Wilson-Greene BoS CoC Regional Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Wilson Housing Authority, Wilson, and North Carolina

Date: May 20, 2014

Attending:

Candice Rountree – Wilson County DSS

Howard Anthony – Wilson County DSS

Lynne White – Wesley Shelter

Donna Pridgen – Wesley Shelter

Terri Hooks – Wilson County Schools

Amanda Florey- WCDSS/ESG Social Worker

Diane Kriesel - Veterans Residential Services

Valinda Belken – Wilson Housing Authority

Jill Tarleton – Wilson County Health Department

LaTasha McNare – Eastpointe

Jim Walker – WFREI, LLC (Community Landlord)

* Welcome/Introductions:
* Reviewed Minutes and Agenda.
* Updates from BoS: Candice completed an overview and update from the BoS. It included the web site that members can use to access regional committee minutes. Candice talked about the Point in Time Count noting that the PIT and HIC was submitted to HUD on April 18th. The sheltered count increased slightly by about 2%. The unsheltered count decreased by about 41%. The committee talked about the Coordinated Assessment process. Members were encouraged to review the CA document and watch the Prezi Video and share any suggestions/feedback with Candice. The information on accessing the Prezi Video was given to members. The committee discussed the renewal of the ESG grant and the benefits that the grant provides to the community. At this time, it is not clear if WCDSS will be the fiscal sponsor for that grant funding. The Steering Committee agreed to keep the policy in place where the BoS CoC pays for the BoS CHIN licenses. Members were reminded about participating in subcommittee conference calls.
* The group discussed the idea of conducting outreach and creating a sub-committee to look at a possible a landlord/community partner breakfast. Marty discussed the thought about having it in August/September. Marty, Candice, Howard and Valinda will be on the subcommittee. We will look at the “Housing First” report on 60 minutes to send out to committee members.
* Committee Member Reports:

ESG Update: Amanda noted that funds or ESG are down to zero in prevention funds and almost down to zero in Rapid Rehousing. Amanda believes they have helped about 12-16 rapid rehousing customers. Amanda talked about the overall ESG program for the benefit of new people in our meeting today. The average assistance has been about 3-months.

DSS Update: Senior Awareness day went well with about 800 seniors attending. Many community partners participated as volunteers and vendors. There were lots of free health screenings. WCDSS is sponsoring a Foster Care dinner later this month.

OIC Update: Is doing their food distribution tomorrow.

Wesley Shelter: Is looking at $67, 000 reduction in grants for 2014-2015. A decrease in funding is always troubling because it usually affects program staff but at this time, no reduction in staff is occurring. Had some problems with HVAC unit that needs replacing at the safe house and appliances and sustained flood damage to The Clothes Line. The Clothes Line is moving to the Walston Center planning to reopen mid-June. The shelter remains busy and full. A site visit is coming up with Council for Women. A training session will occur on August 5th on sexual assault for professionals. It will take place at WCDSS. Coordinated Community Response Team is working on sexual assault protocols. A community forum will be held the evening of August 5th at Wilson Medical Center. A NCCASA representative, Megan Clark will do the training and facilitate the community forum.

Saint Timothy’s Church Update: Continues with their efforts to help homeless people with employment efforts. They are calling it 3C. The program includes helping them with identification and having a physical address for job applications. The Episcopal Church is hosting a spiritual retreat June 6-8th for people having or living with HIV.

Wilson School District/Terri Hooks Update: The director of student services left the school district. Dr. Steve Ellis is now covering the school homeless assistance efforts.

Wilson Housing Authority Update: The waiting list has been closed but all bedroom sizes will open in June. The EB Jordan homes location only has 20 on the waiting list. There are none on the waiting list for 1-bedroom units. They do not take applications on the 1st Thursday of each month. Public housing can only house 2 people per room. Marty noted that they can possibly help with payment to get a new identification. People should work through WCDSS Faith Connections with these requests. Forest Green Apartments (62 years and older) will likely be taking applications in August for new building for seniors. WHA still have 52 units in the process of being updated to allow them to be rented. The Anthony Street Project is on hold for the present time.

Eastpointe Update: They have a targeted property in Wilson with one vacancy for those receiving SSI/RSDI.

Walker Family Real estate Investment, LLC: Mr. Walker passed out business cards noting he has rental properties available.

Wilson County Health Department Update: They will be busy with various reorganization efforts. They are increasing the hours that the clinic will be open to see patients.

Veterans Residential Services Update: They have helped over 150 veterans. Because of VRS is primarily only helping with food at this time. They have multiple grant applications they have applied for to help serve clients. Diane noted that she is teaching college classes at this time in addition to working her duties with VRS.

* Next CoC Meeting: June 17, 2014 @ 10:00am. Location will be The Wesley Shelter.