

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • May 21st, 2015, 10:00-11:30am

Location: Genesis Home, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

Attendance: Donna Carrington (CEF), Holly Hogarth (TROSAs), Ernie Mills (Durham Rescue Mission), Ashly Spikes (DERC), Courtney Millsap (Durham Crisis Response Center), Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham), Brenda Tillman (Durham Housing Authority), Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health Center), James Stroud (Centre for Homeownership), Fred Stoppelkamp (UMD), Christopher Rawlinson (Housing for New Hope), Mary Moore (Durham Tech), Ann Tropiano (Genesis Home), Dorothy Clark (Durham IHN), Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home), Catherine Pleil (Durham IHN), Spencer Bradford (DCIA), Karen Barfield (St. Joseph's Episcopal), Maria Davis Dorsey (DDI), Janet Xiao (CEF)

Welcome and Call to Order: Janet Xiao called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

Rev. Karen Barfield, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church:

- St. Joe's is located on West Main and has a congregation of 40 people
- The church offers **prayer & meals**, open to all. It's not a feeding ministry, but whoever wants to join for breakfast is welcome to.
 - Morning prayer M-F 7:30am, followed by breakfast
 - Evening prayer at 5:30pm, M-F
 - Usually between 12-20 folks will join. Around 10-15 are homeless neighbors.
- They ask people not to drink or use drugs on the property; that's been largely ignored. Had someone approach us to start **AA meeting** there, M-F at 12pm, so hopefully that will be starting up in the next couple of weeks.
- Sleeping/Staying at St. Joe's:
 - In wintertime, the last several years, if it hits **32 degrees or below**, the church will open up their parish hall (not advertised; not an emergency shelter). Mostly it's for folks who come to breakfast & who are in relationship with St. Joe's.
 - **At any given time, 1-6 people sleeping on the property** outside. Right now, three men. 4 people are living in a house of hospitality right now; going to close end of June. A number of folks will not stay in emergency shelters. Most are mentally ill and/or have addictions.
 - Rev. Barfield usually tries to connect them to different resources, especially Housing for New Hope's PATH team.
 - Over and over, lots of people who are on SSI who can't afford a place to live. They see the community's need for affordable housing!
- Q&A:
 - Q: What's the **max #** that you shelter overnight?
 - Do you take part in annual homeless count? Yes.
 - Max. = we've had as many as 20, usually 12-15
 - Q: What's your **relationship** with other providers?
 - Happy to work with everybody; who is the best person to call?
 - A couple who slept on the grounds: they had an emergency c-section. Housing for New Hope helped to house them, to avoid the child being sent to Child Protective Services

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- Rev. Barfield doing case management, in a sense, but there's only so much she can do.
- Sometimes the whole congregation is involved! Eg. in the c-section, 7 people from the church were running around
- For some folks, St. Joseph's constitutes "home." They know space and people, and might feel safer there than a shelter.
- Q: How do you usually handle **violence**?
 - We usually call the police
 - Asked police to be more present in the first third of the month, when SSI/SSDI money and drug dealers arrive. This would discourage people from coming and doing business, because violence escalates during those times.
 - Q. Have you talked to police about that? Maybe ways for police to have additional presence during those times in particular? Especially Crisis Intervention Trained officers.
- Q: (to Lloyd) From a system-level, does St. Joseph's participation in **VI-SPDAT** affect the CoC and funding priorities?
 - Karen and Lloyd are meeting in June to begin incorporating her VI-SPDAT numbers with the priority list for the community
 - Once that's happening, could be an ongoing mechanism to house folks?
 - Q: Could we open this to other congregations as well?
 - Lloyd's work = largely receiving VI-SPDAT scores from entities administering it; if there are other congregations doing that, Lloyd is happy working with them. The key would be whether or not the individuals homeless & whether they would meet HUD's definitions of homelessness.
- Q: Might Preiss-Steele Place be a landing place for folks with disability income?
 - 90% occupied; for elderly/near-elderly and disabled individuals. 1 & 2 BR properties.
 - Process: Call the Durham Housing Authority, talk to Ms. Sally Butts.
- Q: Do we have % of rapid rehousing participants who stays in housing for 2 years?
 - RR focus has been on lower-barrier households
 - Durham retention rate (90-95% at 6 or 12 months) comparable to other counties; that number does drop off for longer
- Q: Do you have an intake process?
 - Not an official shelter, and we don't advertise as a shelter!
 - A lot of the people that come to us for breakfast etc. we already have relationships with
- Lloyd added: For clarification, in PIT count, we've been listing St. Joseph's as an "overflow shelter." Counting as many beds as they are providing. Not seasonal shelter. This year, the PIT count = 7 people.

