**Wilson Greene Regional Housing Committee**

**May 17, 2016**

Present: Tony Conner, NC Works; Twala Coleman, Family Endeavors; Lisa Council, Wilson County Health Department; Candice Rountree, WCDSS; Mary Mallory, WCDSS; Felicia Williams, Wilson Community Health Center; Tamey Knight, Volunteers of America; Amy High, Wilson County Schools; Sharon Toney, WCDSS; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Shana Baum, Hope Station, Lori Walston, WCDSS; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Mary Mallory, WCDSS; Yolanda Taylor, Legal Aid; LaTasha McNair, EAstpointe; Ellen Rodriguez attending for Angela Ellis, Greene County DSS, Mary Hyman, Called2carefamily care homes; Sharon Toney, WCDSS

Mary reviewed the BOS updates. She explained that there are no final decisions with regard to county restructuring. She pointed out that PIT data is available on-line.

Mary asked for a volunteer to serve on the Scorecard Committee. This person will participate in a conference call to develop the scorecard to evaluate applications. No one volunteered to serve on the committee. Candice agreed to do this after the meeting.

Yolanda presented information on expungements. They are able to do a global criminal search for the entire state. If someone has a dismissal and that is there only case, that can be expunged. When there are multiple dismissals, this is more complicated.

Legal Aid discusses with the client the charges that cause the most problems with regard to housing or employment. There is really only one expunction in your lifetime. There is a great deal of analysis that needs to occur before pursuing expunction.

An expunction is cleared from your record. A certificate of relief is something from the court saying this person has been rehabilitated. This allows the participant to pursue career certifications that would previously not be allowed.

Legal Aid is moving towards doing impactful work. They won't be offering as many direct services. They are looking into challenging criminal records and housing requirements. They will look at housing policies. They want their representation to have a broad impact.

Legal Aid services are free if the client is indigent.

Lynne reported that BB and T is doing a lighthouse project with metal beds and painting the facility. There are currently 7 women in the shelter, 3 of whom are homeless. There is lot of improvement work happening while the numbers are low. They received a great for Spanish speaking services for victims. The Governor's Crime Commission is moving their grant year from 12 to 15 months this year to align with federal fiscal year.

Shana- has assessed 30 clients. Wilson Energy is taking a look at not charging homeless clients the full utility amount due. We may be able to house as many as 50. The partnership with Wilson Housing Authority is great.

Amy- there are a lot of homeless families, and many are in hotels. The referral process is clear, and families are going to DSS and Hope Station and Wesley Shelter and our community process is working. Amy expressed appreciation for community partners. BB and T is doing a project of a clothing closet at Daniels. During the summer, Amy does not work, but we can call her. There are about 150 kids on the homeless waiting list.

Linda- general financial assistance is being directed to ESG clients. The opportunity to house multiple homeless with the Housing Authority is a once in a decade opportunity. The client choice pantry is operational for the past 6 weeks, the clients and volunteers are loving it. They choose based on the Choose my Plate model. Clients need a photo id and income proof. They are referred to DSS when they don't have an EBT card. Children need birth certificate and Medicaid card. They are good for one year after providing documentation. They receive a 3 day supply of food.

Yolanda reported they are doing self-help clinics on simple divorce, custody, wills, power of attorney and advanced directives. They will make home visits. They have three interns.

Ellen from Greene County DSS- will be hosting a senior resource day on June 18 at the Farmer's Market from 11:00 - 2:00.

Divine Living Solutions- being helped by Dr. Bell. She is interested in securing grant funds. Candice suggested she contact Balance of State, specifically Brian Alexander.

LaTasha - for targeted housing, there is a 3 bedroom unit available in Wilson.

Twala- has been spending a lot of time at soup kitchen volunteering.

Candice - shared that a grant application to Aetna for a food truck/via was denied, she is currently working on an application to address food insecurity needs in rural areas of Wilson County

We talked about the ABAWD work/ volunteer requirements. We will have many clients who will need to work/volunteer/participate in education to continue receipt of food assistance.