

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • April 21, 2016, 10:00-11:30am

Location: Families Moving Forward (Queen Street Location), 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

Attendance: Abbi Tenaglia (THM), Andrew Franklin (CEF), Asia Elzein (FMF), Brenda Tillman (DHA), Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry), Catherine Pleil (FMF), Charita McCollers (LCHC-HCH), Cynthia Harris (HNH), Darius Hunt (CAARE Inc.), Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA), Fred Stoppelkamp (UMD), Gudrun Parmer (Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center), Janet Xiao (CEF), Krystal Harris (Durham County DSS), Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham), Maria Davis-Dorsey (DDI), Olive Joyner (HNH), Tiana Terry (VoA), Tim Pittman (DHA), Valaria Brown (Alliance BHC)

Welcome and Call to Order: Olive called the meeting to order at 10:04am. The group shared introductions.

Valaria made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Lloyd and Catherine, and passed.

Transforming Hope

Presented by: Abbi Tenaglia

Trigger Warning: sex trafficking, rape

- Transforming Hope (TH) has been around since 2010 and done a couple of different things since inception:
 - Outreach: worked with 60 women who work at Teaser's and Diamonds Durham; still mentoring some of the girls whom we built relationships with.
 - For the last 2 years, ran Emma's Home – 12-28 year old girls who were US citizens and trafficked in the US. Provided care to them through a 12 month program, 2 came through the 12 month program. Both of them are no longer being trafficked;
 - In 2014, we took a step back and we felt like there were some more effective things we could do. We felt like there was a lot more education that needed to happen in the community, so that's where we formed our vision to offer hope to those exploited through human trafficking. Doing that through: education, prevention, restoration. Programs fall under those 3 buckets.
- Now primarily doing education work on what human trafficking in the US is, how to recognize it, and how to respond:
 - Professionals: first responders, law enforcement, ER doctors, DPS social workers and counselors in Wake, Orange and Durham Counties. Training target is people who are potentially seeing these kids and young adults, and maybe are not aware of the extent of their trauma.
 - We also do the same thing with parents, and talk to them about how to talk to their kids about healthy sex, boundaries etc. and the things that lead to traumatic events such as human trafficking.
 - Created a 45 min workshop for middle and high school students as well
- NC adopted Safe Harbor Law that fits with federal law: if a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud or coercion, then you are legally considered a "victim of human trafficking" not considered a "prostitute."
- National organizations:

- Shared Hope International: their founder Linda Smith gathered stories from survivors, wrote book.
- Polaris Project: runs national anti-human trafficking hotline. That phone number is on our website as well.
- Statistics/information relating to homelessness and our locality:
 - 1/3 homeless youth are picked up and trafficked in 48 hours
 - 73% of homeless youth cite parental rejection as their reason for being homeless, which is a huge red flag for human trafficking—parental rejection is therefore one of the top vulnerabilities that a trafficker can exploit, especially if there is a history of sexual abuse. It's easy for trafficker to say, "You've already been used, why not turn that around and make some money for yourself." Another primary tactic is to isolate them from family.
 - NC ranks 6th in states most likely to have trafficking occur, because of the major highways in the state, making connections between Atlanta and NYC.
 - We don't have good statistics on what's happening in Durham. We know that there is a large homeless population, and that there are several areas within Durham where children are at higher risk for being exploited, just like they are at higher risk for dropping out of school, developing drug addiction, or abusing alcohol. Human trafficking is on a continuum of things that children and adults in Durham face. We know that some of these other issues exist, so we know that human trafficking is also a possibility—eg. interactions with social services, foster care system. If there's constant interaction throughout child's life, they are more vulnerable to human trafficking.
 - The tactic that we have seen used the most, among survivors, is a relationship. Typically an older man with a younger girl, vulnerable, looking for attention, wanting love/attention. Make her look good/feel empowered then turn around and exploit her.
 - As a country, there are \$100,000-300,000 American children, and 43% of them are boys. There's also recruitment of boys, and it looks like recruitment for a gang (we'll give you family/job/somewhere to belong).
- Q: Are initial contacts often online or in-person?
 - Center for Missing and Exploited Children says: up to 80% sexual exploitation of children starts online
- Q: How does human trafficking affect Latin@ communities?
 - A lot of victims are recruited for work postings.
 - We know that labor trafficking happens with non-US citizens, but it's usually labor and sex trafficking together.
- TH is the only organization in Durham working specifically with (domestic female) trafficking victims. Also work with Salvation Army in Wake County, who work with international victims. There's another organization in Greenville, opening the first home in the country for boys.
- Q: If an organization would like to request trainings/presentations, how should they follow up with you?

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • April 21, 2016, 10:00-11:30am

Location: Families Moving Forward (Queen Street Location), 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

- A: Yes, there is a request form on our website. Typically 1 hour, free, allow time for questions. In trainings for first responders, we try to cater to that specific job.

