

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • December 18th, 2014, 10:00-11:30am
Location: Genesis Home, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

Ryan Fehrman called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

Attendance: Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham), Spencer Bradford (DCIA), Fred Stoppelkamp (HSAC), Pam Karriker (HSAC), Janet Xiao (CEF), Ellecia Thompson (Durham VAMC), Joyce Stancil-Williams (CASA), Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry), Candace Rashada (Durham Tech), Patrice Nelson (UMD), Nicole Meeks (DERC), Rose Greene (DERC), Catherine Pleil (Durham IHN), Steve Swayne (StepUp), Ann Tropiano (Genesis Home), Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home), Brenda Tillman (DHA), Robin Henry (VoA), Charita McCollers (LCHC-HCH Clinic), Joi Stepney (Housing for New Hope)

Lloyd made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Schuldt, and passed.

Durham Economic Resource Center: Program Introduction & Updates Nicole Meeks & Rose Green

DERC's Story: Rose Green gave a brief introduction to DERC: DERC is located at 118 Hunt St. Employment support, help people get jobs. Modelled from Liaison Project in Greensboro, NC. Been operating for six years. DERC runs a warehouse: administrative fee of \$3, can shop there to benefit DERC.

Program: DERC is a good fit for anyone who needs workforce development and job placement.

6 month program with 3 modules:

Module 1: cover letter, money management, resume

Module 2: computer technology, job training, customer service

Module 3: internship or classes in their field

At each module, distribute FAP (Financial Assistance Package):

Module 1: \$100 biweekly

Module 2: \$200 biweekly

Module 3: \$300 biweekly

Requirements: participation in class and mastery of materials.

“No call no show” policy = you are dismissed if you don't show up for class or call.

Also give participants an evaluation sheet so that they know how they are doing and are getting active feedback.

Also have an “extended contract” system for participants who need additional time with DERC—if people did 95% of what they meant to do, able to extend their time with DERC, including FAPs.

Durham Tech provides students with GoPasses.

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Turnover rate is 80%. Started with 23 people in the cohort, now only have 5 left.

DERC Membership: To become a member organization, membership fee is \$100—and you immediately receive \$100 worth of vouchers in the warehouse. Once you become a member, you become a sponsor. DERC asks sponsors to be involved in the people that they send to DERC. Give Nicole a call if interested.

Alumni System: Once in the DERC system, students can always come back and continue to seek workforce development and job placement.

Next cohort: Start is January 12th. For more information, talk to Nicole after the meeting.

Project LIFT partnership: As part of the partnership between UMD, DERC, and the Durham Literacy Center, seeking to create a pathway from dependence to independence. Addresses job training and job placement, with a housing piece & large wellness focus. Participants need to be current residents of UMD.

StepUp Ministries in Wake County **Steve Swain**

Introduction to StepUp: started in Raleigh 25 years ago. The first 10-11 years, they were placing homeless individuals in housing, and realized that much more was needed because people were losing housing 6 months later. Primary focus: basic job skills, basic life skills. Brought back **jobs model** from a church in D.C., and they have refined it over the last 14 years. The second thing that StepUp does is a **1 year life skills class** that covers budgeting, debt reduction etc. About 4 years ago, a group of churches in Greensboro asked if StepUp would replicate the model in Greensboro.

In Raleigh last year, placed ~400 people in job, average wage \$11/hour (living wage is \$14/hour in county – interested in moving people to living wage). In Greensboro, this year, will place ~200 people in jobs, average wage \$10.75/hour. 80% of people placed have experience with criminal justice system. 50% have been in a shelter at some point, 40% have substance abuse past.

Exploratory Committee for Potential StepUp Growth into Durham: StepUp created an exploratory committee to study StepUp & what is needed in the Durham community. The committee has been meeting for 6-7 months. Steve has personally learned that giving the committee the authority to tell StepUp what's best for the community is critical. The exploratory committee is in the process of wrapping up its work over the next few months, and will transition into a steering committee.

