

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Durham County Human Services Building - 2nd 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 Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice-Chair John Bowman, Secretary, Dr. Deborah Bailey, Director of Academic Services Learning Program at NCCU; Edward Abdullah, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center; Michael Becketts, Director, Department of Social Services (DSS) and Proxy for County Commissioner Michael Page; Drew Cummings, Assistant County Manager; Robert “Bo” Glenn, Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer; Reverend Warren Herndon, Sue Jackson, Executive Dean/Department Head Continuing Education at Durham Technical Community College; Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center; Shannon McLean, Chief Development Operations Officer, Durham Housing Authority; Fred Stoppelkamp, Durham Economic & Resource Center (DERC); Reverend Chris Tuttle, Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University and Jason Wimmer, Office of Economic & Workforce Development (OEWD)

Committee Members with Excused Absences: Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield, and Jackie Love, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison for Durham Public Schools

Committee Members Absent: Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sherriff’s Department; Kimberly Monroe, Pearlie Williams, Durham NAMI and Stephanie Williams, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Department of Community Development and Sheila Bullock, Senior Executive Assistant, Office of the City Clerk.

Also Present: Brenda Tillman, Sherry Robinson, Pamela Davis, Durham Housing Authority; Brianna Bake, World Relief/AmeriCorps; Chris Barnett, Thomas Skellion, New Way of Life/T-House; Darryl P. Hicklen (USA Veterans Help); Janet Xias, Stephanie Colorado, Community Empowerment Fund (CEF); Catherine Pleil (Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)); Pam Karriker, Citizen and Jack Preiss

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Forte-Brown called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and asked that after the reading of the four HSAC goals, members take a moment of silence to focus on them.

Chair Forte-Brown extended a welcome to everyone and recognized Director Michael Becketts, Department of Social Services (DSS) who was in attendance as proxy for Commissioner Michael Page.

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Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – April 23, 2014

Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk, noted for the record that Committee Member Sue Jackson was in attendance at the April 23, 2014 HSAC meeting, however this was inadvertently left out of the minutes.

Also, Committee Member Robert “Bo” Glenn was also in attendance at the April 23, 2014 HSAC meeting.

Motion by Reverend Herndon, seconded by Vice-Chair Bowman to approve the minutes of April 23, 2014 was unanimously approved at 3:07 p.m.

Chair Forte-Brown requested that an item concerning Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds be added to the agenda.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bowman, seconded by Committee Member Glenn to add an agenda item #9 regarding Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding was approved at 3:09 p.m.

Subject: Public Comment Period – Darryl Hicklen

Darryl Hicklen, Program Director, USA Veterans Help, expressed his concern about organizations such as his and others being mandated to participate in CHIN and pay the fees but not receive any money from the HSAC. He commented the HSAC had received a \$50,000 grant for CHIN and it makes it a little hard to pay fees to a group where you’re not receiving any participation. Mr. Hicklen pointed out that the trend has started other groups who do not receive any monies from the HSAC to become more reluctant to share their information with the clients that they serve. He added that his organization is paying for several things that are not being paid for such as birth certificates for the veterans. In order to receive a voucher, DHA requires veterans to have a birth certificate regardless of whether they are 60 or 65 years old, although the DD214 for a veteran is an official document. Mr. Hicklen noted that their success rate has gotten better with their participation from the Durham VA, however his organization is just asking for a little help from the HSAC. For an organization that HSAC would like to get their numbers, Mr. Hicklen encouraged HSAC to pay the CHIN fees.

Director Reginald Johnson, Department of Community Development responded by saying that the grant was received by the Continuum of Care to defray some, not all of the costs of CHIN. He also provided an explanation concerning the process of how CHIN fees were determined for participants.

Committee Member Harvin-Ravin commented that Durham County Veterans Services does not have funds to pay \$45.00 for a birth certificate for veterans from out-of-state. However, if

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they are in Durham County or across the state usually she can coordinate with other Veterans Services Offices in those perspective counties to see if they could secure a birth certificate on behalf of the Veteran.

