**Wilson Greene Regional Homelessness Committee**

**September 15, 2015**

**Wesley Shelter**

**10:00**

Present: Linda Walling, Hope Station; Lisa Council, Wilson County Health Department; Mary Mallory, Wilson County DSS; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Crawford Bolton, City of Wilson; Audrey Watson, Veterans of America; Latasha McNair, Eastpointe; Sharon Toney, Wilson County DSS; Claudia Baker, Veterans Residential Services; Twala Coleman, Family Endeavors; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Joyce Wetherington, Wilson County Health Department; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Tony Connor, NCWORKS; Katrina Hudson, Wesley Shelter; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Timara Jefferies, Family Endeavors; Melodie Horne, Wilson Housing Authority

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Presentation from Crawford Bolton with Wilson Energy:**

Crawford Bolton reported from the City of Wilson. He discussed the rate decreases through the city. They have an energy assistance program. They look at whether the family is having a legitimate family crisis. They assist $200 up to once per year. Joyce Rogers is the contact. Please call the main number, 399-2200. They do offer waste water adjustments. They require documentation from a plumber or receipts from a hardware store. They send out letters when they notice unusual amounts of usage.

Lynne asked if the emergency assistance could be used on deposits for those who are homeless. Crawford said yes, in extreme circumstances.

Deposits are based on credit checks, then after a year, your pay history. You can get it back after a year.

Deposits are based on low, medium and high risk.

They can give you an average of the utilities at a residence. They can't give specifics. The group asked for consistency from customer service. They asked for January and July bills.

Many homes in Wilson aren't insulated well, and are not energy efficient. The City offers free energy audits.

Crawford agreed to look into how much information can be shared regarding an energy audit on a property.

Through the inspections department, you can report properties that you believe are unsafe.

Discussion about late charges. The city has billing 5 cycles and routes. Bill date + 18 days = Due Date +2 day Grace Period. From the due date, you have 7 - 10 days. They don't do cut-offs on Sat and Sun. You can receive 4 extensions per year, which is about 3 weeks. There could be system malfunctions, or a customer may continually pay with bad checks, or pay a partial payment and this would create inconsistencies with regard to timeframes for cut-off.

Discussion about credit balances. Crawford needs to hear from each agency if they want the client to receive a credit or if it should stay as a credit on the account.

They don't cut off when it's 32 or below, and 100 or above. This is based on reporting from a local media outlet.

There are 34,000 customers and 7 meter readers. The meters are moving to electronic operations.

There is a medical alert program for those who are on oxygen. They get an extra reminder about their bill.

Crawford’s contact information is:

399-2160

Cbolton@wilsonc.org

Mary asked that attendees review updates from BOS that are on the agenda.

We postponed our discussion of coordinated assessment until the next meeting.

**Community Partner Updates:**

Veterans residential is having a golf tournament on October 2. Claudia asked for help on specific cases. The group provided recommendations. They have 232 veterans.

Joyce reported there are a lot of 7th graders who don't have required vaccines. They are offering after hours clinics.

Katrina shared that Take back the Night and the Silent Walk are in October

Linda reported there is about $10,000 left in ESG funds. They are getting walk-ins. They have spent $25,000 and are unable to spend until they receive reimbursement.

Linda reported they had their first transgender clients. Mary reported she had been checking into training on this issue. The group expressed interest in responding in a culturally sensitive manner.

Regarding the continued release of inmates, Linda shared that there are shelters in Tarboro and Rocky Mount that will house sex offenders.

Hope Station's golf tournament is October 22.

Latasha says shelter plus care is opening in a couple of weeks

Tony reported that the Stand Down is happening and he is collecting names to transport to the event. He wants to make sure that all veterans who want to participate are able to. Transportation and meals are provided at no cost.

Sharon reported that a staff member attended a BOS training on Diversion. Sharon is happy to share the information from the training. The training was free and it was excellent.

Twala shared they are completing vulnerability indexes.

Candice reported on 2 community events. 9-19 there will be an event at Reid St Community Center for those who have Sickle Cell and their family members. The time for this event is 9:30 – 1:30. On 9-26 there is a Recovery Walk/Rally at First Methodist. A viewing of Anonymous People will occur and free food and door prizes are available. The time for this event is 10:00 – 1:00. DSS hired a SW who will be placed at Beddingfield High School to work with pregnant and parenting teens. We were able to do this through funding from the Division of Public Health. The SW is Charlene Sosa and she will be using Partners for a Healthy Baby as an evidence based curriculum. DSS is thrilled to be working with the school system to address teen pregnancy and high school graduation.

Audrey Watson has money to help put veterans in housing.

Melody Horne is the new rep from WHA. They are taking applications for housing.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.