**Wilson Greene Housing Committee**

**April 16, 2019**

Present: James Crowell, Eastpointe; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Cameron Cochran, Wilson Forward; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Shana Baum, Hope Station; John Apol, Hope Station; Tony Conner, NCWorks; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority

**Welcome**

**Minutes approved with no revisions.**

LaTasha shared **Balance of State information**:

Continuum of Care(CoC) grant funding announcement hasn’t been released. The Balance of State office is asking for an intent to apply for interested parties.

Ehren Dohler from Balance of State office and Kim Crawford from Emergency Solutions Grant office were at our Regional meeting in Duplin County last week. Ehren was there to participate in coordinated entry case conferencing.

Candice connected Duplin County DSS to our Regional Committee and hopefully they will begin participating in our coordinated entry process.

A huge thank you to Cameron for serving on the Scorecard Committee.

On May 17th, a webinar on Violence Against Women Act is mandatory for all agencies that receive CoC or ESG funding.

ESG office clarified that funding is intended to be used for those in the most urgent need across the region; this is inconsistent with guidance received in the past.

There is a housing conference, Bringing it Home, Ending Homelessness in NC being held in Raleigh on May 21, 22. Reverend Marty Stebbins shared that she can help with the registration fee if a local partner wants to attend. A link with more information is included below:

<https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/217/donate.asp?formid=HomelessConf19>

**Emergency Solutions Grant**

Linda shared information on ESG grant. If all approved through the coordinated entry process find housing, funds will be exhausted. She is hopeful that Hope Station will receive additional funding that wasn’t allocated to our region due to a lack of project applications. Linda shared a detailed report of expenditures. She and her staff have recently spent a large amount of time reconciling HMIS data.

**Coordinated Entry**

Case conferencing is happening across our region. Lynne from Wesley Shelter and Linda from Hope Station have navigated through some challenges related to confidentiality and safety issues with those receiving domestic violence services. They are confident they have a process in place that will be effective.

**Veterans** – no update today

**Community Partner update**

Linda – progress on the women’s/family shelter continues, and there have been some unanticipated expenses

DSS – April is child abuse prevention month and the Mary Artis Kids on the Lawn event will be held April 27th on the lawn of the Wilson County Library. Senior Awareness Expo will be held on May 10th at the Wilson County Fairgrounds. Registration is not required for either event.

Wilson Housing Authority – Applications are not being taken for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, as the waiting list is at a 2 year timeframe. Applications for 3, 4, and 5 bedrooms are being taken. If there are three homeless individuals who apply for a 3 bedroom unit; that can be done if one of them is the head of household and all are on the application. For those aged 62 and over, applications are being taken for 1 and 2 bedrooms at Varita Court and C. Bruce Rose Plaza. The waiting list is closed for Housing Choice Voucher.

Eastpointe – Permanent Supportive Housing is available for those who are chronically homeless.

Wesley Shelter – April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and there have been 9 rapes in Wilson since January. Lynne believes the increase in reporting is due to the Me Too moment and women believing they will be heard. She is hiring a youth services coordinator part-time, as there is much work to be done educating young people, particularly around informed consent. They have completed renovations and are now offering a space to accommodate those with disabilities, increasing their capacity from 21 to 25.

Wilson Forward – we are continuing to focus on a community plan to address health and wellness and housing has been one of our focus areas. The plan will be shared in late May with the community.

The group discussed potentially including an Eviction Diversion program in the Wilson Forward plan and a Housing First model with a substance use treatment component to address some of the housing challenges we are facing locally.

A facilitator schedule was passed around to the group. The meeting schedule is as follows:

May 21 Candice Rountree

June 18 Linda Walling, Shana Baum

July 16 James Crowell

August 20

September 17 Tim Rogers

October 15

November 19 Britney Holmes

December 17 Lori Walston