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- Also important to highlight the importance of medical respite. There's a pilot project going on, funded through Durham County Dept of Public Health. This could have been a resource, for example, for the woman with c-section. Specifically focused on providing safe housing while people are convalescing from hospital stays.
 - That committee is also applying for a major \$600k grant
 - Will be managed through LATCH
 - The other way to refer: Duke Outpatient Clinic, through Julia Gamble or Marigny Manson

Diversion Program Updates from Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network, Urban Ministries of Durham, Genesis Home, and Housing for New Hope:

- HNH, UMD, GH and DIHN (the four agencies that shelter families and work to get families in the system) have been working for a few years now on looking at the end-to-end system, and trying to figure out how to collectively improve. Got a facilitator involved, have been meeting every two weeks.
- Identified a few gaps in the system:
 - Front end: some families come into the system that could have been avoided if there was some front-end diversion program, so that families that didn't need to come in, with some case management, could be kept out of shelters.
 - UMD will provide that front-end process for families
 - Back end: robust after care program
 - Trying to shorten lengths of stay, but haven't had resources to provide support for families once they get into their homes
 - We know that our families are hanging on by their fingernails
- Neither diversion nor aftercare is federally funded, but the four of us are committed and we want to bring in the community to make this end-to-end system work.
- Rapid Rehousing: we need to put as much money into this as we can, to meet the needs of those with highest barriers.
 - All families, whether low- or high-barrier, need some kind of aftercare support
 - We've looked at moving CoC funding from Genesis Home and more into Rapid Rehousing (to be able to fund higher barrier families to get into RR); highest barriers into DHA etc.
 - Hoping to lower barriers for Rapid Rehousing. Formerly, have placed higher barriers upon entry. But from other areas, rehousing families who have no income. Will be able to house households who previously didn't qualify.
 - More enrichment, empowerment aftercare activities
- Q: What will aftercare look like?
 - Circles of Support will be a piece, but it's very volunteer-intensive. A lot of aftercare will look like paid case managers who are doing scheduled visits. Also looking for more mentoring-based relationships, one or two people who are helping to check in.
 - One reason why there's a gap in services around aftercare is that there's no funding for it. Hoping for funding from United Way; which will signal how much of Genesis

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Home's Family Matters grant will be reallocated back into the CoC towards Rapid Rehousing.

- A lot of our job will be around educating folks in the system.
- Construction: going to be doing a capital campaign in last 6 months of this year, will be renovating floorspace and turn it into family rooms with some offices, kitchen space, common areas. Will be able to serve more families. Hoping to add 6 more units, pending funding.
- #s served:
 - New target will be to serve 100 families per year; 20 diverted by UMD; 80 served in the shelter.
 - At any given time: 21 units
- Q: To what extent are you in conversation with congregations about this?
 - Have met with congregations
 - Critically, want to transfer volunteer-power to the Genesis Home. Consolidating resources.
- We've also looked at GH coming together with DIHN, so we are going to merge!
- There's a free 2 full-day training next week, hoping people have signed up for. Will take place Thursday and Friday. Located at St. Phillips.
 - Numbers are full at the moment
- Will send it out to the CEHD list
- Janet will also send out another form asking for ideas to be submitted.