StepUp's strength is their ability to get employers to hire from them. (400 employers that hire in Wake County, 250 in Guilford County.) Work hard to get employers to trust that StepUp will work with the community to bring people into employment. Good thought process of connecting to employers. What StepUp is interested in is stability—teaching them skills to help them move along.

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Partnerships are crucial, because they focus on two things (jobs and life skills) and rely on partners for everything else.

Timeframe for coming to Durham: Goal would be to start in July or August of 2015. Currently raising \$2 mill., with \$1 mill. being used for Durham to start this program.

Started to network with businesses in this community.

Dependent upon the exploratory committee and how they see StepUp's model fitting into Durham.

What do volunteers do? 1-on-1 mentorship, similar to the "Circles" model in Durham.

The whole family comes to the life skills class. StepUp has curriculum based on the age. The Real World Program would teach job and life skills within 1 year, pushing young adults to think beyond what they've always thought. 130 adults, 150 kids – each adult and kid gets a mentor.

How does StepUp intersect with shelters?

In Raleigh, train ~650 people/year through 22 classes. Shelter sends ~20% people who come through StepUp. Another big referral institution is the prison system. The biggest place from which they receive referrals is the 16 bus line. Buses pass out StepUp cards!

What does the partnership with Wilmington St shelter look like?

Shelter has its own 40 hour job prep class, assessing people who would be a good fit for StepUp. Most men will go through the shelter's 1 week class, and will often start referring people from that 1 week into StepUp's week.

At what point are people ready to be placed in jobs?

In 1 week, can train in soft skills needed to be employed. They have worked hard to refine 40-hour/week model into a tight, 9am-5pm M-F curriculum. If you finish and pass, you get assigned an employment counselor & come to a weekly meeting where they bring all of their job leads, and begin to match people with potential jobs.

How/why track things other than job and life skills?

Created a large partnership with Wheels4Hope. Need to prove in budget that they can afford it. StepUp matches the savings to get the car.

Assessment piece: StepUp assesses and "scores" participants based upon different factors of need; it is a helpful indicator/predictor for how long it will take for someone to find a job. They use Salesforce as a data collection tool, which has generated a lot of data, allowing StepUp to learn about different factors and barriers to employment.

Are there different success rates between people who are/aren't homeless?

The primary issue faced by participants is substance abuse. Correlation between people who are homeless and also have a criminal background—would be happy to run that data.

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Possibility of Salesforce data-sharing?

Figured out how to remove all the data and move to another non-profit, but sharing data between institutions – haven't figured that out yet. Figured out how to just “add on” data.

This is something that StepUp is thinking about how to share data across different “Salesforces” so that services aren't being duplicated. Figuring out how to work to collaborate.

20% of staff have to be past graduates.

Jobs classes are taught primarily by past graduates.

Requirements: 90 days free of substance abuse and domestic violence issue.

Anyone between 18-65 can come and take a week-long class.

Election for Next Year's CEHD Officers

Nominations:

Chair Sharon Elliott-Bynum

Vice Chair Fred Stoppelkamp

Secretary Janet Xiao

Ryan made a motion to vote for these nominations. The motion was seconded by Joyce, and the motion passed.

Agency Announcements

- Saturday 20th at 5pm: annual vigil for those who died without homes in the past year. 5:30pm @ CCB Plaza downtown. Spencer will also send out a flyer via email.
 - Rev. Luke Powery will lead a vigil.
 - If anyone would like to offer a solo song, let Spencer know today or tomorrow, and they will include that on the program.
 - Open invitation for people to reflect on the lives of someone whom they knew there. Please invite people who know those who are honored in the vigil.
 - Also trying to find a portable sound system to use outdoors, 4:30pm until later that evening.
 - Rainy weather is expected!
- Rose Green: this Saturday is Dollar Day
- DERC is working with the Workforce Development Environmental Training class – looking for people to come and join. Seeking to teach people how to meet OSHA requirements, asbestos etc. Class is free to anyone who wants to go, seeking candidates. Person to contact is DERC.
- Open Table Ministry winter walk is on January 24th, starting at Solite Park & is primary fundraiser.

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Ryan reminded the Council that the next CEHD meeting will be the joint January meeting with HSAC.

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 11:15am.