

## **Neuse Regional Housing Committee**

**April 8, 2020**

### **Zoom Meeting**

In Attendance: Shana Baum, Hope Station; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Katrina Mitchell, Greene Lamp; Sheryl Cox, Equipping the Saints Worship and Training Center; Ray Cox, Equipping the Saints Worship and Training Center; John Apol, Hope Station; Suzanne Coker Craig, Wilson Habitat for Humanity; Captain Sherrie Stokes, Wayne County Salvation Army; Deniece Cole, Linda Walling, Hope Station; Stefanie Marmojelo, Greene County DSS; Johnathan Rogers, VOA; Lisa Harrison, Sheritta Simmons, Carolina Family Health Center, Cameron Cochran, Wilson Forward; Sharon Dixon, Eastpointe; DJ Cole, 4 Day Movement; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Angela Bates, Greene Lamp; Susan Thigpen, Duplin County DSS; Cheryl Cox, Lenoir; Mary Lovick, Greene Lamp; Dian Hagar, Eastpointe, Joseph Maganga, Greene Lamp; Jackie , Wayne County Salvation Army; Ashley Horne, 4 Day Movement, Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS

### **Welcome by LaTasha**

### **Introductions by County and Role within the Region for each participant**

#### **Minutes**

Minutes from our last Neuse Regional meeting were reviewed. DJ Coles moved for approval and Tim Rogers seconded that motion. All voted in favor of approval of minutes.

#### **Balance of State Information**

LaTasha shared that the Continuum of Care funding requires an intent to apply and this information has been shared with all Neuse Regional members who are on the list serve.

#### **COVID-19**

In Wilson there have been 2 COVID-19 deaths. Linda shared that Hope Station shelter is open 24/7 and they are expected to stay on campus unless they have to leave for work or a medical appointment. They take temps every day, aren't accepting new residents at this time. They are using Rapid Rehousing funding for some residents in the Family Shelter. That shelter is close to empty. They have direct contact with the Health Department and will follow protocol if someone shows signs of the virus. Pantry operation continues and older customers are making appointments to avoid contact with others. They are putting people up in hotels. Lori Walston shared that FEMA has funding for hotel rooms for those who are homeless and meet certain criteria. Two local hotels have been identified. Our local Emergency Management staff are our point of contact. The guidance from BOS and NC Emergency Management have some discrepancies. Tim Rogers shared a link to a news release regarding FEMA funding in the chat feature.

LaTasha reviewed data from all 6 counties in our region.

In Duplin, Susan and Deniece shared that there has been no impact as of yet on homeless or those with unstable housing. They have had community conversations about hotel stays for those who are

homeless who become ill or need to be isolated. Duplin Christian Outreach Ministry is offering a drive thru pantry.

Greene County – Sharon shared that she spoke with the county manager about Greene County’s plan for homeless.

Lenoir – Sharon shared that she contacted the county manager and will reach out again. The shelter in Lenoir is not accepting new admissions.

Sampson – No cases yet in Sampson County. Susan from Duplin offered to help contact Sampson DSS if needed.

Wayne County – Captain Stokes shared that they are providing food and clothing to those in need, the shelter is open 24 hours per day, Salvation Army is the mass feeding coordinator for Wayne County. Hotels are opening for those diagnosed with the virus to stay throughout their quarantine period, in the shelter, they have increased their cleaning/sanitizing, and they need a digital thermometer. Greene Lamp offered to bring one to Captain Stokes. DJ Coles shared they are feeding families in Wayne, Lenoir and Wilson Counties. DJ wanted to connect with Captain Stokes about serving families.

### **Coordinated Entry**

This is being done via e-mail to be time sensitive. The CE evaluation has been postponed.

### **Continuum of Care**

There is a Webex presentation with information on the funding opportunity. North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness have begun preparations for those year’s competition. New applicants can apply for funding and an intent to apply form is required.

Angela Bates shared that Greene Lamp is considering applying. LaTasha stated that the intent to apply is non-binding.

Hope Station, Legal Aid and Wilson Housing Authority discussed applying. Tim shared that the webinar sounded more restrictive with regards to the use of funding.

### **Scorecard Committee**

Sheryl Cox from Lenoir County is the representative from Region 10. This committee work has been postponed.

### **Anti-Discrimination Policies**

Policies must be addressed with all ESG and CoC grantees. This is required by HUD.

### **ESG Workgroup**

Balance of State is hoping to help streamline the process. Deniece Cole serves on this workgroup. The intent of the work group is reduce burdensome paperwork across the region, coordinate communication and expend funding in all counties within the BOS.

Deniece shared that Duplin County DSS is considering applying for ESG funding in the future.

### **ESG Grantee Report**

Linda shared that she is working on shelter requisitions for Feb/March. They are on track with spending. They received additional funding for shelter operations.

Jackie from Wayne County shared that they have served 129 people. They used over \$18,000 of the funding with \$76,000 remaining.

Greene Lamp – They have housed 9 individuals, and spent 8% of their funding. They plan to have all funds expended by December. They haven't submitted requisitions yet, and Linda offered assistance if they needed it. A thank you to Katrina Mitchell, who is doing a great job.

### **Agency Updates**

Mary Lovick shared that all Greene Lamp staff are working remotely. There have been a lot of requests from senior citizens for food, Head Start staff are working with parents and sending packets home.

Tim shared a success story with a foster youth being housed through a partnership with WHA, Wilson County DSS and Hope Station. She will have her housing paid for up to 3 years.

Wayne County Salvation Army – they are continuing to do outreach in homeless camps and are providing food assistance to the public

### **LaTasha shared upcoming meeting dates:**

Wilson Greene: April 21

DownEast: May 13

Neuse Regional Meeting: September 9, 2020