

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • August 21st, 2014, 10:00-11:30am

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

Attendance: Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham), Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home), Janet Xiao (CEF), Matt Schnars (City of Durham), Sharon Elliott-Bynum (CAARE, Inc.), Joyce Stancil-Williams (CASA), Catherine Pleil (DIHN), Tiana Terry (VofA), Nigel Brown (HNN), Charita McCollers (Lincoln), Joi Stepney (HNN), Takiyah Milton (LCHC-HCH Clinic intern), Cynthia Harris (HNN), Alex Herring (UMD), and Maria Davis Dorsey (DDI)

Welcome and Call to Order: Ryan Fehrman called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Approval of May Minutes: Lloyd noted that the May minutes should reflect the minute taker (Patrice Nelson). Catherine moved to approve. Lloyd seconded. All voted in favor of approval.

Matt Schnars presented System Performance Measures to encourage Durham homeless service providers to begin thinking about these benchmarks and increase coordination with other providers, so that collectively providers can generate a more clear “big picture” of homelessness in Durham and better understand systemic trends beyond individual programs.

- The seven system-level performance measures are:
 - 1. Length of time persons remain homeless
 - 2. The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness
 - 3. Number of homeless persons
 - 4. Jobs and income growth for homeless persons in CoC Program-funded projects
 - 5. Number of persons who become homeless for the first time
 - 6. Homelessness prevention and housing placement of persons defined by Category 3 of HUD’s homeless definition in CoC Program-funded projects
 - 7. Successful housing placement
- The 7 measures are from the HEARTH Act, and form part of HUD’s selection criteria (ie. funding)
- System Performance Measures Introductory Guide:
 - Most measures count everybody regardless of age/household etc., aside from income measures – this will hopefully make things more streamlined and digestible
 - Tells you what program types to count for what measure (eg. “permanent housing” includes rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing)
 - Durham Examples:
 - “Measure 1: Length of time persons remain homeless”
 - Metric 1.1, average length of time persons are homeless in ES, SH projects
 - Avg length 2012-2013 = 115 days
 - 2013-2014: 77 days
 - Metric 1.2, average length of time persons are homeless in ES, SH, TH projects
 - 2012-2013: 139 days
 - 2013-2014: 102 days
 - Once these averages fall under 30 days, we will have achieved the goal of “ending homelessness”
 - Measure 3: Number of homeless persons

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- Measure 3.1: change in PIT counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons
 - 2012: 698
 - 2013:753
 - 2014: 758
- Measure 3.2: change in annual counts of sheltered homeless persons in HMIS
 - 2012-2013 = 1460
 - 2013-2014 = 1441
- Measure 2a and 2b: return to homelessness
 - 2a measures return to homelessness within 6-12 months; 2b measures 24 month (HEARTH Act)
 - They included all housing types: ES, SH, TH and any PH project type
*Note “PH” means rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing
- The idea is for everyone to have an understanding of what these metrics mean
- For CoCs, HUD focus is on strategic prioritization
- These standards began to be enforced October 1st, 2012

Participants in the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference shared their big takeaways:

- Durham attendees included Housing for New Hope, Genesis Home, and Urban Ministries
- Lloyd - Nan Roman’s (ED of NAEH) opening address:
 - We need to close the front door, working with mainstream programs. The homeless housing program can’t be the only place people are accessing housing.
 - eg. in Durham, taking Rapid Rehousing to scale
- Lloyd - Workshop on 5 Keys to Improving System (from Cincinnati, OH & Oakland, CA):
 - 1. Have shared community goals and a shared vision for ending homelessness
 - 2. Clear outcome measures that define high performance
 - 3. Strong governance structure that provides direction and feedback on performance
 - 4. Funders providing resources to high-performing programs and pilots
 - 5. Providers buy into the goal of ending homelessness and are willing to make changes in their programs to achieve it
 - Other crucial points: transparency, provider participation, needs to be system-wide
- Matt - General theme was that there was a lot of energy & that national high-level people are supportive. Present included the First Lady, VA, head of HUD, a senator, Health and Human Services, panels where high-level officials talked about working together. The conference was the largest one they’ve ever had. They’re also serious about the strategic investment; there were lots of sessions about allocating money strategically.
- Ryan – Homelessness among families. Looking at larger causes (poverty, costs of young children) are systemic.
 - Mental illness/substance abuse is NOT a predictor.
 - Young mothers, unemployed, relying on public assistance, no HS degree, etc.
 - Age at which you are most likely to be in a homeless shelter is under 1 yr; second is 1-5 yrs

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- Most people are homeless briefly. We have trouble separating out who's poor vs. who might become homeless.
- Alexander – Focused on youth homelessness (ages 18-30). DC system is well-coordinated (eg. as soon as a youth is registered as homeless, their info gets sent out to all community providers).
- Many workshop presentations and powerpoints are available for free at the National Alliance to End Homelessness website (<http://www.endhomelessness.org>). You can also subscribe to receive monthly updates and announcement throughout the year.

Agency Announcements:

- 2nd HSAC Income Committee meeting will come. Next meeting is on Thursday 9/4 at 1:00pm. Email Alexander or Lloyd for the location.
- UMD has lots of white and chocolate milk. If it can be used, let Alexander know.
- Volunteers of America & Tiama: We received award for another year. Applied for two more grants for other areas in NC. Met goal of serving over 250 veterans.
- On Saturday 8/23, health fair at CAARE from 11am-3pm (coop. between Lincoln and CAARE) for the community. If they need screening or any other health information. Especially older people who need help.
- On Sunday 8/24, NCCU is hosting back-to-school giveaway in McDougald gym from 9am-2pm.
- On Monday 9/4, there is a free Veterans Mental Health Summit, talking about subjects such as trauma, women's health, veterans mental health/substance abuse etc. Seating is limited. Information should be coming out soon.
- Open Table has an office in the lower level of Trinity UMC. Not walk-in, need appointment.
- Got call from a lot of furniture and household goods. Caveat is that somebody needs to pack it up and take it. Contact Carolyn Schuldt for details.
- UMD is doing renovations, so Lincoln has moved out of clinic space, and are located in the Health Dept. building in clinic 6 on the ground floor. Hours are still the same except Wed (morning 8am-12pm); MTThF is 1-5pm.
- UMD's family unit will be closed as of August 30th due to renovations. Projected date of completion will be 1st to mid-November.
- DERC is doing a clothing drive for blue-collar men's clothing. Partnered with First Presbyterian Church and saw huge need for supplies like steel-toed boots, work supplies etc. Working hard to find a vendor partner but it's difficult. Looking for gently-used men's work clothes. For each piece of work clothes, will get \$3 voucher for DERC warehouse, up to 10 items.

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Xiao (janetx@communityef.org)