

## **Neuse Regional Housing Meeting**

**January 8, 2020**

Present: Jonathan Rogers, VOA; John Apol, Hope Station; Tyree Owens, Hope Station; Lori Walston, Wilson County DSS; LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Timothy Rogers, Wilson Housing Authority; Ashley Horne, 4 Day Movement; Katrina Mitchell, Greene Lamp; Sheryl Cox, Equipping the Saints; Ray Cox, Equipping the Saints; Cameron Cochran, Wilson Forward; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Jacqueline Caron, Salvation Army of Wayne County; Susan Thigpen, Duplin County DSS

Phone: Janice Sauls, Salvation Army of Wayne County; Victor Kosinski, NC Works; Cherie Lindsay Chapman, Wesley Shelter; Judi Thurston, United Way of Wilson County

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Thanks to Hope Station for hosting and for lunch.

Minutes reviewed and approved from our November Regional meeting.

**Region 10 Leadership** – the following were elected at our November meeting:

LaTasha McNair, Regional Lead

Regional Alternate, DJ Coles

Coordinated Entry Lead, Linda Walling

ESG Funding Process Lead: Tim Rogers

PIT Lead: Candice Rountree

Webmaster/Secretary: Candice Rountree

Veteran Committee Lead: Zachary Branch and Crystal Gwendo

CoC Project Review Committee Lead: Deniece Cole

Local Leads: LaTasha McNair for the DownEast County meeting and rotated facilitator responsibilities in Wilson/Greene

Janice asked that we develop written job descriptions for all leadership roles. LaTasha agreed this was a good idea.

### **2020 Neuse Meeting Schedule:**

April 8<sup>th</sup> at Duplin County DSS at 11:30

September 9<sup>th</sup> at Greene Lamp in Lenoir County at 11:30

November 12<sup>th</sup> in Wayne County at 11:30

**Code of Conduct – discussed, reviewed and approved**

A copy was provided to all Neuse Committee members before the meeting.

### **Coordinated Entry**

Linda Walling from Hope Station shared an update. Weekly case conferencing is happening via phone call and all are welcome to participate. Surveys from NC Coalition to End Homelessness will be sent to customers to collect data on the process.

We are completing CE with domestic violence providers participating. Greene Lamp will begin participating. John will begin joining Linda in this process, as Linda will be on sabbatical for part of the year.

### **Emergency Solutions Grant**

Linda shared a report from Hope Station. They were able to spend all but \$0.01. Linda provided a 1 page summary with data including numbers served and expenses. They lost their appeal to maintain shelter operations funding and are appealing to the Division Director. Candice agreed to share the appeals letter with the group. Linda will continue to provide Rapid Rehousing services and will sign that contract. We discussed reaching out to the Joyce Massey Smith regarding the appeal. Linda doesn't want families to suffer and will continue to oversee ESG, but will be looking for substitute funding in the future.

Salvation Army of Wayne County – they served 199 people. They had \$22,000 in funding unspent due to sickness on the part of the social worker. They are hoping for a better 2020. They are accepting referrals and will participate in coordinated entry and Balance of State training.

Greene Lamp – they participated in an ESG training in Burlington and will complete all mandatory trainings/webinars

### **CoC Funding**

There are some Eastpointe is the only funded Continuum of Care program in our Region. Hope Station and Wilson Housing Authority are in preliminary discussions about applying in the future.

LaTasha shared there is a work group to look at the ESG process and you can participate on that group through the Balance of State.

The announcement for 2020/2021 CoC funding should be made at any time.

### **2020 Point in Time Count Planning**

Victor shared an update from Lenoir County.

Candice shared an update from Wilson County.

Mary shared an update for Greene County.

Susan Thigpen shared an update for Duplin County.

Captain Sherrie Stokes shared an update and flyer from Wayne County. Mr. and Mrs. Cox, in attendance today are interested in helping with the count in Wayne County. Candice agreed to connect them with Captain Stokes via e-mail.

Sampson County DSS will lead the PIT count in their county.

We do have representation from each county in the region. Shelters using HMIS will use that platform to count those sheltered in each county. The Counting Up app is mandatory. Balance of State has information on their website available for all to review.

## **2020 Regional Expectations**

LaTasha led a discussion around our regional priorities. We decided to focus on these issues:

1. Housing Inventory
2. Landlord Relations

## **Agency Updates**

Linda (Wilson) – there are 10 beds at the new family shelter, there are several single women, not families. They plan to pull an advisory group together for feedback on target population. Hope Station’s food pantry was accredited as a Healthy Pantry from Food Bank of NC. She shared a success story regarding shelter/rapid rehousing from the local paper.

Janice(Wayne) – They are serving homeless and homeless kids in school system

VOA – They continue to serve veterans and are working on expanding their go-to landlord list for those that will give second chances

Wilson DSS – LIEAP funds are exhausted, we are closer to housing an older youth transitioning out of foster care through a partnership with coordinated entry lead agency and Wilson Housing Authority.

Wilson Housing Authority – They received \$20,000 for housing with a focus on Transition to Community Living

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Wilson-Greene            January 21, 2020 at Hope Station

Down East                February 12, 2020 at Goldsboro Housing Authority

Neuse Region            April 8, 2020 in Duplin County Location TBA