Wilson Greene Regional Homelessness Committee

April 19, 2016

Welcome/Introductions

Mary Mallory,WCDSS; Shana Baum, Hope Station, Cynthia Smith, St. John CDC; JoyceWetherington, WCHD; Claudia Baker, Veterans Residential Services; Dr. Michael Bell, St. John’s CDC; Twala Coleman, Family Endeavors; Lisa Council, WCHD; Angela Ellis, Greene County DSS; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Candice Rountree, WCDSS; Jill Tarleton, WCHD; Yolanda Taylor, Legal Aid; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Lori Walston, WCDSS; Tony Conner, NCWorks; Sharon Toney, WCDSS; Marsha Winstead, WCDSS; Tamey Knight, VOA; Kirsten Poythress, WCDSS; Cynthia Smith, St. John’s CDC; Katrina Hudson, Wesley Shelter; Ava Bradley, Greene County DSS; Mary Hyman, Divine Living Solutions; Melodie Horne, WHA; Keosha Maddox, Divine Living Solutions; Lane Sarver, St. John’s CDC

Mary reviewed BOS state updates. We talked about regional committee restructuring.

Dr. Bell and consultant, Lane Sarver presented on the Renaissance Housing Project. NC Housing Finance Agency approached St. John regarding funding. They are planning on doing single unit studio apartments, 16 in total. Lane Sarver shared a handout including blueprints. St John's has done the renovations on ground floor. They have applied to NC Housing for $700,000 and should know in June if they will receive funding. They are also planning to apply for a loan with BB and T. City and county have given them funding.

They want to create permanent, affordable housing. They plan to work with WHA and have them be Section 8 apartments. The housing is for single occupancy. The building has to meet fire code with sprinklers and an additional staircase. Each unit will have a small bathroom and small kitchen. The bathrooms can be wheelchair accessible. 3 units are designed for those with disabilities. St. John’s will provide coaching and mentoring services to residents. If Section 8 approval is given, residents will pay 30%, and HUD will cover the rest. St. John's is working with Lane Sarver as a consultant. Mr. Sarver shared that he had helped with other housing projects in Wilson County.

Dr. Bell reported they have 16 beds for men currently to serve those who are homeless. They do pay to stay in that housing. They have the Renaissance Project that will hopefully serve as a transition for those in the shelter. Second Act community came to Wilson and they are interested in working with St. John on a 150 unit project, that would be mixed use. They are looking for an anchor store, such as Lowe's foods.

What screening will be required for the Renaissance Project? That is not completely mapped out. Dr. Bell's preference is to not hold someone accountable forever when they have done their time in regard to a criminal record. The project timeline depends on securing funding. They will provide job skills training. They are currently operating a re-entry program.

The current charge for housing is on a sliding scale. Dr. Bell says they will take people with no income. Linda Walling said she has always heard that it is $80 per week. Dr. Bell says they have rules that must be followed. Their curfew is 11:00. Hope Station's is 6:00 or 7:00.

Linda reported that we received additional funding in ESG. Great news! Hope Station, DSS, Wilson Energy, and Wesley Shelter are working together. We have a plan to house 50 families. Wilson Energy is planning to do their part in terms of addressing arrears, by possible working with each client on an individual basis. Crawford Bolton is our contact, and we need to provide a release.

Kirsten suggested that we get together and discuss the housing plans for the referrals that have been made recently. Kirsten has several customers who need handicapped accessible living space. A smaller group will meet to discuss, including Kirsten, Shana, Katrina and United Way representative.

Melodie reported that WHA waiting list is very long.

Greene County- their intern graduAtes in a couple of weeks. Angela is serving on Director's Association Aging Committee. Angela continues to try to recruit partners from Greene County. Keosha Mattox is from Greene County and is interested in opening shelters, her non-profit is Divine Living Solutions.

Legal Aid- kicking up advocacy around housing, also looking at affirmative action on housing,she will present next month on expungement.

VOA-accepting referrals.

Career Fair - must be registered with NC Works. It's April 22 from 9:00 - 12:00. Pitt county has a job fair this Thursday.

WCDSS - kids on the LWn was this past Saturday in celebration of child abuse prevention month. Ticket to Work Job Fair is next week.

WHA - working on criminal record check policy to be in compliance.

Sharon - there is a food give away on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 10:00 - 12:00 by open door community outreach center, behind Dick's hot dogs

Cynthia - kids participated in Eyes on Main

Joyce - gearing up for Zika virus

Claudia- serving 300 veterans, need is great

Linda - have identified a location for homeless women's shelter. Numbers they are serving are up. They currently have a transgender resident.

Kirsten - Senior Awareness Day is May 6. The theme is Blaze a Trail. You can still register at 206-4000. There are units at Beacon with the TArgeted Housing Program. There are 3 units, please contact Kirstenif you have referrals.

Jill- WCHD will be expanding and offering additional services in the future.