From: Sue Polston <spolston@sunriseinasheville.org>
Sent: 6/6/2021 10:12:19 AM
To: Emily Ball <eball@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: Tracey Childers <tracey.homeless.coalition@gmail.com>,Amy Upham <amyelizabethupham@gmail.com>,Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com>
Subject: Re: Coalition meeting

I can do 9:30, I have meetings at 10,11,12 & 1:30.Â

Sue Polston, NCCPSS
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On Sun, Jun 6, 2021, 11:06 AM Emily Ball <eball@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

> Thanks Tracey - Amy and Sue, can you do either of those times?
>
> Emily Ball
> Homeless Services System Performance Lead
> City of Asheville
> O: 828.271.6129
> C: 828.747.8510
>
> On Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 10:42 AM Tracey Childers <tracey.homeless.coalition@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > There is no shade on ANCHOR but do believe a presentation on the organization would be most helpful at this time. The Coalition is a place of information sharing.Â
> >
> > I am confused and frustrated in how ideas are being heard and agencies are gaining support without due process. COVID and the meetings outside of normal channels, like the HIAC which are public information, has created an environment of mistrust. This is nothing new but itâ€™s more pronounced. Navigating resources and the process is also lost on me.Â
> >
> > I have availability 9:30-10 or 12-12:30.
> >
> > Best,
> > Tracey
> >
> > On Sat, Jun 5, 2021 at 4:59 PM Amy Upham <amyelizabethupham@gmail.com> wrote:
> >
> > > Hi Emily,
> > >
> > > Thanks for this. You have been great to work with, during my County days and since.Â
> > >
> > > On Tuesday's meeting, I remain quite confused, and now am deeply concerned that whatever is leading to everyone's confusion might make the input of the Homeless Coalition quite biased (for example, ANCHOR has 11 board members and at least that many additional Steering Committee members in the trenches and leading homeless/mental health work, and I'm not sure many of us will be keen to join in Tuesday's meeting). I am open to either working through this if it can be worked through, or having an additional, separate info gathering session with ANCHOR. At this point, I don't think any of us on ANCHOR are backing down on the idea of our community having a truly high access shelter, no matter what false accusations or confusions mightÂ arise. It is well within our, and anyone's, civic right to have and push a new idea.
> > >
> > > I will be on the call on Monday and am interested to learn what is behind this confusion.
> > >
> > > Cheers,
> > > Amy
> > >
> > > On Sat, Jun 5, 2021 at 1:11 PM Emily Ball <eball@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
> > >
> > > > Hey y'all, I think a conversation about this would be helpful for us if you're up for it.Â I'll cancel that previous invitation for 12:45 Tuesday and send a new invite for Monday to see if we might be able to talk this through.Â I appreciate how thoughtful you all are about supporting folks who are homeless and the leadership you each provide around that, and I'd love for us to be on the same page and clear up any

confusion so we can really maximize our collective ability and shared commitmentÂ to getting good things done.Â Â

I'm open Monday until 12:30 so will start with an 11 a.m. invitation, but feel free to move it if that doesn't work.Â Thanks!

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On Thu, Jun 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM Amy Upham <amyelizabethupham@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Tracey,

I am similarly now confused!

When Robert asked me to coordinate with you to schedule for us to present on ANCHOR and "the project" I assumed he meant the one big thing ANCHOR is working on as you and I had also spoken about the proposal. That said, I mentioned not presenting an update on ANCHOR, but we would have of course given an overview. That said, the proposal to City/County is ANCHOR's first and current big project, so to adequately discuss ANCHOR, we'd need to discuss what we are working on.

However, by "proposal" I did not mean anything we are submitting for an RFP. ANCHOR does not plan to submit for high access shelter in the RFP process. Our work is collective impact, public health planning work regarding the shelter. That definitely might be murky for those who are primarily service providers. We are not primarily a service provider agency.

Regarding your frustration with "the services provided" I'm not sure if you're speaking of ANCHOR (which does not provide services), the City or County, or general homeless services. Can you explain more what you mean by that?