In relation to the Housing Authority, Committee Member McLean commented that the first form of requirement is a birth certificate, however if Veterans do not have it the second official documentation would be state or federal documentation that would show the birth date. She added that they do not require that someone pay for their birth certificate if they cannot afford it.

In response to Mr. Hicklen's question, regarding the official document DD214 for veterans and not having to have a birth certificate, Committee McLean stated that was correct for the public housing. Mr. Hicklen also asked if that would include the HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Rhega Taylor, Housing Choice Voucher Director, DHA, stated that this did not include the HUD VASH. She added that they will collect the birth certificate eventually but they do not disqualify because Veterans don't have it. However, they do know that at some point in the process they will need to provide the birth certificate.

Further discussion took place concerning the birth certificate requirement and housing assistance.

Subject: Access to Care, Chair Drew Cummings - Presenter

Committee Member Cummings reminded members about the resolution that they passed five months ago in support of the Respite Pilot Program. At that time \$20,000 was needed to fund a cash match for in-kind services. Director Gail Harris, Durham County Public Health Department proposed an amount of money as a public health strategic plan initiative. This money became part of the County Manager's proposed budget and hopefully, the Respite Pilot Program will be funded for 2014-2015. If so, it will move forward with funding 20 homeless individuals who get special medical care for six months as well as 12 months of follow-up through Durham Center Access, a cooperative effort between Durham County and Duke Health System.

Committee Member Cummings noted several people were involved in the work on this particular pilot including Committee Members Monroe and Glenn. He also recognized Julia Gamble who has been very persistent in her efforts and Sally Wilson with Durham Center Access for continuing to push for this intervention.

Chair Forte-Brown also acknowledged the work of Durham Housing Authority, the V.A. and VASH for cutting through those "bureaucratic ropes" so people don't get stopped from getting the access that they need.

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Subject: Housing Results Team, Chair Fred Stoppelkamp & Shannon McLean, Presenters

The following update was given by Committee Member Stoppelkamp, Committee Member Shannon McLean and DHA Staff:

- The Planning Commission has provided a list of 7,060 units that have been built since 2006 through 2013 in Durham County which are up and running or will be up and running by 2015.
- The Results Team along with the assistance of an intern from the Durham Economic Resource Center (DERC) will be reaching out to each property owner in the private sector to find out what is the monthly rate of units and the eligibility requirements with the intention of starting the conversation with them to have them dedicate 1% of their units to affordable housing (30% of annual median income).
- The group is working with landlords in the private sector in an effort to obtain more units for the Rapid Re-housing Program and to also include landlords in the conversation to end chronic homelessness.
- Meredith Daye, DHA Development Officer gave a power point presentation on the progress update of Goley Pointe. As a reminder to the Subcommittee, Goley Pointe was partially funded with CoC funding.
- Sherry Robinson, DHA Eligibility Specialist commented that the waiting list for Goley Pointe currently has 622 applications for the public housing units, 57 chronically homeless applications and 159 homeless applications. As of May 28, 2014 they have confirmed 25 chronically homeless applicants and 17 homeless applicants.
- A power point presentation entitled *Housing Choice Voucher Program Eligibility* was given on DHA's wait list process and program eligibility requirements.
- Portability of Housing Choice Voucher Program

In response to Committee Member Cummings' question concerning how many of the Goley Pointe units would be reserved for the homeless, Committee Member McLean stated that 12 of the 20 units will serve the chronically homeless population.

Reverend Herndon wanted to know, assuming that this would relieve some of the backlog, how far in advance will it relieve some pressure off the requirement standards. Ms. Daye stated that the affordable development will help DHA with serving their populations. However, it is only 20 units, therefore, it will relieve some but they will still maintain a waiting list.

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Chair Forte-Brown asked what some of the supportive services were since over half the units would be for chronically homeless persons.

