**Neuse Regional Committee**

**Region 10**

**Wilson County Department of Social Services**

**January 9, 2019**

Attending: Deniece Cole, SDJM; Jeralene Merritt, Duplin Christian Ministry; Zachary Branch, NC Works; Kaydi Roberson, Hope Station; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Des Taylor, Hope Station; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Amanda Smith, Greene County DSS; Megan Babb, Greene County DSS; Janice Sauls, Salvation Army, Goldsboro; Jacqueline Caron, Salvation Army Wayne; Elisabeth Farnsworth, Wilson Area Habitat for Humanity; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Mary Mallory, Wilson County DSS; James Cromell, Eastpointe; Ashley Horne, 4 Day Movement; Jonathan Rogers, Volunteers of America; Preston Turrentine, VOA; DJ Coles, 4 Day Movement; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; Yolanda Taylor, Legal Aid; Victor Kosinski, NC Works of Wayne and Lenoir Counties

Participating via Phone: Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Mary Lovick, Greene Lamp

**Introductions/Welcome**

LaTasha called the meeting to order and welcome and introductions were made. Happy New Year to all, and thanks to Wilson County for hosting and providing snacks.

**Review of November minutes**

Minutes were approved with minor edits.

**Regional Committee Goals**

Items discussed included our coordinated entry work and ESG and sharing of information with more partners in a coordinated, consistent way.

Work on improving our PIT count and raising visibility in our counties of the issue of homelessness. LaTasha shared the example that Wilson County does with Operation Wrap Up, where we collect winter items from the community and attach them to trees on the library lawn. We publicize the event through the local newspaper and social media. Those in need take a winter item. We also register the event with the national campaign. We talked through having a responsible person in each county to take the lead on activities.

We also talked about the Federal government shutdown and the impact that was having on folks and the importance of folks knowing where food is available. Information on receipt of food assistance was provided. All food assistance recipients will receive their February amount loaded on their EBT card by January 20th. After that, we aren’t sure what will happen in February. Consumers need to be careful with their food budget.

**Coordinated Assessment Update**

Linda Walling as our CA/CE lead is urging all partners to complete a survey on our system. She provided a paper copy of the survey and will send again via e-mail. Survey results are meant to help improve our system. It needs to be returned to Linda by January 21 in a sealed envelope.

**ESG Funding**

 **Update –** Mary returned notebooks and application material to all ESG applicants who were present. Four applications were sent to the state for review and only Hope Station and Salvation Army were funded. There was about $50,000 left on the table. LaTasha agreed to check with Balance of State about what happens to that funding. The program requirements and paperwork are proving difficult for local grantees.

 **Grantee Report –** Linda provided a summary document of Challenges, Achievements, Success Stories from 2018, as well as specific data. She also shared that the 2019 award amount is $70,000. Shelter at $34,000; Prevention at $3,700; Rapid Rehousing at $24,620 and HMIS at $7680. There was some discussion of nominating Shana for

Jackie provided an update from Salvation Army of Wayne. They served 163 individuals and 75 households with 22% underspending. Documentation is a challenge, staying in contact with clients can be difficult

**CoC Update –** there is a steering committee with 13 regional leads and 10 at large members. LaTasha shared information from Balance of State partners and highlighted different opportunities for becoming involved and participating.

**2019 Point in Time Count**

 **Update –** Candice is the PIT lead for the Region. The night of the count is January 30th. All locations must use an app on their electronic device; paper surveys are not allowed. Candice has been participating in BOS phone calls providing updates and has shared information with all county leads. A training on the app was completed today after the Regional meeting. We discussed respecting confidentiality, making people feel comfortable and the benefits of doing a street and service count in communities. It is important to be in communication with volunteers and pair up volunteers who may not be comfortable with technology with someone who is more comfortable.

 **County updates:**

 **Duplin –** Edna Ennis is the lead, but is not here today. Deniece participated in the app training.

**Greene –** Angela Bates from Greene Lamp is the county lead and she has been copied on all information from BOS.

**Lenoir –** Victor Kosinski is the lead and he has volunteers and will hold a community interest meeting in the next week. He participated in the app training.

**Sampson –** Lee Ann from UCare was our lead. She is leaving that organization and they are not receiving ESG funding. They don’t have the capacity to lead the count in Sampson County. Lee Ann provided contacts and Candice and LaTasha are working to secure another lead in Sampson.

**Wayne –** DJ Coles is the lead and had Zachary Branch participate in the app training today.

**Wilson - There** will be a street count with several volunteers and law enforcement on the night of the 30th. There will be a service count with volunteers at the soup kitchen on January 31st. We will have Spanish speaking volunteers. We have care packages for each person interviewed. We will also offer shelter on the night of the count if they are interested.

**Agency Updates**

4Day Movement - received a grant to address opioid use, they received one of 12 awarded throughout the state

Wilson DSS – Low Income Energy Assistance, we do have some funding but expect that it will be exhausted soon.

Greene County DSS – they also have LIEAP assistance

Hope Station – Linda shared information about the new family shelter that will be opening soon

NC Works – shared information about a stand down with service providers present for veterans

Legal Aid – they are providing assistance in disaster relief and housing

Salvation Army – they are doing some outreach with landlords and are working with families impacted by the hurricane

Spiritual Destiny in Duplin County has helped 8 families and 1 veteran family with housing, they are helping with long-term disaster recovery

Wilson Housing Authority – there is funding for housing through February 28th.

Eastpointe – they are awaiting an award from their 2018 application

Wesley Shelter – the addition to the SAFE House is complete and this will take their capacity from serving 21 up to 25

Greene Lamp – they have a NC Disaster Relief Grant to help people get back in the workforce

**Upcoming Events**

LaTasha reminded attendees of our local meeting schedules which include 3rd Tuesdays at 10:00 at Hope Station for Wilson/ Greene and 2nd Wednesdays at 11:30 for Duplin, Lenoir, Sampson and Wayne.

**Meeting Adjourned**