In terms of the organizations you have mentioned, we have met with Homeward Bound and appear to be on the same page regarding high access shelter. The County is less supportive of true high access shelter and other harm reduction approaches beyond the SSP (and that was a miracle); one of the main reasons I left there. They seem to want to vet everything crisis diversion or homelessness through Justice Services-unsure why as homelessness is not a crime last time I checked! I can't speak for the VA, but I do know ANCHOR has not involved them much in the high access shelter convo as most (though I understand not all) veteran shelter needs are met by the VRQ. But we'd be happy to have them join our Advisory Committee.

I'm hearing it's not the time to present on high access shelter to the Homeless Coalition, and that is ok. I am concerned though about the City gathering input without the group understanding the ins and outs, including how other shelters have managed to make it work (a couple who we have consulted with).Â

I do know, politically, we at ANCHOR have also been supremely confused. We were asked for a proposal by a few City staff (not Emily) and a County Commissioner, and yet have not heard much in the way of how we can be involved going forward. Instead, we are aware the City has approached different organizations to gauge capacity. This is pretty typical standard politics, and there's nothing inherently wrong about it, but it would be nice to be kept in the loop considering the work we put in and continue to put in regarding how to make such an effort successful. But that's not your problem to solve; I just want to express solidarity in confusion!

In closing, I think I need to say thisÂ directly; the last thing I want is to present at a meeting where people are frustrated with us before they hear what we're doing because we're the new kid on the block, or possibly because they are butthurt I left my last position. For example, we got a very nasty email forwarded from Scott accusing us of all manner of things which were just plainly inaccurate. So when the time comes for us to present, I hope it's with a welcome.

I hope the meeting next week goes well.

My Best,
Amy

On Thu, Jun 3, 2021 at 5:26 PM Tracey Childers <tracey.homeless.coalition@gmail.com> wrote:

Now I am confused. So I think what we should do is table the ANCHOR conversation. Information on ANCHOR was the request of the group and that doesn't seem to be what's available.Â

I have to say, I don't think it's appropriate to roll out a proposal for a project before the RFP process has beenÂ made public. I have been pretty frustrated asÂ have most of theÂ people I workÂ with in the community for example: the county, Homeward Bound, the VA, medical staff) with the ambiguity around what the hell is goingÂ on in our community regarding the services provided.

I like and respect all of you ladies and understand, we're all trying to make a difference but the climate in our community is very murky.

I will reach out to the County to see if someone will provide more information on their RFP (email went out today) and then we'll hear from Emily on Tuesday for sure on the end of the COA.

Best,
Tracey

On Thu, Jun 3, 2021 at 2:02 PM Amy Upham <amyelizabethupham@gmail.com> wrote:

Can do. Thanks, Emily. Our plan is to present on our proposal, including the elements of a high access shelter. We probably won't do an update on ANCHOR persay, as many won't have heard of us! But we will give a brief overview, and did just have our first Board meeting and voted in members. They include:

Derrick Hall
Sally Stein
J Hackett
Iliana Hernandez
Claire Hubbard
Mark Siler: Secretary
Michael Hayes
Larry Thompson: Treasurer
Robert Stevenson
Colleen Barcus
and myself: Board President

I'm so excited for this rad group. Mountain XPress has dug in for a story on ANCHOR/high access shelter. Not necessarily including myself, that group up above is bad.ass. And supports Sunrise. We're going to make this thing happen, y'all.

On Thu, Jun 3, 2021 at 1:36 PM Sue Polston <spolston@sunriseinasheville.org> wrote:

WorksÂ for me.Â

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On Thu, Jun 3, 2021, 1:34 PM Emily Ball <eball@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hey all!Â I just talked to Tracey to ask if I could get on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting to get some feedback on low-barrier shelter - I'm just hoping for a listening session about what folks see as the specific need that could help inform a future RFP.Â She mentioned that you're on the agenda for an ANCHOR update which is of course related to this, and I'm wondering if the 4 of us could pregame all that just right before the meeting?Â I'll send an invite for 12:45 and hope for the best, but let me know if it won't work!

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