**Wilson Greene Regional Homelessness Committee**

**October 20, 2015**

Present: Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Sharon Toney, WCDSS; Montrose Young, WCDSS; Kirstin Poythress, WCDSS; Tony Conner, NCWORKS; Joyce Wetherington, WCHD; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Melodie Horne, Wilson Housing Authority; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Montrose Young, WCDSS; Lori Walston, WCDSS; Twala Coleman, Family Endeavors

Discussion of 211. Candice passed along the state level guide via e-mail. Folks expressed that a lot of information was missing. There are instructions in the document regarding how to update information. Individual agencies will need to update their information.

We have a local, United Way Resource Guide that is more up to date.

**ESG Funding/Application Process**

We discussed the application for Emergency Solutions Grant funding. We must complete a Regional application and project applications. At this time, Hope Station is the only provider who has expressed interest in applying for funding.

DSS is willing to be the fiscal sponsor and will contract with Hope Station to operate ESG – do the case management, data entry, etc.

Candice explained that other community providers are welcome to apply and if so, we would need to make decisions as a Regional Committee regarding funding.

Discussion of priority populations for ESG. The VI SPDAT score will provide guidance regarding which families are in the most need.

We discussed our goals in terms of housing and achieved consensus on serving the following:

* Chronically homeless
* Families (Any combination of family that has children in the mix)
* Victims of Domestic Violence
* Veterans

Our total for assistance is $52,838. This is a reduction from last year.

We discussed a cap on spending per household. We also discussed referring every client to DSS for financial social work services, as DSS is increasing their capacity by training additional staff in financial literacy social work.

Linda walked the group through recommended policies.

The group members talked about the importance of Housing First coupled with wrap around services. A suggestion was made to consider a child/family team model approach, meaning that we meet with the client and community providers and develop a plan. Include mental health and any other service providers or family members/friends that are important to the client.

Lynne, LaTasha, Candice and Linda will serve on the project review committee.

**Community Partner Updates:**

Linda shared that she contacted Jean Farmer Butterfield's office for assistance with the delay in ESG reimbursement.

LaTasha shared that Eastpointe is applying for CoC funding to increase Shelter Plus Care. They will be serving those who are chronically homeless. The funding will serve families. Eastpointe has 2 renewals and 2 new project applications. LaTasha explained that the client would have to have a formal mh/dd/as diagnosis. The funding is all going towards rental assistance. Candice asked if she needed formal approval from the Regional committee. Recommendation was made to support Eastpointe’s CoC application. Our regional lead will complete the necessary paperwork indicating our support.

Lynne gave an update on Domestic Violence Awareness month. They are hosting a walk on October 28. Their numbers have been increasing. They complete a screening on all calls received. Lynne talked about the volume of calls received and they are struggling with Prevention/Diversion component of Coordinated Assessment.

Linda also expressed difficulties with implementation of Coordinated Assessment. We discussed the challenges of coordinated assessment and how our intake providers don't have dedicated screening staff.

The group expressed a need for a community housing coordinator. We had some discussion about advocating for a city/county blended funding position to lead housing efforts.

Tony reported that the veterans stand down went well, there were 17 veterans who participated.

Lynn talked about having a resource for fostering animals to encourage those who won’t leave their animals to seek safety when needed.

We had a discussion about therapeutic animals versus service animals. Some landlords require paperwork, and some do not.

There is an unsale at First Baptist Church, contact Becky Stottlemyre at WCDSS, 206-4000. Families are able to make appointments to shop for items they need. The unsale is November 7th, 9:30 – noon.

New Christian Food Pantry is our toys for tots site this year. They are located at 111 Douglas St. Families can sign up to receive toys from October 1 – December 10. Toys will be provided to children from birth to age 15. Hours of operation are: M – Th 9:30 – 3:00 and Friday 9:30 – 1:00.

Low Income Energy Assistance - December 1 -December 31. Households containing someone age 60 or older or households containing a disabled individual who receives a service from the DAAS.

January 1 - March 31: General population until funds are exhausted.

To find out more, call 206-4100.

Free flu shots at First Baptist Church, October 20th from 4:00 – 7:00. Sponsored by the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson and WCHD.

Twala talked about a recent success working with veterans residential services – in both agencies coming together to meet the needs of the client. She continues to do street outreach.

Next meeting: November 17th at 10:00