

Transition to Independence Subcommittee  
 Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 3 p.m.  
 Greenville Community Shelter

Committee members present: Ann Bonner-Stewart, Robert Cobb, Velma Harper, Sandy Lee (co-chair), and Sharon McLaughlin. Also present were Lynne James and Marilyn Williams (management advisory subcommittee contacts).

**Goals and Outcomes are due to the larger committee by Thursday, March 20.**

This is a working draft!

**Goal: Improve access to public benefits and services for homeless individuals.**

Outcome: More chronically homeless individuals receive benefits that they are eligible for receive.

Strategies:

- Implement SOAR (SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, & Recovery) in Pitt County by bringing in people to train people locally to understand this process who interface with people who are in need of benefits. People not being denied for technicality reasons when the need is real.
- Project Homeless Connect—event with Vet Stand Down in September 2008 and then repeating it annually or biannually.
  - Banks—which ones participate in NC Saves?
  - Credit reports
  - IDs
- Improve training of public service providers as to federal funding for which homeless individuals may be eligible.

**Goal: Identify and diversify housing options for special populations.**

- People with all disabilities (physical, mental, substance abuse, dual diagnoses, developmental).
- Permanent housing does not mean home ownership or single family dwellings—group living, retirement living (i.e. the Veranda in Farmville), apartment rentals.

Outcome:

Strategies:

- Offer support services within the context of the home itself.
- Identify what is currently available
  - Local Life Houses—vocational rehab, mostly developmental but not restricted to that.
  - One on 14<sup>th</sup> street—Ramona...?
  - One in Winterville
  - Veranda in Farmville

**Goal: Identify resources and systems that lead to financial independence.**

Outcome:

Strategies:

- Targeted job training. People who are being training/receiving education that it's something that's needed in the community. The biotech center does this. How can service providers meet with the business community/PCC to make sure we're training based on hiring needs? Erniss? Advisory Council/Workforce Council—county economic development? What's already going on? What could help fast track people. Retraining to different skill sets. Workforce Investment Act. Welders. The old fashioned apprenticeship.
- Improve financial literacy through local programs such as the Strive program—does job retentions, screening, attitude, going to work every day, having back-up plans if transportation falls through/child gets sick.
- Education of local community and homeless individuals regarding minimum wage versus livable wage, cost of living.
- Identify local financial institutions for individuals.
- Identify people who are eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit—even retroactively—Sandy Lee is the woman. Help them apply.

Other Things to Discuss:

Recognize Diversity of housing options—need more and diverse ways of housing people. Different people need different housing options. The subprime mortgage crisis—what can we do to help support people in that? Foreclosures.