**Wilson Greene Regional Homelessness Committee**

**July 19, 2016**

Present: Candice Rountree, WCDSS; Yolanda Taylor, Legal Aid; Lisa Council, WCHD; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Tony Conner, NCWorks; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe, Shana Baum, Hope Station; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Mary Mallory, WCDSS; Lori Walston, WCDSS; Judi Thurston, United Way; Latoya Heath, Greene County DSS; Tamey Knight, Volunteers of America; Kirsten Poythress, WCDSS; Felicia Williams, Wilson Community Health Center; Melodie Horne, Wilson Housing Authority

Linda Walling shared that Hope Station plans to apply for CoC funding. The purpose of the grant is to address some gaps in ESG. She shared that 4 or 5 folks who are housed at WHA are in danger of eviction due to substance abuse issues. Linda would hire a case manager and the funding is for long term support. She plans to apply for $146,000. Half is housing assistance. There are 100 people on the WHA homeless waiting list. It is unclear if this number is accurate with regard to true homelessness, we don't have anywhere near this number on our PIT count.

There is a 25% match requirement.

Candice agreed to connect Linda with Erin Day from Wilson County Substance Abuse Coalition.

Lynne motioned that we approve Hope Station's application, Yolanda seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Latasha shared they are applying for Shelter + Care funding, they will request $89,000 for one year. They applied last year and were not selected. This is housing for families whose head of household has a mental illness who are chronically homeless. There will be 6 in Nash and Edgecombe, 3 in Wilson, and 1 in Greene.

Candice made a motion to approve Eastpointe's application, and Yolanda seconded. All approved.

Jim Walker is a landlord who doesn't require criminal checks and works well with tenants.

Mary shared that Twala Coleman has accepted employment outside of Family Endeavors and she can’t take over as Regional Lead. Twala will be missed. She asked for volunteers. At this time, no one expressed an interest. This will remain an agenda item.

Tony shared information about the 3rd Annual Veteran Stand Down in Wayne County. Transportation will be provided.

Melodie shared we can have meetings at Forest Road next month.

Lynne – Wesley Shelter secured grant funding through Z Smith Reynolds and Governors Crime Commission and will hire bilingual staff which will allow them to increase their service provision. They also received a Merck grant to hire a Nurse health educator. It's grant season and Wesley Shelter has 5 grants that will need to completed.

Yolanda - they settled with Fidelity Bank for $1,000,000 to invest in neighborhoods with minorities. They will display fair housing and no discrimination policies in Spanish and English. They also won case in Scotland County, a Title VI case. There were 71 women total who were compensated.

Linda - issues in shelter with drugs, they experienced a resident on PCP recently. They are installing new flooring. They received $150,000 towards a new Women's Shelter. The committee is discussing how to handle transgender and/or families. Linda is applying for additional grant funding to support the shelter, the grant is a job training program.

Lisa reported there are a lot of openings at WCHD. They are accepting new patients.

Lori - DSS is implementing a new document management system and there may be a longer wait initially in the lobby. She shared information about our ABAWD program. Able Bodied Adults without Dependents, ages 18 – 49 will have to participate for 20 hours per week to maintain their benefits. DSS is partnering with United Way to encourage customers to use GET CONNECTED, a volunteer site for those needing volunteers and those who want to volunteer.

Kirsten - they are taking Targeted housing applications, she is seeing a lot of elderly and disabled who need housing. Many landlords are requiring double deposits.

Mary - We have seen an uptick in homeless customers. DSS is verifying homelessness before providing documentation.

Mary shared that DSS is providing financial education to customers. The course is called Dollars and Sense. We will provide child care and we will give participants an incentive for completing the course. Candice will send a flyer. The course can be provided off-site.

Judi - they have seen an influx of homeless customers, many with mental health challenges. Many are not in Wilson long-term. They facilitate the emergency food and shelter program. $54,000 will be coming to Wilson There is a new director at Flynn Home, Earl Reaves. There are also new leaders at Salvation Army, Jake Law.

LaTasha - they are renewing Shelter plus Care grant. This is a first time renewal.

Hope Station’s new hours are 8:00 - 4:00 Monday through Thursday and Friday 8:00 - noon.

Yolanda asked about transportation services. DSS does have some resources.

Appliances - the ReStore has a lot of appliance donations. We will keep this on our agenda, as some customers are struggling to secure housing due to their inability to purchase stove and refrigerator. Many landlords are removing appliances from units. Our Faith Connections coordinator can send an email asking our faith partners for donations of appliances.

Felicia shared that Katrina will be the Housing Coordinator at Wilson Community Health Center, she is leaving Wesley Shelter to take this position.

Next Meeting: August 16, 2016