Group Brainstorm of Future Agenda Suggestions:

- Mary would like to present with Durham Tech's updates about upcoming curriculum
- Durham Housing Authority—talk to Dallas Parks, CEO of DHA. Information about Goley Pointe (under construction)
- Durham Rescue Mission (Ernie Mills or Rob) would be interested in presenting with recent updates
- Health Care for the Homeless Clinic (Charita)
- HSAC (Mayme Webb-Bledsoe)
- Affordable housing/transit task force collaborating with Durham CAN's housing team in developing campaign priorities for workforce housing in the community over the next few months. One of the things that came up was the need to focus on affordable housing for very low income, not just 60% AMI but 30% or lower. This would incorporate a lot of our population more than the 60% level would. Ask Lorisa Seibel to come talk to this group, not this summer but toward the fall. Would also be good to engage the constituent base for this group for public meetings and hearings to voice their perspective and needs.
- Rapid Rehousing for individuals: CAARE and Housing for New Hope, the \$1000 threshold
- Someone from the Durham Police Department to talk about community policing and their interactions with unsheltered people in the community.

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- Workforce Development: James Dick. UMD is working on a pilot program with them. Have had some success; they've placed 2/5 people who had significant barriers. Hope to get another employee specialist who works specifically with the homeless; could be opened up to unemployed people with prevention focus.
 - Tie this into the meeting with Durham Tech, Jason
- HSAC Income Results Committee. Would welcome new members, particularly focusing on strengthening the workforce and employment piece at Project Homeless Connect on October 2nd.
- Update on medical respite
- James Stroud, Centre for Homeownership
- Ashly Spikes with DERC updates

The next CEHD meeting will take place on June 24th as a combined meeting between HSAC and CEHD. Still waiting on a date. CEHD recommends 3-5pm. Lloyd will email CEHD with a decision time decided upon by the HSAC Structure Subcommittee. This will be a full CoC meeting. We will not be meeting in July, so after the June meeting our next meeting will be on August 20th.

Agency Announcements:

- The HSAC has subcommittees, one of which is the housing results team. They specifically look at housing for homeless individuals. Traditionally, what we've done: RR, PSH (working more with landlords now), efficiency apartments. However, there is no affordable housing for individuals with SSI/SSDI; big projects like Andover or Williams Square are 5-7 year projects, from the planning to the funding etc. Some of the folks in this community have been looking at other cities and what they're doing. One of the big things that's coming up (in Charlotte, Greensboro) is the idea of tiny houses. We have some key leaders here in Durham who are interested in hearing more about tiny houses, how other communities are building them etc.
 - Next meeting: June 10th, 3-5pm @ the Office of Community Development
 - Right now: you can build a tiny house for \$20,000 including bathroom, shower etc.
 - Will start the community conversation! We need excitement and buzz.
- Mary asked the group to please check Durham Tech free HRD Workforce classes. Have everything from resume-editing and resume labs. Have a great Workforce Ready Re-Entry program for people with criminal records. Every class that is labelled with a GoPass sign after the second class means that students will get a semester-long bus pass that will take them to employment in Durham, Orange, Wake Counties. It's M-F only. It's one way to assist folks with employment. Durham Tech is seeking students; need our support in order to keep funding this program. There also needs to be some follow-through from the provider to check that people are taking the training seriously.
- Lloyd reminded us that the preapplication period for 2015 CoC application process is under way. Due to the Community Development Dept on June 5th. Anticipating some new funding that probably will be prioritized for PSH for chronically homeless people. May also have

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some reallocated funds that will be available for RR for families, but need preapplications to be completed.

- Anticipate that HUD will release notice of funding availability in late June/early July, with final applications due back to HUD in late August/early September.
- If anyone needs more information, contact Lloyd
- James Stroud from Center for Homeless in Hillsborough: they're in Orange County, although they do serve a homeless population. Don't have resources, have been referring people to Durham. Kudos to you guys for collaborating!
 - Looking to develop some housing in Durham. Multi-family/single family. Whatever input I can get from you all: it's possible that we can build something to help this population. The land is on Angier Ave. What do you need?
- Ashly updated us with DERC starting a new cohort #26. Recruitment starting soon, going until July. Six-month program, workforce development. DERC holds monthly information sessions if you want.
 - Also have clothing donation section
 - Distribution manager's phone and email address:
 - Tours usually available Fridays 11am-12pm
 - Recently added forklift training (which leads to jobs), front desk training, EPA training
 - Currently collaborating with Durham Literacy Center and UMD on Project LIFT

Fred adjourned the meeting at 11:18am.