

## **DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, December 17, 2014**  
**Durham County Human Services Building**  
**414 E. Main Street - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**3:00 p.m.**

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on the above date and time.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair John Bowman, Vice-Chair Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Secretary Stephanie Williams, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, City Manager Tom Bonfield, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Edward Abdullah, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Director Michael Becketts, Department of Social Services (DSS) & Proxy for County Commissioner Michael Page), Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department, Reverend Warren Herndon, Angela Holmes, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly, Shannon McLean, Chief Development Operations Officer, Durham Housing Authority, Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Fred Stoppelkamp, Durham Economic & Resource Center (DERC), Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian, Latasha Wilson, (Serving American Veterans Everywhere (SAVE) and Jason Wimmer (OEWD).

**Committee Members with Excused Absences:** Minnie Forte-Brown, Durham Public Schools Board (DPS), Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer and Sue Jackson, Executive Dean/Department Head, Continuing Education at Durham Technical Community College,

**Committee Members Absent:** Jackie Love, Homeless and At-Risk Liaison, Durham Public Schools and County Commissioner Michael Page.

**Staff Present:** Director Reginald Johnson, Project Managers Matthew Schnars, Lloyd Schmeidler, Administrative Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development), and Sheila Bullock, Senior Executive Assistant (Office of the City Clerk).

**Also Present:** Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum (CAARE); Ricky Evans (D.A.D.S., Inc.); Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home); Delvena Jones (SAVE); Reverend Ernie Mills (Durham Rescue Mission); Patrice Nelson (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)); Jack Preiss (Housing Results Team); George C. Roberson (D.A.D.S., Inc.); Gretchen Senez (Housing for New Hope (HNH)); Mary Jean Seyday (CASA); Lorraine Williams and Pearl Williams (NAMI Durham).

**Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Bowman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and asked that HSAC members reflect on the goals of the HSAC as he read each one aloud.

**Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – November 19, 2014**

**Motion** by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2014 HSAC meeting was approved at 3:15 p.m. with the following revisions:

- On page 4, paragraph 9 “Vinson Apartments” should read “Denson Apartments” named after retired Federal Judge Alex Denson.

**Subject: Public Comment Period – George C. Roberson, CEO (Dads Against Dependency Services, Inc. (D.A.D.S., Inc.); Julia H. Jones (VISTA); Patrice Nelson (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD))**

George Roberson, CEO, D.A.D.S., Inc., made brief comments concerning homelessness in the Durham community. He entitled his topic “Homelessness, Up Close and Personal.”

Julia Jones, Enrichment Program Specialist, VISTA Program, expressed her concerns about the poor treatment of UMD residents which she stated she observed during her assignment there in 2014.

Chair Bowman explained that the HSAC was a collaborative effort and not a regulatory body. He suggested that Ms. Jones present her personal views and any concerns she may have about UMD to UMD’s Board of Directors.

Patrice Nelson, Executive Director, UMD, distributed copies of their annual report to HSAC members. She stated that anyone having questions regarding the report could contact her.

**Subject: Introduction and Welcome Newly Appointed HSAC Member**

Chair Bowman introduced and on behalf of the HSAC, formally welcomed new member Angela Holmes.

**Subject: Durham Youth Count**

Vice-Chair Webb-Bledsoe provided the following update on the progress of the Durham Youth Count:

- HSAC Youth Subcommittee has launched the “Durham Youth Count”
- Approximately 20 volunteers attended a meeting and have been trained to conduct the Count
- Youth ages 14 years to 24 years will be serviced through the Count
- The Count will continue through January 15, 2015 to allow homeless students at Durham Technical Community College and North Carolina Central University be included in the count.

Anyone interested in being involved with the Youth Count and would like more information is asked to contact Matthew Schnars, Project Manager, Department of Community Development.

**Subject: Denson Apartments**

In providing some background information, Mr. Schnars noted that Denson Apartments were originally funded by the Durham CoC.

Joyce Stancil Williams, Program Director, CASA, provided an overview and a power point presentation on Denson Apartments. She pointed out that the apartments, which opened on November 20, 2014, consist of 11 one-bedroom units specifically for homeless Veterans.

In addition to the City of Durham and HUD, funding for the apartments was also received from the N.C. Housing Finance Agency and the Home Depot Foundation. CASA also raised an additional \$30,000 from community support for landscaping, grounds and site cost. Ms. Williams recognized the following partnering agencies in attendance at the HSAC meeting: Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum (CAARE, Inc.) and the City of Durham. Also, The Green Chair Project in Raleigh, N.C. also donated furniture to eight residents of Denson Apartments on the day of their move-in.

Ms. Williams announced that an additional 12 apartments will be opening in Spring 2015. On behalf of CASA's Director of Operations Mary Jean Seyda, Deborah King, Executive Director and all staff at CASA, Ms. Williams thanked everyone for their support.

Further discussion took place concerning the apartments.

Lastly, Ms. Williams shared expressions of gratitude from the residents of Denson Apartments.

**Subject: Portfolio of Federal Funding for Homelessness**

Mr. Schnars gave a power point presentation entitled *Federal Funding for Homelessness: Beyond CoC & ESG*. Topics addressed included:

- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Partner Programs
- Explanation of Targeted vs. Mainstream programs
- Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA's)
- USICH Federal Departments
- "How the dollars flow"
- "How much do we have"
- "Where do the dollars go"

Additional discussion followed and the question was asked "What are the consequences, that as a homeless service system, we want to have in place when people don't take advantage of all the resources that were identified in the presentation?"

Committee Member Karriker commented that this situation is seen with Durham Housing Authority. There are many opportunities for people in subsidized housing to help them move forward to other housing but people just don't seem to be interested in taking advantage of these opportunities.

Committee Member McLean added that families will sometimes remain in public housing as a safety net because they know if they lose their job or their income stops the maximum amount of rent to be charge is \$50.00.

**Subject: Reminders / Announcements**

- The Durham Point in Time Count will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2014.
- Committee Member Sue Jackson is retiring from Durham Technical Community College on January 1, 2015 and will no longer be serving on the HSAC.
- Committee Member Shannon McLean has accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Sanford Housing Authority effective January 1, 2015.

- Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler, Department of Community Development, invited everyone to a memorial ceremony honoring homeless individuals who have died within the past year. It is being coordinated by Durham Congregations in Action. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the CCB Plaza.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden personally welcomed Committee Member Holmes to the HSAC and she thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation. Mr. Schnars also commended Committee Member Holmes and thanked her for all of her assistance.
- Reverend Ernie Mills, Durham Rescue Mission (DRC) stated that there will be a Christmas party held on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until. This event will include food and a clothing and toys give-away.

**Subject: Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Bowman adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock  
Office of the City Clerk