

Neuse Regional Housing Committee Meeting

November 12, 2020

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; Andrea O'Brian, Wilson County DSS; Angela Bates, Greene Lamp; Lisa Harrison, Greene County DSS; Cameron Cochran, Wilson Forward; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Deniece Cole, Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Zachary Branch, NC Works

Welcome/Introductions

Minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Balance of State Governance Charter – there have been updates that refer to changes in ESG funding process. This year, Balance of State submitted applications to ESG office. The Charter is stating that state level steering committee will take on the ESG review process.

Tim drafted a letter expressing our Committee's reservations with the funding process, as our local recommendations were ignored. Much discussion took place regarding our next steps with regard to communicating with the Balance of State office. Greene Lamp's ED Angela Bates stated she was planning to appeal. Linda Walling encouraged both Greene Lamp and Salvation Army Wayne County to appeal. This past year was an exception to the norm, all of our systems learning to deliver services during a pandemic. This reduction in funding can impact our communities for years. Decision made to write a letter from the Region supporting the agency's appeals. We also discussed another letter outlining specific concerns regarding cutting the Regional partners out of the decision making process. Linda and Tim will work on this letter. All those in attendance names will be included in support of the letters. Letter will be signed by Regional leadership.

HOPE Program – Intake for this program is closed.

Eviction Moratorium – NC's moratorium is in place through December 31, landlords must provide tenants with a blank copy of the form.

COVID 19 – Greene Lamp was awarded funding for Duplin, Sampson, Green, Lenoir and Pitt – they are planning a huge food distribution and a mobile health lab that will do screenings including blood pressure, COVID testing, mental health screening through Eastpointe; Wilson County is now focusing on rapid testing for shelter applicants, Greene County DSS received a \$5,000 grant from Duke Energy to help with utilities and water bills

Coordinated Entry – Things are in flux, there have been complications using 211 through the Back at Home program, as well as the assessment tool with NC Cares 360. We will need to narrow down our by name list and evaluate them again, not just through the lens of the VI-SPDAT

CoC update – The intent to apply is currently open.

Emergency Solutions Grant – Linda from Hope Station reported their numbers served and they have spent all of their funding. Angela from Greene Lamp reported that Katrina Mitchell wasn't at our meeting today because she was meeting with a landlord, they continue to have some difficulty finding affordable housing and they are on target to spend all of their funding by year end. No report from Salvation Army of Wayne County.

2021 Elections

LaTasha shared the job descriptions for all leadership positions. We discussed leadership volunteers and this is what we are proposing:

Regional Lead – LaTasha McNair

DJ Coles – Alternate

Coordinated Entry Lead – Linda Walling

Point in Time Lead – Candice Rountree

Secretary/Webmaster – Katrina Mitchell (Angela Bates will discuss with Katrina)

Project Review Committee – Deniece Cole

Funding Committee Lead – Tim Rogers (this may not be necessary, LaTasha will ask Tim)

LaTasha shared that there may be changes with the PIT count this year, stay tuned for details from Balance of State.

2021 Meeting Schedule – 2nd Wednesday of each quarter at 11:30

January 13

April 14

September 8

November 10