Wilson-Greene BoS CoC Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Wilson Housing Authority, Wilson, and North Carolina

Date: September 17, 2013

Attending:

Candice Rountree – Wilson County DSS (CoC Regional Committee President)

Howard Anthony – Wilson County DSS (CoC Regional Committee Secretary)

Susan Parker – Wilson County DSS

Amanda Flory – Wilson County DSS

Lynne White – The Wesley Shelter

Donna Pridgen – The Wesley Shelter

LaTasha McNeil– Eastpointe

Angela Ellis – Greene County DSS

Diane Kriesel - Veterans Residential Services

Sylvia Brewer – Veterans Residential Services

Valinda Belton – Wilson Housing Authority

Kelly Vick – Wilson Housing Authority

Candice started the meeting with introductions of all members present.

There was an update from a balance of state. Wilson-Greene’s applications went out on time and we have not heard back on the results yet.

The BoS is paying the CHIN license fees for users and was not necessary to apply for in our grant.

Velinda was noted as being the backup regional lead person for our committee and that it has been reported to the main office.

Candice talked about the different committee meetings and everyone can register and participate. Several trainings are coming up as noted on the agenda.

Susan asked if there had been anything new on the coordinated intake process noting that Marty had talked about it at another meeting. Candice noted that there was no discussion at her last meeting but she felt it will be coming. We will ask Rev. Marty to give an update at our next meeting.

Candice asked if there were any questions from the updates from the BoS. There was discussion about data collection on CHIN from all agencies and that some places not be able to report on the system. Candice felt that it would not affect us. Group discussed the issue.

Velinda talked about the article in the newspaper noting that section 8 applications will open up this Friday with 300 applications being accepted. They will be following the income limit used by the NC AMI. Applications need to be mailed or faxed in to the office. Because the standard has been lowered that many people have to be added back to the list. Sex Offenders are disqualified and the overall five-year criminal history rule will apply. The public housing waiting list is closed. Veterans have been added as a priority but homeless families/individuals are not on the priority list. Susan Parker noted that the subsidized housing units are a valuable piece and that homeless should be a priority. The committee agreed that homeless people should be included on the priority listing.

Lynne White noted that they have seen a large increase in DV people in comparison to homeless families. They served 169 total, with 149 of them receiving DV services. 84 women and 85 children were served, and Wesley Shelter served 15,000 meals. The average stay at their shelter has been 32 days overall. Lynne noted that the ESG program has been a vital program to transition people to their own places. Lynn noted that they have seen an increase in the need for food and understands that many pantries and emergency food distribution locations are being taxed because of increased need and the possibility that people are not getting food benefits timely. NCFAST has possibly contributed to the situation. Lynn stated that today is DV count day that is looking and counting what their shelter is seeing at their shelter on a particular day. They are completing their DV survey all day today until tomorrow morning. Lynn talked about her concern for the continuation of some funding in the future.

Kelly Vick, Director of the WHA introduced himself and thanked us for coming today. He noted 60 more units coming on line in the next 9 months. He restated that the voucher program is opening up on Friday for 300 vouchers. Candice asked about the priority listing with a recent change of adding veterans back to the listing. Candice noted that the committee would enjoy seeing homeless people/families placed back on the listing. He noted that their public meeting for the new plan is scheduled for tomorrow. The group discussed the need to have help for homeless and that it would be great to have them on the listing. Diane noted that the VASH system is useful but there are no locations in Wilson that can be used for this housing program for Veterans. Candice asked if it would be helpful to have an official letter from our CoC asking that homeless people/families be added to the listing. Mr. Vick stated the letter would be appreciated. Mr. Vick stated he would look close at the issue of homeless families being or not being on the priority list. Susan noted that she has observed a number of boarded up homes in East Wilson and she wondered if WHA is working on this issue. These are properties that could be used. He stated they do not have any land bank program at this time so they are seeing if the legislature is planning on legislation to allow organizations like the WHA to quickly move in on houses that are abandoned to allow them to possibly place them back into service. Mr. Vick noted that they along with several community groups are looking at the need to address the abandoned houses in Wilson. He noted that the 301 Forward Group is one group working on highway 301.

VRS noted they serviced their 100th veteran last week. She noted they are seeing a lot of veterans needing food. Two storage units have been donated with clothing and household goods. October 25th is their upcoming Golf Tournament.

Donna Pridgen from the Wesley Shelter announced that October is Domestic Violence month. October 15th, they are partnering with Barton College to host a take the night event at 6pm at the Fountain. October 30th, they are sponsoring a silent walk at 12:00pm.

Eastpointe noted that she is developing a county resource list for their agency. She is asking for contact numbers and names so she can contact all of us regarding the creation of a resource listing. The group talked about the United Way Resource listing that may be available on-line.

Angela from Greene County noted they are also experiencing NCFAST and NCTRACKS programs and the transition involved. Their section 8 housing may open up their application process in 2014. They open their application process for one day per year Snow Hill.

Angela asked about the responsibilities of committee members. Candice talked about the Governance Document with the BoS and what all committee members can do as part of the committee. She noted that Greene County can be part of the point in time count coming up in January. Committee members are valuable in providing information to the committee regarding priorities and activities in their areas. Committee members work together on goals to help homeless people.

Candice noted that WCDSS, Wilson Medical staff the Assistance City Manager will be attending a Learning Institute conference in Baltimore, sponsored by the National League of Cities and focused on health care for children and families. The city is investigating the possibly of applying for a planning grant to fund outreach and availability of medical care. Candice noted she is excited about this process as it is a strong partnership with the City of Wilson.

Candice talked about the Trauma Work at DSS and NCFAST noting she is working on a follow up to bring someone to our meeting October.

Howard will be facilitating meetings for October, November, December. Volunteers to take minutes are needed.

Next Meeting will be October 15, 2013 @ The Wesley Shelter.