Neuse Regional Committee

September 13, 2017

Present: LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Lisa Wooten, Friends of the Homeless; Julia Week, guest of MLFL; Karen Turner, Guest of MLFL; Shannon Leidy, Salvation Army, Wilson; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; Brittney Holmes, Carolina Family Health Centers; Stefhani Marmoleji, Greene County DSS; Suzie Acree, Literacy Connections of Wayne County; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Mary Mallory, Wilson County DSS; Janice Sauls, Salvation Army; Jacqueline Caron, Salvation Army; Kim Stevens, Carolina Residential Services; Anna Jernigan, Neuse Enterprises; Tamey Knight, Volunteers of America; Jonathan Rogers, VOA; Jackie Faison, MLFL, Inc.; Sue Proctor, SAFE and Friends; A Easter, SAFE in Lenoir County Board Member; Danny Rice, Friends of the Homeless; Michelle Gooding, Eastpointe; Charles Gaylor, Wayne Community College; Ashley Horne, 4 Day Movement; Marie Salvo, 4 Day Movement; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Donald Coles, 4 Day Movement; Zachary Branch, NC Works Career Center; Pamela Gonzalez, U Care; Leigh Ann Hardee, U Care; Janice McClendon, SOAR; Donald and Jennifer Williams, SOAR; Deniece Cole, Spiritual Destiny; Victor Kosinski, NC Works; Tony Conner, NC Works; Don Hardy; Deonko Brewer; Kenneth Johnson, NC Department of Admin; Julia Weeks, MLFL; Thomas Rice, MLFL

Phone participants: Latina James, Family Endeavors, Laura Haygood, Family Endeavors,

LaTasha thanked Mirakal’s Love for Lives for lunch.

Welcome and Introductions, as we had several guests at today’s meeting.

Latasha gave a basic explanation of Balance of State and Regional Committee structure, and that we are now a 6 county regional committee.

Review of minutes from our April meeting occurred and Sue Proctor offered a correction. Motion to approve minutes made by Lori Walston and seconded by Candice Rountree. All voted in favor of approval.

Remarks from special guests: Bevan Foster, Mayor Pro-Tem of Goldsboro welcomed us to the city and expressed his interest in addressing housing issues.

Charles Gaylor from Wayne Community College spoke as did Don Hardy, mayoral candidate from Kinston.

We reviewed Coordinated Assessment process and urged programs to submit data on a timely basis for quarterly reports. LaTasha gave an overview of the process of completing a prevention/diversion screen and a VI SPDAT after being in shelter for 14 days. We are doing this to ensure those who are in the greatest need are served.

We reviewed our veteran plan, which is available on our Regional Committee webpage. Zachary Branch, Latina James and Laura Haygood are the leads for the veteran plan and they explained there would be additional paperwork requirements. We are working collectively to have a positive impact on veteran homelessness.

**FY 2017 CoC**

The CoC projects are funded with federally though HUD. The NOFA was released earlier this summer. Eastpointe is the only existing program and they did reapply to serve homeless with severe/persistent mental illness. Wilson Housing Authority is a new applicant. Eastpointe had funds reallocated, but this will not affect people currently housed. The Steering Committee has 13 representatives and recommendations for funding were made by this group.

A question was asked about how to be aware of funding opportunities. LaTasha explained that attending our Regional and local meetings was a venue for learning about funding opportunities, as we always share information through e-mail and discuss during our meetings.

**Agency Updates**

Wilson County DSS – will begin operating an Employment and Training program for able bodied adults without dependents receiving food assistance. We will have funding to pay for training at Wilson Community College. Low Income Energy Assistance funding will be available December 1 – 31 for seniors and will open to general public January 1. The funds help with heating costs and they are paid directly to the vendor. DSS won a NACo award for their Solutions for Homelessness programming, a partnership with Hope Station and Wilson Housing Authority.

