

Neuse Regional Committee

September 9, 2020

Present: Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS, Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS, LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe, Angela Bates, Greene Lamp; Chris Jenkins, Hope Restorations; Deneice Cole, Duplin County Spiritual Destiny International Ministry; John Apol, Hope Station; Traci Knight, NEED; Mary Lovick, Greene Lamp; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Jonathan Rogers, Volunteers of America; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Sheryl Cox, Equipping the Saints Training Center, Ray Cox, Equipping the Saints Training Center, Jacqueline Caron, Sharon Dixon, Eastpointe, Crystal Gwendo, Greene Lamp, Victor Kosinski, NC Works Career Center, Ginell Rodger, NEED

Welcome/Introductions

Minutes were reviewed and approved from the April 8, 2020 meeting

COVID 19 Response

Duplin – no updates

Greene and Lenoir – Angela shared that they are still utilizing same funding to assist those in need, Mary Lovick is the contact, and they have a COVID-19 employment program, Crystal Gwendo is the contact

Sampson – no update

Wayne – no update

Wilson – applicants for shelter are tested by the Community Health Center and quarantined in a hotel, then referred to the shelter

Eviction Moratorium

CDC issued a nationwide moratorium on evictions. If individuals or families are permanently living in a hotel, this could apply to them. Evictions based on other reasons such as criminal activity, threatening the health and safety of others, the moratorium does not apply. There is a process, an affidavit that must be completed. Legal Aid is helping with this and folks are encouraged to contact them if they have questions or need help.

Coordinated Entry

Weekly calls occur at 2:00 p.m. every Wednesday. They are talking about mental health and substance misuse community issues. The new COVID funding will require coordinated entry participation. Balance of State asked that we scale down the list of referral sources within HMIS.

CoC Update

No updates regarding whether this will move forward. Continuum of Care funding is waiting on word from Congress for continued funding.

Racial Equity Subcommittee

We have been discussing this committee that functions on the Balance of State level. They are asking for volunteers for all counties, the subcommittee currently has app. 30 people. Some topics discussed will be police violence, systemic racism, voting. There will be two trainings provided by the NC Coalition to End Homelessness. LaTasha agreed to share the information for the trainings with our Regional Committee. They are looking at race issues as it relates to our Point in Time and HMIS data.

Emergency Solutions Grant Update

Crisis Response and Back at Home Funding have been awarded. Our Region is the only one without 100% coverage in all counties. There has been no coverage in Duplin, Wayne or Sampson Counties. Greene Lamp will take on coverage for these counties. Linda reported she is considering opting out of funding for the Back at Home programming due to paperwork and staffing issues.

2020/2021 Traditional ESG released recently, and there are some changes to the process. The Balance of State office will complete the Regional application. We will not need to use a project review committee. Project applications will submit directly to the Balance of State office.

Regional Committee will review project applications in Region 10 and we will prioritize and recommend for funding. We will be asked to rank the applications. It will not be an involved process. Tim Rogers is our funding lead. He needs 2 – 4 other volunteers to help with the process. Candice Rountree volunteered to assist. \$142,088 earmarked for emergency services, \$94,726 for housing stability. We currently have Greene Lamp, Hope Station and Salvation Army of Wayne County. New applicants can apply. All applications are due by 9-15-2020.

Angela – Greene Lamp has \$13,603 spent and they have served 9 individuals. They have spent 40% in Rapid Rehousing and are currently accepting referrals. Finding affordable housing is challenging, as is working through COVID. They have a success story of an individual paying his rent on his own.

Linda – Hope Station reports they have served 81 in men's shelter and 55 in family shelter. They have spent \$67,000 to date, 57% of their total award. They are accepting referrals for both shelters. All prevention funding has been exhausted. Identifying affordable housing that passes habitability inspection and rent reasonable assessment. They have been able to move people into housing quickly.

Salvation Army – Jackie reported they have served 129 individuals and 56 households. They have spent \$37,863. They are accepting referrals, there are new Captains at the Salvation Army. She's hopeful funding will be spent by year-end. Housing inventory is low and many clients are having difficulty finding jobs. Some have found housing through their stimulus check. Jackie is currently the director of the men's shelter. She could use some help with the ESG application, as this is new to her and the new Captains. She asked LaTasha for help. LaTasha asked that Linda help Jackie with the ESG application.

Upcoming Meetings

Wilson Greene – September 15

Down East – October 14

Neuse Regional Meeting – November 12, 2020