**Wilson-Greene regional Homelessness Committee**

**January 17, 2017**

Present: Mary Mallory, Wilson County DSS; Kirsten Poythress, Wilson County DSS; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Daniesha Smith, Hope Station; Linda Walling; Hope Station; Tony Conner, NC Works; Tamey Knight, Veterans of America; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Valinda Belton, Wilson Housing Authority; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Amy High, Wilson County Schools; Ulysees Banks, Stepping Stones; Jessica Newton, Stepping Stones; Lacemond Banks, Stepping Stones; Stanley Belton, Stepping Stones, Lisa Council, WCHD; Bettena Holmes, Community Family Health Center

Welcome/Introductions

Mary asked the group to share their thoughts about our Regional Meeting last week. Thanks to Wesley Shelter and WCDSS for lunch. Linda asked for a listing of all agencies so we can be aware of resources available in our region. Tamey appreciated the ideas shared around the Point in Time count. Candice would like to get to know each other and build in time for that in the meeting. Also, serving lunch shouldn't be a requirement for hosting a meeting.

Mary welcomed staff and owners from Stepping Stones to our meeting. Stepping Stones staff and owners were present today and shared what they do in the community. They work with those who have substance abuse and mental health issues. They also have a nonprofit and provide food, clothing, and furniture. They serve counties outside of Wilson.

Balance of State update is available on their website.

There is a state level commitment to addressing veteran homelessness

BOS is considering adding representatives to their state level call. With the committee restructuring, there are now 13 representatives instead of 26. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, they are welcome.

Linda shared data on ESG from the CAPER, Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for 2015, and from Hope Station’s client log for 2016. Wilson County DSS is the fiscal sponsor and Hope Station implements the Wilson/Greene Emergency Solutions Grant. The Emergency Solutions Grant follows the Housing First model of HUD. In the 2015 ESG year, 40 families/individuals were helped and that number grew to 92 in 2016. This is made possible by assistance from DSS and the City of Wilson’s willingness to waive and/or reduce fees associated with utilities. Increased financial resources for clients without increased resources for staff is making it difficult for Hope Station to manage the grant within the grant’s budget. In 2016, several thousand dollars in staff time could not be submitted for ESG reimbursement. Linda asked for the Committee’s help in answering some questions with respect to managing ESG. It was agreed that the conversation would continue in subsequent meetings.

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We talked about ESG and coordinated assessment and how this would work across 6 counties. We are unsure about going from a two county to a six county region.

Valinda reported that all have been re-housed that lost housing in the flood. Wilson Housing Authority lost 40 units due to flooding; these units will never be used for housing again, as they are located in a flood zone. They are planning an eligibility session on January 25. They have a waiting list of 200.

Point In Time Count – Linda, Lori Walston and Candice will meet at 11:00 p.m. at the Wilson Police Department. Stanley Belton from Stepping Stones also volunteered to assist with the count. Sergeant Chelsea Sanders and Sergeant Tim Dowdy are the contacts at WPD. Lori will check with Olivia at The Wilson Times regarding her participation.

We also plan to do interviews at the soup kitchen on the morning of January 26th. The soup kitchen serves lunch at 11:30. Candice, Daniesha and Amy (interns from Hope Station) will do the interviews at the soup kitchen. Candice will make copies of the interview tool.

There is a training video that can be viewed at this link:

<https://prezi.com/juum1h4pmyjc/balance-of-state-2017-point-in-time-count/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy>

We also will do outreach at some local restaurants on the morning of January 26th. Amy High agreed to do interviews at the McDonald’s on Hwy 301. Jessica agreed to do interviews/outreach at the McDonald’s on I-95 and Lisa Council will do interviews/outreach at the McDonald’s on Tarboro Street.

Lynne will be providing a Spanish speaking interview from Wesley Shelter who will be needed at the Soup Kitchen. Wesley Shelter is also providing bags with hygiene items, food, gloves, etc.

Amy- school families who were homeless received gifts from Toys for Tots in December

Lisa- Wilson County Home Health is laying off 5 employees. Lisa will lose her job on January 31.

Kirsten - Senior Awareness Day is May 12th at Farmington Heights Church.

LaTasha- Eastpointe was awarded a new permanent supportive housing project for those who are chronically homeless. They will send out information to our provider network.

Added after the meeting: Daniesha shared that we collected $90.60 through our Spare Change for Social Change campaign. The proceeds will be divided between Hope Station and Wesley Shelter. Thanks to Daniesha for coordinating this project for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month.