

Ashe Commission Asked for Homeless Funds

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The Ashe County Commissioners heard its Homeless Coalition's definition of homelessness from DSS's adult services supervisor, Tommy McClure during Monday's meeting. Mr. McClure, representing the Homeless Coalition, met with the Commissioners to provide an update on the number of homeless people the coalition has served and how many more

they may need to provide for in the future. He provided profiles of the people who might become homeless and explained the process DSS goes through to assist those who have. Once DSS has done all it can the clients are referred to the Coalition which then provides a limited numbers of nights of housing while other resources are looked for. Mr. McClure stated that this has been successful but believes with unemployment benefits starting to run out for many people their will need to be more services made available in the near future. Commissioner Price expressed the desire of the Board to provide for the needs of Ashe County's homeless. Mr. McClure proposed that the Commissioners budget \$50,000 to allow the Coalition to "step up their game" and develop more comprehensive solutions to effectively help the projected increased numbers of homeless in Ashe County. Commission Chair Poe expressed the need for the Commissioners to continue to explore means to address this rising concern in Ashe County and committed the Commissioners to continued discussion of the topic. Following the meeting Mr. McClure said, "The problem has become more and more real, and we're extremely concerned because we're now entering into cold weather and we're seeing more and more people come to us with no place to stay and no resources. We're soliciting funds from the county commissioners from Ashe as well as great churches, great community involvement."