

## **Neuse Regional Meeting**

**April 14, 2021**

Present: LaTasha McNair, Eastpointe; Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS; Brittany Cherry, Carolina Family Health Center; John Apol, Hope Station; Rory Springs, NC Works; Sheryl Cox, Equipping the Saints Worship and Training Center; Ray Cox, Equipping the Saints Worship and Training Center; Zachary Branch, NC Works; Danielle Sims, Wilson Housing Authority; Deniece Cole, Spiritual Destiny; Katrina Mitchell, Greene Lamp; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Sharon Carney, Greene Lamp; Sharon Dixon, Eastpointe; Captain Stephanie Blevins, Salvation Army of Wayne County; Victor Kosinsky, NC Works; Angela Wallace, Greene Lamp; Chris Jenkins, Hope Restorations; Angela Bates, Greene Lamp

**Review of Minutes:** Minutes were approved with no corrections.

**Balance of State Short Summary** – this was shared with the group by LaTasha. She reminded us all that these calls/meetings are open for all to attend. Hope Station is our lead for Coordinated Entry

**Covid-19 Response** – Duplin – nothing new to share; Greene – nothing new to share; Lenoir – shared information from the Housing Authority in Lenoir County regarding Section 8 Housing opportunities; Sampson, no update; Wayne, no update; Wilson – Community Family Health Center does have vaccines available, the administration of the J and J vaccine has been suspended and Brittany also shared a resource for funding for computers for those in need, they have Moderna available; Hope Station continues to offer the Back at Home program through 211, Linda reported she believes that the HOPE program will be launching again and they will do all of their own programming, DSS and the City of Wilson will be offering grant funding for those in need of utility assistance – we are working out contract specifics with the Department of Commerce, LaTasha – FEMA is offering help with funeral expenses

**Steering Committee** – vaccine rollout – Balance of State is compiling resources regarding vaccine rollout for homeless/shelter residents

**Coordinated Entry** – Linda reported on our CE process. We are case conferencing for service provision and to make sure we aren't duplicating services. The CE evaluation process is underway. Surveys are being shared to those we are working with. From PSH – surveys have been sent out and they will be returned sealed. Linda asked that they be returned as single sided documents.

**COC update** – LaTasha reported this is expected to move forward. Eastpointe is the only grant recipient in our Region. This is an opportunity for providers to apply for funding. An intent to apply is required and this is shared with Balance of State

**VAWA Training and Anti-Discrimination Webinar** – this is required training for all grant recipients. Dates were shared with all attendees. All program staff are encouraged to attend, and at a minimum one representative must attend.

## **ESG Grantees**

Captain Stephanie provided a report from Salvation Army of Wayne County. The written report was reviewed and discussed with all attendees.

Challenges – finding housing, several families are looking for places

Katrina from Greene Lamp – shared a written report and we reviewed and discussed as a regional committee. Questions were raised about the amount of funding and we have people in need, but a lack of affordable housing.

Challenges – verification of homelessness is taking some time to complete, affordable housing

Achievements – moved 6 families into stable housing and one family has obtained employment

Linda from Hope Station – shared that prevention funding can't be used when they have a lease because there is an eviction moratorium. Linda's concern is that there will be a large number of folks who will all be evicted at the same time. Affordable housing is also a concern. Linda shared data from Hope Station. They surveyed 62 landlords. Of the 42 respondents – there were 12 available units.

Achievements – glad they've been able to expand programming

LaTasha from Eastpointe – availability of housing is a problem throughout our region

The prevention funds need to be used now to help people not have an eviction on their record.

We also have to hear landlords point of view with respect to not receiving payment for a year in some instances.

We discussed the reporting form our ESG grantees have been using and agreed to use an abbreviated version of the form. The three agencies will discuss during our next CE meeting.

LaTasha reminded attendees of upcoming meetings.

Our next Regional meeting will be September 8, 2021.