Wilson Greene Regional Homelessness Committee

March 15, 2016

Present: Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Mary Mallory, WCDSS; Kirsten Poythress, WCDSS; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Tony Conner; NC Works; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Kelly Vick, Wilson Housing Authority; Melodie Horne, Wilson Housing Authority, Jill Tarleton, Wilson County Health Department; Claudia Baker, Veterans Residential Services; James Goodman, St. John CDC; Amy High, Wilson County Schools; Twala Coleman, Family Endeavors; DyJae Mooney, Family Endeavors; Tamey Knight, VOA; Candice Rountree, WCDSS

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mary asked for sites for future meetings, as we have outgrown our current location. Kelly Vick offered Wilson Housing Authority at 502 Parkview St. Forrest Road Homes with the Wilson Housing Authority. Parking is adequate and Melodie will reserve the space. This will be the location of our meeting in April.

Thanks to Lynne and Wesley Shelter for graciously hosting us for so many years.

Mary shared updates from Balance of State and they are listed on the agenda provided via e-mail on March 11th.

**Homeless Referrals**

Kelly from WHA talked about Section 8 and Public Housing application. They opened applications for homeless individuals and families as a priority. Kelly is asking for referrals that meet the definition of homeless and needs a referral on letterhead from a referring partner stating the client is homeless and providing some detail regarding their circumstances. On April 4, the application process is open for anyone for 1 and 2 bedrooms. Applications for Section 8 can be taken to main WHA office.

Mr. Goodman provided information from St. John's CDC. He is the shelter manager - $80 per week for housing must be paid by the males living there, they can’t drink or use drugs. Refer to Cynthia Smith, transitional housing program for men. The phone number is 265-9764.

**Regional Committee Realignment**

Mary reviewed a proposal from Balance of State to combine some local regional committees. They want to combine Johnston, Wayne, Lenoir, Wilson, and Greene. Johnston has expressed to Mary that they are not interested in combining with our counties.

Below is a summary of our discussion:

Do we actually have a choice?

We still have to meet monthly.

Local collaboration is strong and we value our face to face work. The relationship building is invaluable.

This feels like it's more beneficial to BOS state partners.

We fear that consolidation could dilute local funding, and make things more competitive.

How were the counties selected? No alignment with Eastpointe or Family Endeavors or Region L Council of Government.

The group sees no advantages to this realignment.

Mary provided this rationale from BOS: This will help build leadership capacity. Leadership from same county was getting overwhelmed. This will help smaller counties help with capacity to apply for funds. From BOS perspective, they believe they will be able to provide more technical assistance if there were smaller regions.

The group expressed reservations about the rationale provided. From a local perspective, some community partners will not be able to travel out of the county on a regular basis.

It doesn’t feel like value added on our part.

Mary agreed to share this feedback with BOS.

**Community Partner Updates**

Senior Awareness Day - May 6 at Farmington Heights Church. Registration opens April 1.

Hope Station – ESG funding is available in a limited capacity.

Eastpointe - Wayne, Duplin, Sampson and Lenoir Shelter plus Care applications are being taken. There are 2 units available in Kenly.

Wesley Shelter - There is space in the shelter and we have space for homeless. April 9th is our Strong Soles event with a 5k, and an auction that evening.

DSS- Kids on the Lawn is April 16th, Ticket to Work Job Fair is April 27th and we still have vendor slots available. We will be having a financial literacy fair on April 14th.

Amy – Wilson County Schools, numbers of homeless are down because folks have tax refund money, 4 in hotels, 5 doubled up, 1 in Rocky Mount.

Claudia- working with 4 veterans who lost everything in a fire. They need furniture. Feeding 200 per month. Fundraiser at Lowe's this weekend. Mary thanked Claudia for her work. March 20 - 26 there is a fundraiser at Five Below.

Candice reported that application has been made to the Health Care Foundation for a community coordinator to implement an Eat Smart Move More campaign in Wilson County, this is a collaborative application between DSS, the Y and the Health Department. We are also applying for funding for a school based health clinic at Forest Hills School to provide health care services. The Health Department would provide in-kind nutrition and health education services and DSS would provide a prevention social worker.

Kelly asked if anyone from the Red Cross attends these meetings. We will reach out to a contact at the Red Cross.

Our next meeting is April 19th at 10:00 at Forrest Road Homes.