Wilson-Greene Regional Homelessness Committee

March 17, 2015

Present: Mary Mallory, Wilson County DSS; Joyce Wetherington, Wilson County Health Department; Renee Smith, City of Wilson; Angela Ellis, Greene County DSS; Shana Baum, Hope Station; John Duvall, Hope Station; Claudia Baker, Veterans Residential Services; Valinda Belton, Wilson Housing Authority; Kelly Vick, Wilson Housing Authority; Amy High, Wilson County Schools; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Terri Hooks, Wilson County Schools; Reverend Marty Stebbins, St. Timothy’s; Nikkole Weiss, Family Endeavors; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Shanita Bassit, Family Endeavors; Twala Coleman, Family Endeavors; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Lisa Council, Wilson County Health Department; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS

Welcome from Mary, our new Regional Lead.

We shared information from Balance of State. They are busy with coordinating final PIT data to report to HUD.

Marty shared information about PIT. She has been working hard to get the data. Marty talked about the PIT and thanked community partners for helping. We found some homeless that evening and some the next morning at the soup kitchen. Total unsheltered count was 6. There were no veterans located. Marty guesses that we only found 1/3 of our total homeless count. We found 3 that were imminently homeless. The bus station is currently closed in the evening, so folks can't shelter there. We offered shelter to the 2 we found on the street and they didn't want assistance. The Wilson Times wants to cover the final PIT count. Marty suggested that we change the time we go out to do the count next year. We went out at midnight and she is suggesting 3:00 or 4:00, as she feels some folks were purposely avoiding being found so that they wouldn’t have to be interviewed.

Discussion about CHIN and the difficulty entering information into the system. Hope Station shared there were 4 versions of the CAPER report that were sent out this week. Frustration expressed with the amount of time that required reporting takes as well as the hiccups with paperwork.

We discussed the Coordinated Assessment process. Candice shared the revisions in the documents with the group. We added more specifics to our grievance procedures and included a flow chart that speaks to waiting list and assignment of priority for permanent housing. The Coordinated Assessment Advisory Council will review the documents and make a recommendation for approval. We reviewed the documents and attendees were asked to contact Candice with any additions/concerns they had. Wilson County Schools will complete the emergency response screening tool in addition to Wesley Shelter, Hope Station and Wilson and Greene County DSS. We talked about the time frame for completion of VI-SPDAT and reminded attendees that is completed at 14 days into a shelter/program. Wesley Shelter and Hope Station are the only providers completing VI-SPDAT. Linda suggested that we make it clear on the flow chart that the waiting list is for permanent housing.

Kelly Vick, Executive Director from WHA announced they are doing a lottery for housing. Application period is from March18-3. Veterans and homeless are priority. They are pulling 250 to put on the waiting list. The waiting list hasn’t been updated in 2 years. Kelly shared applications with attendees and asked that they share in the community. There is no need for people to line up to make application.

C. Bruce Rose Plaza is now for age 62 and older. Those applications can be picked up in any site office. Residents currently living there who are under that age are able to stay, but any new residents will be seniors.

Linda shared that ESG contract was finally signed. They received training recently. Wilson County Schools has 6 families living in motels and they will provide information to Shana, as she is anxious to begin working with families through ESG.

Discussion about Senior Awareness Day. Candice asked for volunteers. The event occurs on May 8th from 9:00 – 1:30 at Farmington Heights Church. We need volunteers to help serve food, assist with logistics, solicit door prizes.

Amy from WC Schools talked about the needs of the 6 families they are serving who are living in motels. One of the families is above the income limits for ESG. Mary offered a DSS resource for this family.

WHA talked about HUD VASH and their intent to apply for funding. They asked who is currently serving veterans. Family Endeavors, Hope Station and Veterans Residential are providers. WHA will develop this process in collaboration with local partners. Appreciation expressed for WHA and their willingness to pursue this opportunity.

Wilson County Schools had a fundraiser at Chick Fil A. Thanks to the social workers, as the money raised goes to help out the homeless school families.

LaTasha from Eastpointe shared that they are accepting applications for Shelter Plus Care. They must be homeless and have a mental health diagnosis.

Wesley Shelter is busy applying for grants. Panera is now a donor through their dough program. The Strong Soles event is March 28th. There is a 5k, 1k, a men's dash and an event that evening at the Elks Club. Tickets are available.

Marty reported that the soup kitchen has raised 2/3 of money needed for new site. They will be renovating the carriage house. Marty asked for ideas for use of that space. Neal Connor is the contact. The soup kitchen and Hope Station are also recipients of food from Panera Bread.

Marty shared that downtown churches are doing a competition to raise food for the community. The loser has to provide the winner with ice cream. Contact Gary Walling.

Angela is the new director in Greene County. Nicki Lee is new Adult Services supervisor and she will begin attending these meetings. Angela shared that she will be inviting Diane Andrews with Greene County Interfaith Services to these meetings.

Renee shared that Human Relations will be doing a tri-county training on fair housing for landlords on April 15th. There is a community event on housing on April 25th and Renee invited attendees to be participants/vendors at that event. Candice asked if we could share information about the Wilson Greene Regional Committee at the April 15th training and Renee agreed.

Joyce from the Health Department shared that patients can be seen for their primary care needs.

Next meeting is April 21st at Wesley Shelter at 10:00.