Wilson-Greene CoC

April 15, 2014

Present: Candice Rountree, WCDSS; Valinda Belton, Wilson Housing Authority; Jill Tarleton, Wilson County Health Department; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Glee Dunbar, Hope Station; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Diane Kriesel, Veterans Residential Services; Laressa Witt, Family Endeavors; Susan Parker, Wilson County DSS; Donna Pridgen, Wesley Shelter; Latasha McNair, Eastpointe

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Balance of State Updates:**

Howard attended the Regional Lead meeting in Greensboro. Information was e-mailed to the group from that meeting. A resource called More in My Basket – this program helps low income individuals/families about nutrition and stretching your budget. Operated through Cooperative Extension.

Unspent ESG funds – Funds totaling $6,984 must be spent by June. Amanda has some good referrals she is currently working with.

An RFP to manage CHIN was released.

Data from the Point in Time count is being reviewed/organized.

Discussion about Landlord Relations:

Concern expressed about lack of affordable housing and landlords that were unwilling to rent. A suggestion was made to do some outreach in the form of a breakfast or lunch and meet face to face with landlords. Suggestion to collaborate with the City of Wilson when they do training on Fair Housing Standards and to hold a community partner/landlord breakfast.

There are real concerns about folks with arrears renting – they have income but are not being allowed to rent due to their arrears.

We have a need to negotiate with landlords, potentially do some MOUs for hard to serve population.

The Housing Authority is currently purging their waiting list.

There is a Sixty Minutes presentation on Housing First that could be used at the meeting with landlords.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/100000-homes-housing-homeless-saves-money/>

There are currently 110 people with vouchers from Section 8 who are looking for housing.

The group is in agreement that we want to do some type of planned outreach with community partners and landlords – we can reach out to personal connections.

Community Partner Updates:

Donna – An unarmed self defense class was held April 12. April 23 is Denim Day to call attention to Sexual Assault.

Diane – The Boy Scouts are doing a food drive for Veteran’s Residential Services.

Susan – May 14 is the Greater Wilson Job Fair, we are doing a Ticket to Work this year, job seekers are screened to ensure they are job ready, you have to have your Career Readiness Certificate, it’s at the Ag Center from 9:00 – 12:00 and is free to employers. For those who show who are not job ready, there are community partner vendors and a JobLink van for them to register with NC Works.

Candice – May 9th is Senior Awareness Day at Farmington Heights Church, the theme is Safe Today. Healthy Tomorrow. We have 50 vendors and expect close to 1,000 seniors. The event is free and breakfast, lunch and entertainment is provided. There are several vendors providing health screenings.

Susan – Gave an update on the Youth Master Plan, this effort has been led by Wilson County Schools and Wilson 2020. Addressing homeless children is covered in the Health and Wellness Goals.

Linda – Hope Station is sponsoring a Swamp Stomp/Mud Run/Walk at Toisnot and Gillette Park on June 14th. Hope Station recently had a Finance Agency Inspection, they had a garden dug yesterday for residents to tend. She also mentioned they have had a lot of people asking for utility assistance.

Family Endeavors mentioned they could help with utility assistance for some.

Linda hosted a meeting with United Way of local food providers – they group is calling themselves the Wilson Food Network and there were 24 people at the initial meeting. The next meeting is May 15th and the goal is to ensure that food insecurity is addressed. There is a need for a hunger hotline – where can I go for emergency food? There is concern for those seniors who stand in line and wait for food subsidy- is there a way we can have the food delivered to them? Regarding SNAP – there are 8,000 families receiving assistance and 2,000 are Seniors.

Valinda – WHA is getting ready for an inspection. There will be a week-long HUD visit. They are doing a community garden at EB Jordan Homes. The waiting list is being purged and will open again in May. There are 52 units at Whitfield being held up by HUD as not ready for rental. WHA has 724 units in Wilson. WHA is hosting a Senior Day for their residents on May 1st.

Jill – Wilson County Health Department, there is an immunization clinic for teens and graduating seniors, also a SIDS workshop on May 8th – attendees will receive some gifts. Lida Blalock is retiring after 48 years; her last day is June 30th. They are also trying to expand their primary clinics to offer more services.