

Neuse Regional Housing Committee Meeting

January 14,2021

Present: LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Victor Kosinski, NC Works Lenoir County; Tim Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; Jennifer Melton, Veterans Services of Carolinas/NC Serves; Sharon Dixon, Eastpointe; Sheryl Cox, Equipping the Saints Worship Center; Ray Cox, Equipping the Saints Worship Center; Angela Bates, Greene Lamp; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Deniece Cole, Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Geraldine Merritt, Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries; Zachary Branch, NC Works; Andrea O'Brian, Wilson County DSS; Crystal Gwendo, Greene Lamp; Judi Thurston, United Way; Cherie Lindsay, Wesley Shelter; John Apol, Hope Station; Mary Lovick; Greene Lamp; Justin Barlow, Greene Lamp; Stephanie Belvins, Salvation Army; Derrick Lockley, Derek Pavlosky, Veteran Services of the Carolinas

Welcome/Introductions

Minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Balance of State Governance Charter- Short summary shared. BOS wanted local levels to determine if the region wished to participate in the unsheltered PIT for 2021. A decision will be made within two weeks.

2020 Region 10 Leadership- the following were elected at our November meeting:

Regional Lead – LaTasha McNair
Alternate - DJ Coles
Coordinated Entry Lead – Linda Walling
Point in Time Lead – Candice Rountree
Secretary/Webmaster – Katrina Mitchell
Project Review Committee – Deniece Cole
Funding Committee Lead – Tim Rogers

COVID-19 Response -Victor Kosinski reported a vaccine clinic in Lenoir County by Lenoir County Health Department at 204 Airport Rd. Kinston. Must call and schedule an appointment.

Geraldine Merritt, Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries reported that they have funds to assist with rent and utilities and are accepting applications now. The individual will need to complete an application and provide a cut-off notice or eviction notice by the sheriff.

HOPE Program- Received over 50,000 applications. There is an issue with not receiving funds quickly enough. Legal Aide has been involved. They received 1600 applications within 3 weeks. Reported that they are doing their best to work through all the applications.

Coordinated Entry – Linda from Hope Station shared an update. 211 does coordinated entry for Back@Home. Still trying to figure out the work flow required to participate. Things are going well at the moment as the By Name List is being worked through. Coordinated Entry calls take

place on Wednesday's at 2pm.and partners may email Hope Station if they would like to participate.

COC Update -Competition is cancelled. Agencies may apply for new projects. They must submit the intent to apply for PSH or RRH. Funding is available with more details to come.

Emergency Solutions Grant- ESG Traditional-Hope Station, Greene Lamp and Salvation Army are applying for CV 1 funding.

ESG CV 2- A recommendation by the committee was made for Hope Station of Wilson and Greene Lamp for ESG-CV 2 funding. Regional Committee recommended that both agencies be submitted as high priority.

Greene Lamp and Salvation Army did not submit the appeal letter for annual ESG funding. The appeals deadline has passed.

Captain Stephanie Blevins reported for Salvation Army of Wayne County. She reported that because of staff changes, she is new and just learning how things work.

Linda from Hope Station reported that they were able to spend all of their funding. They are accepting clients into the shelter with a negative COVID test. They are also accepting referrals for prevention and Rapid Re-housing.

Katrina from Greene Lamp reported that they worked persistently to utilize the funds they were awarded. Unfortunately, due to COVID and the difficulty of locating affordable housing in the areas they serve; it impacted their ability to utilize all the funds.

2021 PIT Planning- Candice Rountree reported that HUD has just provided a Memo and Waiver option that acknowledged the challenge of figuring out a way to meet the annual PIT goals during a pandemic. HUD will allow the NC BoS CoC to not submit the 2021 Unsheltered Count to HUD. A sheltered PIT Count and the HIC will still be required to be submitted. Regional Committee recommended that the NC BoS CoC skip submitting the 2021 unsheltered PIT Count this year and continues to build on the CE systems. PIT date is January 27,2021.

Agency Updates – DJ Coles from 4-day Movement reported that they will assist Salvation Army with PIT. They will have updates next month.

Tim from Wilson Housing Authority reported that Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List is opening at the end of the month.

Upcoming Meetings- Wilson Greene (Tuesday, April 20th 10am-Zoom)
Down East (Wednesday, May 12th 11:30am –Web-Ex)
Neuse Regional September 8, 2020 11:30am –Web-Ex