**Wilson-Greene Regional Homelessness Committee**

**May 19, 2015**

Present: Mary Mallory, Wilson County DSS; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Nikkole Weiss, Family Endeavors; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Twala Coleman, Family Endeavors; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Sharon Toney, Wilson County DSS; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Yolanda Taylor, Legal Aid; Donna Pridgen, Wesley Shelter; Audrey Watson, Veterans of America;

Introductions were made.

Mary shared an update from Balance of State

Hope Station shared an update on ESG. They have not received any reimbursement. Prevention funds are gone. The answer from the state regarding reimbursement is that they are managing 75 grants. Hope Station will be able to help 16-18 families total.

A discussion was held about landlords and the difficulties obtaining affordable, safe housing in Wilson County. Many landlords don't provide stove/refrigerator. Double deposits are being charged and utilities are astronomic.

The city has lower standards inspection wise versus HUD standards. Shana has experienced difficulties with housing standards. We talked about the landlord meeting again. We would like to do this with the city. Lynne is recommending that we meet on Thursday because then we would have donations from Panera. The committee that was meeting about this included: LaTasha, Rev Marty, Jill and Candice. Linda suggested including a client on planning committee. We need to have a neutral facilitator. We also need to reach out Renee at the city.

Twala shared they had a panel meeting with landlords recently in Cumberland County and it was successful.

Linda talked about the data training that she and Shana participated in. They will be audited regarding security and confidentiality of their electronic recordkeeping. The training was all screen shots and they were told they would be trained again on procedures in the near future.

Candice mentioned that the coordinated assessment workgroup will hopefully meet in the next couple of weeks. This includes Wesley Shelter, Hope Station, Wilson Crisis Center, Wilson County DSS, and Greene County DSS.

Yolanda shared that those who weren't covered by Medicaid wouldn't be penalized for not having health coverage(if they weren’t covered because our state chose not to expand Medicaid coverage). She also said they continue to work on expungement issues to help clients find work.

Lori reported that DSS is having foster parent banquet, that it is Older Americans Month. She continues to publicize events through social media.

Nikkole from Family Endeavors reported on their landlord breakfast. They had 10 landlords and a veteran who shared his experiences. She thinks it was a powerful experience for all in attendance.

Hope Station is having a Swamp Stomp as. Fundraiser on June 13. They have pledge packets for youth. Linda also shared a grant opportunity they applied for in collaboration with community college, historic preservation, and other organizations.

Donna shared that National Law Enforcement week was last week. They shared refreshments with Sheriffs and Police Department to thank them for their collaborative work.

Latasha shared that there is a targeted housing training in June. This is to train those to make referrals for disabled individuals who are in need.

Sharon Toney is the new Alternative Services supervisor at DSS. They provide job coaching and MORE, Motivating Others to be Responsible Employees. If they go through the class, the CRC process through community college is done at no expense to the client. Participants can start the MORE class on any Monday. ACCESS is a case management service provided by Alternative Services.

Audrey Watson works for Volunteers of America in Rocky Mount and they cover 14 counties. Their grant funds are from SSVF. They serve veterans only. She is receiving referrals from Wilson. Hope Station has made referrals.

Lynne reported they had 17 women and children at Wesley. They now have a children's service component which includes play therapy. There are more male victims and they have begun a male support group.

Mary talked about DSS's subsidized employment, Express employment. DSS can help with resume writing and job search.

Mary asked for volunteers for the customer service task force through the school system. A couple of attendees expressed interest.

Twala shared information about services through Family Endeavors. She is SOAR certified.

Next meeting is June 16 at Wesley Shelter at 10:00.