Leigh Ann – U Care is a DV agency in Sampson County and they do receive ESG funding. The shelter is full, they have spent all of the ESG for financial assistance, but have some left in services. They are working to get OSNIUM up and running, a data entry system for DV programs.

Greene County DSS – LIEAP funding will also be available in Greene County.

Suzie Acree – Literacy Connections and Salvation Army of Goldsboro are implementing the Bank on Wayne Program to help customers be more financially prepared

Wayne Community College – They have restructured their curriculum offerings and there are a lot of options on-line and in the evening. Pell grants would support the cost of classes for many students.

Linda Walling – Hope Station is a shelter and food pantry in Wilson. They are 85 – 90% occupancy rate, they operate a rapid rehousing program and are trying to secure funding to open a women’s/family shelter in Wilson County

Shannon Leidy – Salvation Army in Wilson is accepting applications for their Angel Tree; seniors age 60 and over and children up to age 12. Applications will be accepted the first two weeks in October.

Katherine Allen – NC Serves Coastal seeking to expand providers and they are a referrals service for veterans and their families

Timothy Rogers – Wilson Housing Authority, he is new so he is getting plugged in to our Committee. They did submit a CoC application.

Victor Kosinski - NC Works Wayne County, They have two veterans stand downs scheduled. October 5th in Goldsboro and October 20th in Pitt County. There will be a Veterans Resource Fair in Lenoir County on November 9th. He encouraged folks to register with NC Works

Lisa Wooten – Friends of the Homeless in Lenoir County, They have served 10 women, 78 men and 2 children

Zachary Branch – September is the month of the Older Worker and the Governor made a proclamation recognizing this. He shared information about a stand down and reminded us that transportation would be provided

Donald Coles – 4 Day Movement, They are a Safe Haven for young men/boys, Legacy House, He asked for assistance with specific cases

NC Serve – can assist veterans

Janice McClendon – SOAR, they are trying to establish a shelter, looking for funding and a facility

Sue Proctor – SAFE, Lenoir County is at capacity, They served 15 clients with RRH since July. 7 DV clients and 8 homeless/no DV. They are having a fundraiser on September 30th, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, it’s a 1 mile walk and men will be walking in high heels. You can register on-line

Friends of Homeless – Board Chair, Danny Rice expressed appreciation for having Lisa and Jasper, the Shelter Manger, they have enhanced the screening and referrals for the homeless

Deniece – they continue to work with homeless veterans

Salvation Army of Goldsboro – They are accepting donations for those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Irma and will begin taking applications for bell ringers for the holiday season. Please call 919-735-4811 if interested.

Mr. Shepherd – a pastor from Kinston shared that he will be partnering with NC Housing Finance Agency to offer assistance to low income families in danger of losing their home to foreclosure. The workshop will be offered in collaboration with Lenoir and Wayne County

Laura – Family Endeavors is working on HMIS; they asked the group for veteran referrals.

**2016/2017 Emergency Solutions Grant Update**

LaTasha McNair, Deniece Cole and Mary Mallory serve as the funding committee for Region 10, the Neuse Committee. They are developing a template that will be used by all ESG programs for reporting substantive information at our meetings.

We will need a lead agency to submit a Regional Application. We discussed and Deneice moved that Eastpointe serve as the lead agency, with a second from Lori Walston. All voted in favor. Eastpointe will be our Regional Lead.

We have 6 applicants for ESG funding and the amount requested exceeds our award amount of $221,719.

Each applicant provided a written summary of their proposal and shared their plan with the group. We had an opportunity for questions at the end of each presentation.

All programs applying for funding exited the meeting for the Committee to discuss the pros and cons of the applications. All applicants are regular participants at our Regional Meeting, five are experienced, with one new applicant.

Committee members expressed some concern with respect to all applicants having the capacity to participate in coordinated assessment.

 Victor made a motion to move all applicants forward and Lori seconded. A consensus decision was made to move all applications forward through all voting in favor. Our funding committee will decide how to reduce the funding so that it doesn’t exceed $221,719.