**Neuse Regional Committee**

**Kinston Community Center**

**Lenoir County**

**November 14, 2018**

Present: Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Mary Marlin, Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government; Kimetha Stevens, Carolina Residential Services; Jeralene Merritt, Duplin Christian Outreach Ministry; Deniece Cole, Duplin Christian Outreach Ministry; Jeremy Ingram, ?; Stefhani Marmolejo, Greene County DSS; James Crowell, Eastpointe; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Britney Holmes, Carolina Family Health Center; Janice Sauls, Salvation Army of Goldsboro; Jacqueline Caron, Salvation Army of Goldsboro; Zachary Lee Branch, NC Commerce; Sue Proctor, SAFE and Friends of the Homeless; Anna Jernigan, ?; Katrina Mitchell, Greene Lamp; Collena Nobles, Greene Lamp; Leigh Ann Hardee, UCARE (phone); LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe

**Lunch provided by SAFE in Lenoir County, thank you!**

**Introductions/Welcome**

**Review and Approval of April minutes. Minutes approved unanimously with no edits.**

**Coordinated Assessment Update**

Hope Station serves as our Regional Lead on Coordinated Assessment. They received a SSO-CE grant, around $32,000. All CoC and EST grantees must participate in Coordinated Entry. Our Region has a call weekly on Wednesdays for case conferencing. We are completing VI-SPDAT and placing people on a waiting list and services are provided base on need. Referrals are taken only through this process to eliminate side-door entries. LaTasha asked for feedback on how it’s working. From Salvation Army,   
“It organizes the flow, it’s much easier and the flow is better.”

BoS postponed their annual review of our Coordinated Entry system due to Hurricane Florence.

**Funding Committee**

Mary Mallory served as the lead on this committee with other regional members. We had six applicants initially, then 2 withdrew and 1 didn’t submit a final application. Three applications were moved forward for funding to support shelter, prevention, rapid rehousing and HMIS. Thanks to all committee members who voted via e-mail to approve the committee’s recommendations.

**Emergency Solutions Grant Funding**

There are about 45 days left in this year’s ESG funding. LaTasha asked each program to give a report. Friends of the Homeless reported they had served 27 from January – September. We had a discussion about the CAPER report and that this is a useful tool.

Salvation Army has housed 61 people.

There was discussion about paperwork and how much time it takes and how burdensome it can be. There was agreement from grantees regarding the difficulty of preparing documentation.

Hope Station has housed 74 through Rapid Rehousing, 10 through prevention and served 120 in Emergency Shelter. There was a question for Shana about how long folks stayed in shelter. Shana says it varies a great deal, and that those who are disabled tend to stay longer.

U-Care – no specific report. Leigh Anne is driving and participating via phone call.

LaTasha asked grantees is funding will be spent by the end of the calendar year. All said yes except Friends of the Homeless.

A question was asked if the amount of spending affected future funding. LaTasha explained that the program’s ability to expend the funding does impact decision making regarding granting additional grant funds. A comment was made that they hoped BoS would consider that some of our counties were impacted by the hurricane and that has affected their ability to function.

A family shelter will be opening in Wilson County in 2019. Duplin County is looking for housing resources. A lot of families impacted by the Hurricane were already living in poverty. Some children just returned to school recently. At times, it’s easier to find shelter for animals than people who are homeless.

Greenville VA has HUD-VASH vouchers available. Back at Home is the Governor’s Initiative in partnership with FEMA, DHHS.

**CoC Update**

Eastpointe is the only applicant. They have funding to serve those who are chronically homeless.

**2019 Point in Time Count**

There needs to be a good count in all counties in our Region. It would be best practice to do a street count and a service count. Planning is vital, the data reported helps determine future funding. We need an overall lead and a lead in each county. Training will be available for county leads and the hope is that each county will mobilize volunteers to canvas each county.

Lenoir – Victor Kasinsky

Wilson – Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS

Duplin – Edna Ennis, Vidant Duplin

Wayne - DJ Coles, 4 Day Movement

Greene –

Sampson, Leigh Anne, UCARE

DJ shared information about outreach they do in Wayne County, Laundry Love. They wash clothes for free for those who are homeless and this will kick off their PIT count. They have great community support and the military helps with this.

Candice shared information about Operation Wrap-Up to raise awareness of Hunger and Homelessness. Our third annual event is Friday, November 16th. United Way, DSS, Hope Station, and Wesley Shelter collaborate and collect winter items. Those items are attached to trees for those in need to remove. BB and T donated over 500 scarves, gloves and blankets. We did receive media coverage of this event.

<http://www.wilsontimes.com/stories/volunteers-leave-gifts-of-warmth-for-needy,150960>

**Leadership in 2019**

Lead – LaTasha McNair

DJ Coles – Alternate

Coordinated Entry – Linda Walling

ESG Funding – Deniece Cole

PIT Lead – Candice Rountree

Webmaster/Secretary – Candice Rountree

Veterans – Zachary Branch

All positions were discussed and voted on by the Committee. We chose no other leads at this time.

**Meeting Schedule for 2019:**

We will meet quarterly. January 9th in Wilson County, April 10th in Duplin County, September 18th in Wayne County and November 13th in Lenoir County. Hosting agencies will provide lunch if they are able to, but it’s not required.

**Agency Updates**

Zachary shred information about the Wayne County Stand down where 68 veterans were served.

Salvation Army had a successful job fair and their shelter is full.

Hope Station’s family shelter is opening in 2019.

Duplin County – A Resource Fair was held at James Sprount Community College. There were vendors with food and cleaning supplies.

Greene County – Low Income Energy Assistance Program starts in December.

Area Agency on Aging – They are located in the Council of Government in each county. There are services for those aged 60+ and they oversee funding for meals on wheels, SHIIP and congregate meal sites.