Wilson-Greene BoS CoC Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Wesley Shelter

January 21, 2014

In Attendance:

**Candice Rountree –** Wilson County DSS

**Susan Parker–** Wilson County DSS

**Marty Stebbins –** Saint Timothy’s

**Amanda** **Flory**- Wilson County DSS

**Lynne White** – The Wesley Shelter

**Linda Walling** – Hope Station

**Donna Pridgen –** The Wesley Shelter

**Terri Hooks** – Wilson County Schools

**Diane Kriesel** - Veterans Residential Services

**Claudia Baker** – Veterans Residential Services

**Elvis Townsend – Carolina Community Health Center**

**Melinda Gates – Veterans Program - Greenville**

**Angela Ellis – Greene County DSS**

**Latasha McNair** -

* Welcome and Introductions of group members.
* Candice thanked Linda Walling for participating in the November BoS Committee call. Participation is critical in order to be in good standing and to apply for future grant funding.

**Balance of State Committee Updates:**

* Candice provided update regarding CHIN User’s MOU. There will be a link to accessing each grantee’s MOU. Candice will share the link with Wesley Shelter, WCDSS, and Hope Station.
* BoS reviewed the CoC applications for transitional housing RFP’s.
* BoS will be sending out guidelines regarding collecting better data for families assisted through Rapid Re-Housing. 12 month follow up on housing stabilization status will be required following exit from program. HUD is requesting better data around long term stabilization status.

**Point In Time Count Update**:

* Rev. Marty Stebbins coordinating our PIT Count which is scheduled for January 29th and 30th.

* HUD has updated the Survey forms. Rev. Stebbins will get the updated forms and send to volunteers/committee members who will be participating in the unsheltered and sheltered counts the night of January 29th and morning of January 30th.
* Rev. Marty Stebbins, Becky Stottlemyre (Faith Connection Coordinator), Candice Rountree and Susan Parker met to plan outreach and unsheltered PIT count planning. We have secured 4 Faith Community churches in outlying areas of the county to host “Breakfast for the homeless” the morning of January 30th. We will also have volunteers at the Soup Kitchen identifying unsheltered individuals that we may have missed the night before.

The following committee members volunteered to participate in the homeless count and will be available to complete surveys at the following sites on the morning of January 30th from 10:00 -11:00:

* + **Soup Kitchen** – (Downtown Wilson) - Rev. Marty Stebbins, Tim Barnes and St. Timothy’s church volunteers. Marty asked for a Spanish speaking volunteer and Lynne agreed to provide a volunteer from Wesley Shelter.
  + **Peace Church**  – (Tilghman Road/Ward Blvd) - Donna Pridgen and Annette Thomas
  + **WRAJ Christian Outreach Ministries** – (Elm City Area) - Diane Kriesel and Claudia.
  + **Living Hope Missionary Church** – (Lucama Area) Amanda Flory, Linda Walling and Glee Dunbar.
  + **Black Creek United Methodist Church** – (Black Creek Area) – Amy High and Terri Hooks

Rev. Stebbins is waiting on confirmation from Melbourne Church off of I-95. Amanda Flory will be assigned Melbourne Church if they confirm. If Melbourne church does not respond, we may need PIT volunteers to do site checks the night of the 29th in and around the I-95 corridor.

* Candice is coordinating the unsheltered PIT count arrangement with law enforcement. The following committee members will be riding with law enforcement on the night of January 29th from 11:30 p.m– 12:30 a.m:
  + Rev. Marty Stebbins
  + Tim Barnes, Intern
  + Candice Rountree (back up if needed)
  + Melinda Gates

* Angela shared that Green County law enforcement report no homeless individuals in their county except for possibly 1 known chronically homeless individual. Angela will work with Interfaith Services for possibly hosting a “breakfast site” and provide outreach in completing the PIT count for Greene County.
* Rev. Stebbins shared that they will not count Flynn Home residents due to their facility is mainly a treatment shelter for substance abusers and not dedicated to serving homeless.
* Wesley Shelter, Hope Station, Rapid Re-housing Program, St. John Participants will need to count their residents/participants the night of the 29th. Those agencies that use CHIN for documenting will have the opportunity to pull data from CHIN. Chin staff are working on getting this report completed.
* All surveys and forms must be turned in to Rev. Stebbins by February 3rd so that she can collect all the data and report to BoS in a timely manner.
* Susan asked if the ESG Rapid Re-housing count is for those active in the program only. Candice will follow up with BoS regarding how far back we need to count for RR clients. I spoke with Corey from BOS and we count only those who are enrolled and actively receiving services on the night of January 29th.
* Linda Walling will ask Hope Station residents to put up flyers at locations within the areas that homeless individual’s patron.
* Wesley Shelter has prepared 20 hospitality bags (gloves, food, socks, toiletries, etc). Candice asked if volunteers doing the homeless street count on the 29th could take 3-4 bags each with them today.
* Candice still waiting on follow up from Sheriff’s Dept regarding their participation with homeless count.

**Committee Member Updates:**

* Candice shared that we will be featured on a local television station regarding the PIT Count and our Regional Committee’s work around reducing homelessness. Candice, Lynn and Linda will participate in the interview. Article in WDT on the importance of the PIT count. Great article! As a result of the article, Candice has been contacted by 3 groups/individuals wanting to help the homeless. Suggestions were given by the members on needs:
  + Air mattresses
  + Food items
  + Coats, blankets, socks, underwear (Angela shared the Girl Scout Troop in Greene County had a coat drive – she will bring them to Wesley Shelter)
  + Pampers size 4
  + Thermal underwear
  + Men’s gloves
  + Children’s underwear and socks
  + Household furnishings for RR customers
* Candice spoke with the community member after the meeting; she dropped off winter coats at Hope Station during our meetings. She is agreeing to speak with her church to solicit the items that we need.
* Rev Marty shared our communities need for sheltering “Families”. Shared the “Family Promise” program and hoping to have interest from the faith community to start a model program.
* Candice invited the committee members to think about possibly planning an event or setting up a table at community events to share data, needs and work of this committee and homeless services in Wilson. Also possibly creating a Regional homeless website or link.
* Donna Pridgen shared the “One Billion Rising” event on the campus of Barton College on February 14th at 12:00 noon. Flash Mob Dance is scheduled. Practice for the event is on Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m at Hardy Hall.
* Linda Walling from Hope Station shared that they will be extending hours for residents to stay in the shelter to 8:45 am due to the frigid temperatures. Linda also shared that Hope Station could potentially provide hotel expense for homeless individuals/families. They have worked out process with local hotel and police department for unsheltered homeless persons/families during extreme weather conditions.
* Susan shared LIEAP and CIP heating programs to assist families with heating needs. Susan also shared Duke Energy Program funds received from NC Community Foundation and process for referral and accessing crisis funding for Duke Energy customers.
* Next Meeting: February 18, 2014 @ 10:00am. Location - Wesley Shelter.