**Wilson Greene Regional Housing Committee**

**February 21, 2017**

Present: Mary Mallory, WCDSS; Candice Rountree, WCDSS; Lori Walston, WCDSS; Kirsten Poythress, WCDSS; Sharon Toney, WCDSS; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Britney Holmes, Carolina Family Health Center; Tony Conner; NC Works; Tamey Knight, Veterans of America; Yolanda Taylor, Legal Aid; Lisa Council, community member; Deniesha Smith, Hope Station; Meri Wickenhofer, Hope Station

Welcome/Introductions

Mary reviewed Balance of State information. Candice participated in Webmaster Training and will be uploading minutes from county and Regional meetings.

Mary asked for a volunteer to serve on a Funding Committee that will review ESG funding priorities and considerations. Those who receive funding aren’t able to participate. There were no volunteers.

We talked about the PIT count. We had excellent community collaboration, with care packages prepared by Wesley Shelter, support from Wilson Police Department, volunteers who helped with the count from Hope Station, WCDSS, Stepping Stones, WCHD and Wilson County Schools. Street outreach to do the count occurred at midnight, and we did outreach the next morning at the soup kitchen and at local restaurants. We found camp sites, but no individuals during the count. Those individuals are counted in our overall PIT count. We also had coverage in the local paper again this year. We had a discussion about considering going out at a different time next year. We also talked about how some people don’t want to be interviewed. Data from the street count and from shelter programs were shared with our Regional Lead, Sherrie Stokes in February.

Candice shared that she is participating on a Coordinated Assessment Council call this afternoon.

Linda led a discussion on ESG and how to best use funding/resources. She is interested in strategies for rural communities, and she completed a Rapid Rehousing webinar recently. Linda suggested that City and County representatives need to be at our meeting. Linda requested ESG data from DSS from 2014 and Mary provided that report. Shana met with 92 people during our last ESG service year, and only 52 families are in CAPER. We are continuing the discussion of how best to use the ESG funding and not to overload Shana. Linda shared a document that was shared with her Board highlighting selected cases where families were not assisted by other community partners and then sought help from Hope Station. Concerns were raised about the case scenario document and the possibility the information could be misleading without additional information explaining the circumstances of each situation.

A decision was made to dedicate time for staffing individual cases during our standing monthly meeting. Any community partner can staff a challenging case. Candice will add this as a standing agenda item.

Wesley Shelter – they are having a fundraiser, In it to Win it on 2-23-17 at Pup’s. The proceeds will go towards upkeep and maintenance of the SAFE house. The Chamber Dynamic Leadership Team is repairing a bathroom at the SAFE house.

Veterans Subcommittee – Tony is participating in a Balance of State committee to develop a housing plan for veterans. Tony referenced NC Serves as a resource for veterans. He highlighted a success story of a veteran being housed recently and the collaboration between local veteran’s agencies.

We don’t have a fully executed ESG contract, so Hope Station is not providing services at this time.

WCDSS – Sharon highlighted services available through DSS; job search classes, financial social work, job center. Kirsten shared that Senior Awareness Day is May 12th and vendor packets will be mailed in March. Phone registration will be open on April 1. They are raffling a YETI cooler at $5 per ticket. Mary shared that Lisa Council will come to work with DSS on March 1 and will be a Healthy Families America social worker serving families with children ages 0 – 5.

Shana thanked DSS for working collaboratively.

Legal Aid – Yolanda shared that Marisa Grant, a new domestic violence attorney has been hired, that she has a fully operational local advisory council, that there is a project in Rocky Mount educating community leaders, they are enrolling those with special conditions in ACA