**Neuse Regional Housing Committee Meeting**

**November 13, 2019**

Present: Zachary Branch, NC Works; Katrina Mitchell, Greene Lamp; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Deniece Cole, SDJM; Victor Kosinski, NC Works; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; Susan Thigpen, Duplin County DSS; Ashley Horne, 4 Day Movement; Kimetha Stevens, Carolina Residential Services; DJ Coles, 4 Day Movement; Stefhani Marmolejo, Greene County DSS; Sheryl Cox, Prison Outreach Ministry; Crystal Gwendo, Greene Lamp; Priscilla Wiggins, Greene Lamp; Mary Lovick, Greene Lamp; Jacqueline Caron, Wayne County Salvation Army; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe

Phone participants: Jonathan Rogers, VOA; Janice Sauls, Wayne County Salvation Army

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Thanks to Greene Lamp for hosting and providing lunch.**

**Review and approval of minutes from September 2019 meeting.**

Victor asked that the spelling of his name be corrected. Tim moved for approval and Victor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval of minutes.

**Coordinated Entry**

When we have final decisions regarding ESG funding, our plan will be updated and will require annual updates. Things are going smoothly, although coordinated entry covering 6 counties is challenging. Coordinated entry calls occur each Wednesday and names need to be submitted by Tuesday in order for entry into HMIS. Emergency cases only will be staffed without prior submission.

**Emergency Solutions Grant**

LaTasha shared information about the ESG process this year. Our applicants are Hope Station, Greene Lamp, and Salvation Army of Wayne County. All regions were required to develop a code of conduct and LaTasha will share with the group. Hope Station’s request for emergency shelter funding was denied based on the ESG office’s decision to withhold funding for not adhering to all written standards. Hope Station does not adhere to all written standards as it relates to sobriety, maximum income, sex offender status, warrants check, confirmation of identity. Linda provided detail as to why Hope Station does not follow all the written standards. Linda believes that the ESG office is misinterpreting some HUD regulations. Hope Station’s Board believes the safety of shelter residents would be compromised if they followed all written standards and are prepared to walk away from ESG funding. Hope Station is appealing the decision to the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Our committee discussed how we might support Hope Station in this appeal. Hope Station serves as our coordinated entry lead and has been able to do so successfully in our 6 county region. They have been responsible stewards of ESG funding. A decision was made to include a letter of support from the Neuse Regional Committee. Candice, DJ and LaTasha agreed to draft a letter of support.

Greene Lamp and Salvation Army of Wayne County did receive their full funding request.

Linda provided a detailed, written report regarding ESG expenditures year to date. Challenges include mental health needs in the new family shelter and families seeking services who aren’t homeless.

A success story is the housing of a family that had been served by the family shelter. The 2 adults and 3 children are employed and were assisted with rapid rehousing and were able to move out of the shelter in 2 weeks.

Jacqueline provided a detailed, written report from Salvation Army of Wayne County. She expressed some difficulty with serving families as she has been ill. 58% of grant funding has been expended. Challenges include low inventory of housing, eviction histories, reluctance to rent to those who don’t have long-term employment and rental history. She shared a success story; a local newspaper article featuring a family that now has a home thanks to ESG.

**COC update**

We are waiting for HUD final announcement.

**2020 Point in Time County**

We discussed at our last regional meeting and Lieutenant Sherrie Stokes was considering being the Region’s Lead. She prefers to be the lead in Wayne County. Candice Rountree will serve as PIT Lead. Local leads are: Mary Lovick, Greene County; Susan Thigpen, Duplin County; Lieutenant Stokes, Wayne County; Victor Kosinski, Lenoir County; Candice Rountree, Wilson County.

Deniece Cole agreed to contact a community member in Sampson County about serving as lead.

Some explanation of the PIT was provided to new members. A PIT call hosted by NCCEH is happening while we are meeting. The call will be recorded and members are encouraged to view the call/webinar.

We discussed conducting street and service counts. For those we locate that are chronically homeless, we agreed to provide information about the Shelter Plus Care program, as we have a need for referrals. LaTasha agreed to draft a flyer for us to use on our street and service counts. Many counties also provide care packages including toiletries, clothing and food items.

**2020 Leadership**

We discussed potential candidates for each position. Our election results are as follows:

Regional Lead: LaTasha McNair

Regional Alternate: DJ Coles

Coordinated Entry Lead: Linda Walling

ESG Funding Process Lead: Tim Rogers

PIT Lead: Candice Rountree

Webmaster/Secretary: Candice Rountree

Veteran Committee Lead: Zachary Branch and Crystal Gwendo

CoC Project Review Committee Lead: Deniece Cole

Local Leads: Wilson Greene rotates leadership responsibilities, and the DownEast meeting will continue with LaTasha McNair as the lead.

2020 Meeting Schedule: January 8th at Hope Station in Wilson County at 11:30

April 8th at Duplin County DSS at 11:30

September 9th at Greene Lamp in Lenoir County at 11:30

November 12th in Wayne County at 11:30

Wilson Greene continues to meet monthly in Wilson County at Hope Station. Down East meets 8 times per year, on the months when there is no Regional meeting.

**Agency Updates**

Salvation Army is hiring bell ringers and the need donations.

Sheryl Cox – provides a prison ministry and many of the people she serves need help with housing when they are released. She came to learn more about resources. Welcome, Sheryl!

Eastpointe – they have Permanent Supportive Housing beds available for those that are chronically homeless. James Crowell is moving into another position with Eastpointe.

Zachary – provided details on the Veteran’s Stand Down and a Veteran’s parade

Greene County DSS – Low Income Energy Assistance program is accepting applications.

Alpha Omega Church – they are having a coat giveaway in Kinston

4Day Movement – they will doing another Laundry Love event and are collecting donations for holiday giveaways

Wilson Housing Authority – applied for mainstream vouchers with Eastpointe, also working with DSS for foster youth housing voucher

Duplin DSS – they have an enrollment broker for Medicaid, they are having a bake sale to raise money for foster children

Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries – they have funding for those displaced due to Hurricanes

Greene Lamp – they are completing needs assessments and doing public hearings and reaching out to public officials

4Day – had an opportunity to speak at an event with a Deputy Secretary of DHHS

VOA – continue to be a resource for veterans for housing and prevention services

LaTasha shared a Balance of State Steering Committee Summary and encouraged members to participate in BOS webinars/meetings.