: Samuel Gunter, NC Housing Coalition

Staff: Amanda Martin, NCORR

Joel Groce – NC Community Action Association (NCCAA)
Ehren Dohler – NC Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH)
Tracy Colores – NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR)
Laura Hogshead - NCORR
Haley Pfeiffer Haynes - NCORR
Bill Rowe – NC Justice Center
Elizabeth Savage – Legal Aid
Steven Webb – NC Home Builders Association (NCHBA)
Tom Anderson – NC League of Municipalities (NCLM)
Carlotta Dixon – NC Division of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS DSS)
Lesley Albritton – Legal Aid
Jason Gray – NC Rural Center

PHONE:

James Gormley – NC Housing and Urban Development (NCHUD)
Marqueta Welton – NC Department of Administration (NCDOA)
Iris Greene – Disability Rights
Curtis Hill – Disability Rights
Nancy Bloebaum – NC Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA)

Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Agenda

Samuel and Amanda welcomed everyone. Reviewed meeting goal/objectives. Attendees introduced themselves.

ReBuildNC (NCORR) Updates

Laura Hogshead:

Laura Hogshead, NCEM/NCORR Director Mike Sprayberry, and Kasey Ginsburg of Golden Leaf testified before the NC House Select Committee on Disaster Relief in Pemberton. They provided updates on how the state was using and plans to use federal disaster recovery funding. In addition, NCORR has added Haley Pfeiffer Haynes to support NCORR on external relationships, especially with the legislature.

Thus far, NCORR has sent out 1368 award letters to homeowners of which 640 homes are in construction or completed. HUD approved Hurricane Michael Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-Mitigation Action Plan on 03/10/2020. The public comment period for the Hurricane Florence CDBG-Disaster Recovery (DR) Action Plan ended on March 13. NCORR received many comments, several from RSF members, and thanks them for this input. The likely scenario with the HUD review and turnaround is that NCORR and HUD will be able to sign a grant agreement sometime in May. NCORR anticipates opening the homeowner programs as soon as possible after that. NCORR wants as many people as possible to apply.

There was discussion about how the RSF can assist NCORR with outreach related to the proposed Affordable Housing Development Fund in the Hurricane Florence CDBG-DR Action Plan. The RSF agreed to assemble a subcommittee to assist with this effort. Several people volunteered to work on the subcommittee and NCORR staff will also offer the opportunity via email.

UPDATES

- Updates from Amanda Martin, NCORR
 - The housing recommendations have been finalized. They will be sent to NCEM and NCORR. Mike and Laura will then take to the Governor's Office. In addition, in the process of NCORR revamping the website there will be a page for the RSFs. This will be a place to find this set of recommendations. UPDATE: The housing recommendations have been received by Mike and Laura.
 - Due to Covid19 future conference calls will be held remotely or via teleconference.
 - While A. Martin is on maternity leave; Marlena Byrne from NCORR will be assisting with this RSF.
 - Propose that we meet via conference call to get updates from NCORR programs and Housing orgs updates in general
 - Meet up every 6 weeks for the next 2 months.
 - Separate group will work with NCORR to assist with the Affordable Housing Research
 - Suggested that we host some meetings via webinar as necessary.
 - Group agrees to proposal

UPDATES FROM ATTENDEES

- NCDHHS DSS – Congress has distributed additional funds for the Low Income Heating and Energy Program (LIHEP). DHHS will distribute these funds to county departments, social services, and utility assistance. C. Dixon, DHHS, will send additional information to A. Martin to distribute to the RSF.
- League of Municipalities – working with municipalities to prepare for next disaster. The League is currently pushing continuity planning. The goal is to assist them with staying ahead of the next event from the perspective of risk management.
- Homebuilders Association – Members are very busy but still having a hard time finding labor.
- Legal Aid (Update: The Spring meetings mentioned below have been postponed and/or relocated to webinars due to covid19)
 - They have a new attorney, Elizabeth Barrow. She may split some meetings with L. Albritton, who has attended for Legal Aid in the past.

- They have events in Lumberton at the end of March and in Carteret County and Craven County at the beginning of April.
- Legal Aid has been brought in by NC Pro Bono Resource Center along with NCORR, Disability Rights, and several other organizations to provide disaster recovery information and will be doing client intake on the spot at the April Action Meeting.
- DPS has secured Legal Aid's assistance to help with clients in FEMA trailers. People will be charged market rates for rent at these trailers as part of the agreement for an extension with FEMA. DPS and Legal Aid are appealing rent to FEMA on a case-by-case basis. FEMA has been helpful in advising of when appeals will be decided.
- Concern: People in Carteret County and a few other counties are being charged to have their homes torn down. If they cannot pay the fee then the county is placing a lien on their property. This will likely present a challenge for those applying for rebuild funds.
- Justice Center – covid19 is taking all of their attention. They are concerned about businesses suffering from people teleworking and the businesses not having insurance set up to help employees through this. The Justice Center is organizing with others to see how things will work should there be an extended telework period.
- Rural Center – getting notes together from rural housing roundtable held at the Rural Center.
- NCORR – an addition to updates earlier in the meeting:
 - Continuing to sign cooperative agreements with communities for buyouts. Whiteville, Princeville, and Fayetteville have signed.
 - We are talking with community colleges about construction trades program. Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds could pay tuition and transportation to get them trained in a specialized trade. Developing this program now.
 - Working with counties to address problems that are holding up applications that we cannot close. One thing NCORR has pointed out to the counties is that many would be able to live in better conditions if they were allowed a payment plan for their utilities and back taxes. We cannot use our funds to pay for these.
 - Q: Are the LTRGs and community groups able to help find people money for these costs?
 - A: We have worked with a few organizations but will be working with Legal Aid to continue pushing the information out to LTRGs.
- NC Coalition to End Homelessness
 - Back at Home has housed 634 out of their goal of 800 families. they have slowed down new client intake
 - They are working to address covid19 risk amongst those in homeless shelters. The Coalition will work with Emergency Management to obtain guidance on quarantining within shelters. They will also share HUD and CDC guidance, released 03/10/2020, with NC Housing Coalition.
- HUD – James is the new representative for the N.C. Field Office. Feel free to reach out to him with any questions.
- Disability Rights
 - Worked with Legal Aid to get a family out of an uninhabitable (fleas, mold, and more) property in less than one month.

- Community training on disaster recovery was held in Clayton County 03/07/2020 in which they were able to service 20-30 people. During this training, they showed a short video about Covid19.
- Hosted a very successful Disaster Hotline last month. The hotline connected those in the disability community with legal assistance and resources that would assist with their recovery process.
- NC Housing Coalition
 - Covid19 has added uncertainty to the 10-12 listening sessions recently planned to take place around the state. There is additional information on their website.
 - Disaster Recovery Training will happen in New Bern at the end of the month – for agencies, legal services, housing counseling, and disability rights.
- The Urban Institute is issuing a statewide housing gaps analysis. The report has convened a group of people from various backgrounds: researchers, nonprofits, related to guide the research and outcomes. The final report should be out by the end of March. Recommendations will be drafted based on this report.

NEXT STEPS

- NCORR and RSF will begin working together on outreach for the affordable housing funds.
- Invites for the next meeting will be distributed shortly. We will meet remotely.