**Wilson Greene Continuum of Care**

**Minutes**

**June 18, 2013**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Location: Wesley Shelter**

**Welcome: Candice Rountree, Donna Pridgen, Sylvia Brewer, Diane Kriesel, Linda Walling**

Training for Regional Leads is June 25th. Candice and Howard Anthony will travel to Greensboro. If folks have questions they’d like to have answered, please share those with Candice and Howard.

Corey Root is our new contact person at Balance of State. Candice and Howard had a conference call with her and we reviewed some of the criteria that CoCs are evaluated on for future funding. We are meeting the criteria for participation in the Steering Committee, Subcommittees and the requirements for submitting minutes/agendas from meetings.

Linda Walling suggested that we explore the idea of having designated sites in Wilson/Greene fly white flags to indicate that is a place for shelter in times of hot weather. The white flag can be used in times of excessive heat or cold. The group thinks this is a good idea. Candice agreed to contact BOS to get information about other communities who have this in place. Lynne suggested coordinating with our local Emergency Management contact, Gordon Deno. Candice contacted Mr. Deno after the meeting and he will attend our July meeting. Mr. Deno could help us decide what is considered an emergency in terms of temperature and also provide information about the county’s response to meet citizen needs during those times( opening temporary shelters). We also discussed how we could publicize this with the community, ask for donations of bottled water and get the message out that homelessness is a real issue.

A question was raised about whether we would meet throughout the summer. We will continue meeting.

Updates from community partners: Hope Station had their first Swamp Stomp and it was a great success! 312 people participated, and 60% of registrations were from out of county, which is a benefit to our local economy as many spend the night in local hotels and dined in local restaurants. Hope Station advertised the Swamp Stomp on their Facebook page. They made over $9,000. They will hold this event next year and Bridgestone has offered their property as a possible site; the City of Wilson is still interested in holding the event on a park site. It was held at Burt Gillette Park this year.

Hope Station is filled to capacity; they have 5 sex offenders, some on psychotic medications. One client that is HIV positive. They are working with the Bridges of Hope program to help clients experiencing MH/SA issues.

Sylvia Brewer/Diane Kriesel shared that Veterans Residential Services was featured in the local paper yesterday. It’s an excellent story and they are already receiving calls from community members wanting to make donations.

<http://www.wilsontimes.com/News/Local/Story/22000968---VETERANS-IN-NEED>

They received a call from Eastpointe last week following up on some of the customer service complaints we shared with Ellen at our last meeting. Eastpointe wants local service providers to use the grievance procedures. VRS is thankful to BB and T for their lighthouse project which provided them with backpacks filled with supplies for homeless veterans. They currently have a volunteer who is helping do outreach with employers in the community to locate job opportunities for veterans.

Lynne White/Hope Station – Wesley Shelter has hired bilingual engagement and outreach specialist to provide outreach to migrant camps. Community education programs will expand in July. Laura Williams will be our therapist on staff beginning July 1st. They are interviewing for an attorney for our clients. There are several lighthouse projects through BB and T occurring at Hope Station – improving the grounds, among other projects. The shelter is full and we look to other counties to assist victims, including Nash, Johnston, Wake, Franklin and Pitt. There will be a bilingual hotline available in January. Wesley Shelter is recruiting volunteers for the Sexual Assault Response Team for after hours.

The Wilson Tobs Baseball game on July 17th is a Fill the Bus for donations for community hunger. Encourage folks to participate and bring canned goods.

Candice/DSS – There’s a domestic violence training August 1 and August 2nd that DSS and Wesley are co-sponsoring. John Guard, Pitt County Sheriff’s Department will be our trainer and we are asking community partners to attend at no cost. All Crisis Intervention Program(CIP) funding has been spent. We are not sure about allocation for next year. Linda shared that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding is projected to be cut from the federal budget. DSS had a surprise visit from DHHS Secretary, Aldona Wos. She was very interested in local strategies for addressing poverty, teen pregnancy and the agency’s implementation of NC FAST. Planning for the Greater Wilson Area Job Fair has begun. We are not sure where it will be held this year. Community partners are invited to attend a planning meeting at Career Plus on June 26th at 2:00. There is a clothing closet resource that is available for all job seekers at OIC. Candice confirmed that the closet has professional clothing and is open to all job seekers, not just those working with OIC. Donations provided by BB and T, Firestone and other community partners.

Next meeting: July 16th at 10:00 a.m.

 Wesley Shelter

Adjourned: 10:30