Reminder on DHA Voucher Referrals

Presented by: Lloyd Schmeidler

- Q to Tim: Do we have numbers on # of referrals made? A: 38!
- Background Information: This year, DHA is allowing the homeless/housing system to make referrals for HCVs. Most of those have been designated for specific agencies (Alliance BHC, UMD, HNH, FMF, DRM) and 25 are being awarded in general to the general CoC, process managed by City DCD. Contact person is Lloyd.
 - All of us should be screening people for the possibility of a referral for the HCV, if the household seems like a good fit.
 - One of the things we're asking homeless providers to do is screen households and keep track of clients screened and referred. Trying to work hard—through our office, late start in terms of getting policy in place, but we have a process established and are welcoming recommendations for referrals from organizations that
- Eligibility Criteria: limitations/barriers that households might have, that would keep them from being awarded:
 - Violent/drug-related criminal activity in the past 5 years
 - Q: Other criminal activity? → Depends on what it is.
 - If they owe money to any Housing Authority or if they've been terminated from assisted housing
- Q: Resources for credit & background checks?
 - Credit checks no longer needed
 - There are some free online resources for background criminal records

Landlords/Vouchers Working Group Update & CEHD Funding Priorities

Presented by: Janet Xiao

- CEF is holding listening sessions with both landlords and voucher-holders
- Ask to the group: can CEHD be the group that asks Mayor?
 - A vote was initiated, and the majority voted yes.
- Group Discussion:
 - Tonight & next Thursday night, the City is having an invitation meeting of people they want to get feedback on changes to housing code. Continual process of updating their housing code. If interested in joining this meeting, email Lorisa
 - Tiana: I was invited to send some of her staff to HQS training. But once I read that, once they do the inspection, the DHA still has to do the inspection, then felt like there was no point, since it would still duplicate efforts.
 - The group expressed strong agreement with Tiana.
 - The difficult thing is HQS training doesn't train you to look for everything our inspectors have to look for. We have offered to train your staff to do a pre-inspection. Our issue is that we're going out and the units aren't ready.

- Q posed to Tim Pittman: Can you give priority to inspections after one of these agencies has been trained?
 - It's a possibility, all of these can be raised with DHA process in the formal feedback process
 - Q: How should it be raised?
 - They put out a notice that we're changing our admin plan in June. Things can start being changed; would be effective in October; required to do a public notice and invite the community to come to issue concerns/ideas. That would be a good place to voice these options.
 - Could also send feedback to DHA staff emails.
- 3. Ask to the group: can CEHD add our voice to funding priorities as City/County budget?
 - Incentives piggybacking onto Rapid Rehousing
 - Focus it on people who are homeless → that is a priority of the City. Maybe we can piggyback on Rapid Rehousing and other funds that homeless providers are using, in order to get people into housing already.
 - Cynthia: we do bridge funding already. But it's taking inspections long.
 - City funds to DHA, in order to get homes inspected and vouchers processed
 - Vote: majority yes, with abstentions from Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham) & DHA staff.
 - Felt like we should have some kind of minimum standards for any realtor/property owner, because in my mind, no apt should be below what HCV requires → Dan will be asking the City to align codes, so that it's 12 minimum standard
 - Vote: majority yes, with abstentions from Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham) & DHA staff.
 - Generally, prioritize affordable homes for renters and homeowners
 - Vote: majority yes, with abstentions from Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham) & DHA staff.
- The group also affirmed an ask to the DHA: if non-profit providers could help expand the supply of certified housing inspectors, to where DHA would recognize an inspection by Cynthia (for example) – that could help expedite process and reduce cost of DHA.
- The issue of the definition of affordability: if the City focused on housing stock for very low-income renters (30% AMI and below), that would address our bottleneck.
 - Lorisa: there's a real opportunity to advocate right now with the City to expand opportunities for very low-income renters

Visioning Process for Service Prioritization

Presented by: Olive Joyner

- Lloyd gave an overview of what coordinated intake/service prioritization efforts are going on now for chronically homeless individuals, and Tiana and Matt shared information on the Mayor's Challenge meetings. The group recognized that these efforts can lead to practices and processes to serve individuals within Durham's homeless community as well.

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • April 21, 2016, 10:00-11:30am

Location: Families Moving Forward (Queen Street Location), 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

- The group decided not to move forward with creating a subcommittee on service prioritization.

Speaker Invitations for Next Time:

- Dan Hudgins (Durham Housing Authority)
- CSBG

Agency Announcements:

- TH is partnering with DCRC, ... Youth Opportunities Initiative. All-day meeting tomorrow with 100+ organizations. If you are serving youth age range (up to 25), it's free. Purpose is to create a new vision for Durham's youth. Abbi can give more information.
- Gudrun Parmer: next week is the first National Reentry Week declared by Federal gov't. CJRC is sponsoring an event for persons who were recently released from prison and going through reentry process. It's a meet and greet, with some people there who have gone through. Not for agencies, more for individuals on post-release supervision. It's for them; have some food.
 - Introduction to Gudrun Parmer (CJRC), who will continue to attend CEHD meetings.
- Lorisa: Rental Guide is from back in the Fall. RP has expanded open houses around housing; Lorisa will be there to talk with folks about renting/buying/owning a house. Anything goes. Housing counselors will be available.
- Also, a word of thanks to those who have supported the department's fundraiser for EDCI. If you bought a ticket or came and picked up a BBQ chicken dinner, we got good reviews and raised \$3,000 for EDCI!

Olive adjourned the meeting at 11:34am.