Wilson-Greene BoS CoC Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: The Wilson Housing Authority, Wilson, NC

Date: November 27, 2012

Attending:

Marty Stebbins – St. Timothy’s Church (CoC Regional Committee President)

Howard Anthony – WCDSS (CoC Regional Committee Secretary)

Susan Parker – WCDSS

Candice Rountree – WCDSS

Amanda Flory - WCDSS

Lynne White – The Wesley Shelter

Donna Pridgen – The Wesley Shelter

Terri Hooks – Wilson County Schools

Linda Walling – Hope Station

Diane Kriesel - Veterans Residential Services

Sylvia Brewer – Veterans Residential Services

Angela Gaskins – Wilson Housing Authority

???? – Greene County DSS

Marty Stebbins started the meeting with introductions and the group proceeded to introduce themselves. The Wilson Housing Authority was thanked for providing the meeting location for this month. It is much appreciated and allowed group members to see their new building.

The ESG Grant contract has been received and e-mail copy of the contract was provided to Wesley Shelter and Hope Station Directors. WCDSS is the fiscal sponsor for our regions’ ESG funding. Contract received and signed and returned to NCDHHS. More information on the reimbursement process for Wesley Shelter, Hope Station and WCDSS Housing Services will be forthcoming from the State.

Rapid Re-housing/Prevention and Housing stabilization services are up and running. WCDSS has contracted with Amanda Flory (former HPRP Case Manager) to conduct the case management and coordination for ESG Rapid Re-housing and Prevention/Stabilization Services.

Linda Walling, Hope Station stated they completed all of their paperwork and turned everything in to the State. They hope to get the notification back so they can proceed with discussion about the details of the contract and reimbursement process for ESG Shelter Operations funding.

Marty shared that our ESG Grant funding was awarded to WCDSS, Wesley Shelter and Hope Station. The grants are directed at Rapid Re-Housing for homeless and targeted prevention services for families individuals referred by WC Schools and Veteran’s Residential Services and Emergency Shelter Operations for Hope Station and Wesley Shelter. She noted that the direction from HUD is not to fund transitional housing but to focus on emergency housing and rapid re-housing.

The Continuum of Care grant for 2013 is out and applications can be made. Marty noted that Wilson County and Greene County have not applied yet. The process is going towards competitive grants. Marty talked about the need for those desiring to apply for grants to be in attendance at these meeting as points are earned towards the application process. There is also need to staff a Scorecard Committee that will review grant applications and we need volunteers for that committee to review grants in December. Candice Rountree, Angela Ellis and Diane Kriesel volunteered.

The Group discussed Eastpointe and the grants they have applied for. It was determined that we likely can get more information from Eastpointe at our next meeting.

Point-In-Time Count: Marty talked about being more aggressive to count those who are in the process of possibly going into emergency housing. Training (Train the Trainer) is set for December 11, 2012 and there is a trainer (Paulette White) who can attend that afternoon. The community training of the volunteers will be done in January 2013. Susan asked about the details and she noted that the Police Chief recommended that we not use students and that they would certainly provide staff/officers to assist with the PIT Count. Angela from Greene County stated she would check with Greene County Sheriff to see if they can provide police to work in that county. The actual count will take place the last Wednesday in January. We discussed the idea of providing “dinner bags” to give to homeless individuals as appreciation for their participation in the point in time count and to help in meeting their need for food. The group discussed some details for the December meeting noting that would be a good time to get more details from police and local community agencies on areas that will need to be approached to find where homeless people are residing.

To clarify, the December will be a training date for us and the January date will be training for police and volunteers. Training will be at 3:00pm at St. Timothy’s Church. Everyone is encouraged to review the PowerPoint on the main HUD site regarding the PIT counts.

Marty announced that the Balance of State has a Website and this information will be forwarded to everyone as soon as we have it. Once it is available, please send anything that everyone wants on that site to Marty.

Hope Station noted and discussed the importance of helping people with employment in addition to housing.

Susan announced that effective December 1st, LIEAP(Low Income Energy Assistance Program) applications will begin. December and January are targeted for individuals age 60 years and over and/or disabled adults who are receiving services through the office of adult and aging services. The household only needs to have one person in the target group to allow them to apply for the whole household. All other households can apply effective February 1st if funding is available.

Hope Station brought up the question about assistance that can be provided with Kerosene for heating. The group discussed the subject and the consensus was to send anyone needing help to DSS to apply for Crisis or LIEAP.

Diane noted that the Veterans are doing credit improvement training in January and they will send out information as soon as it is available. She noted that their funding is very limited and the demands are very high. They are seeing more people in need of housing.

The Wilson Housing Authority noted they have preference (elderly, disabled, veterans, homeless people, working individuals/families) and after the first of the year, that will change to families only. They do not coordinate emergency housing through their office. The waiting list for subsidized housing is short and everyone is welcome to apply at the site office at 633 Walnut Street or the main office. They presently have some efficiency apartments available that might accommodate a single person.

Hope Station stated they are seeing more young adults (18) whose parents have kicked them out. They are uncomfortable allowing these young adults to reside in their facility because of their resident population and the possible issues they may have. They discussed their wish that there were other alternatives for living arrangements for these young people. Many of these young adult cases involve substance abuse and behavior issues and the parents/family cannot deal with any longer. Overall, they are seeing a challenge helping 18-19 year olds find a more permanent place to live.

Reminder: PIT Training @ St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church – December 11, 2012 at 3:00.

The meeting ended and was adjourned.