Committee Member McLean explained that they are partnering with Durham Alliance, Genesis Home and Urban Ministries. Several of these organizations currently have case management services. DHA has a Resident Services Department which is also a partner and, according to Committee Member McLean, if there are additional needs they will work with the different organizations to provide those needs. She added that the goal is to have persons who reside in the single-family houses be able to gain the skills, gain employment and purchase the house.

Committee Member Abdullah asked if persons have to be connected with certain organizations that offer job training skills. Committee Member McLean stated yes and that DHA already partners with agencies to obtain the job training skills and education. He also wanted to know if there is a time limit for which a homeless person has to obtain employment.

Committee Member McLean stated no and with the public housing program a person that is unemployed has to pay a minimum rent of \$50. However, she indicated that they would want persons to gain skills, become employed and be self-sufficient; as long as they are eligible for the public housing program they would not get kicked out of their unit.

Also, Committee Member McLean noted that DHA is currently going through its *Annual and Five-Year Plan*. They are in discussions with their CEO to add preferences on the public housing side and a proposal is on the table to present to the CEO. Committee Member McLean will let members know when the public comment period will take place in case anyone would like to come and make comments relative to the preferences. Also, she welcomes any suggestions or ideas members may have but she needs these quickly because information is due May 30, 2014.

Comments were made regarding how DHA would express preferences for public housing. Committee Member McLean noted that language has been included regarding homeless families but it has not been finalized yet. Also, a suggestion has been received to include language specifically for Veterans as opposed to saying "homeless persons." Additional language may be added to address families with children.

Other discussion included amenities and services in the surrounding Goley Pointe neighborhood that would be available for the residents such as grocery stores, laundry facilities and public transportation.

Subject: HSAC Member Attendance

Vice-Chair Bowman reported that HSAC members had received and were also asked to review two policies concerning attendance of HSAC members. One policy outlines procedures for a member to secure an excused absence and the other policy talks about reporting attendance of all members.

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Under this policy, HSAC Staff will submit quarterly attendance records to the HSAC Executive Committee for their review quarterly in October, January, April and July.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bowman, on behalf of the Structure Committee, seconded by Committee Member Harvin-Ravin that the Attendance Tracking & Reporting policy as well as the Excused Absence Request policy representing HSAC's policies and procedures be adopted was unanimously approved at 4:17 p.m.

Subject: Follow Up Items – Durham Homeless Veterans Basic Demographic Data & CEHD Active Membership List

Mr. Johnson noted that per a request made during the April 2014 HSAC meeting, a list of active 2013-2014 Council to End Homelessness in Durham (CEHD) members and their organizational affiliations was provided to the HSAC.

Also, HSAC Members received a basic demographic report that provided numbers of homeless Veterans in Durham.

Subject: HSAC Membership – City & County Board Applications

Mr. Johnson noted there are some City and County seats on the HSAC that will be expiring soon. Durham City and Durham County Clerks are handling their application processes and those who seats are expiring will be notified by their perspective Clerk. Also, an application would need to be submitted if the member intends to re-apply. The application deadline for the City is Friday, May 23, 2014 and the County's deadline is Friday, May 30, 2014.

Subject: ESG Funding

Mr. Johnson commented that they received the notice for ESG funding on May 27, 2014 and the deadline is June 6, 2014. He shared part of the guidelines for ESG funding and stated that he would also e-mail this information to HSAC members. Mr. Johnson also noted that the amount of money available was not included in the notice that they received.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bowman, seconded by Committee Member McLean to authorize the Lead Agency to develop a process to solicit proposals and submit prioritized requests to the State ESG Office by the June 6, 2014 deadline was approved unanimously at 4:25 p.m.

Subject: Reminders

- The June HSAC meeting will be a joint meeting with CEHD on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the first floor of City Hall. There will not be a meeting of the HSAC in July 2014.
- Chair Forte-Brown will not be in attendance at the June 2014 meeting.

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- Committee Member Bo Glenn will be rotating off the HSAC when his term ends in June 2014. Chair Forte-Brown and Committee Members thanked and applauded him for all of his hard work.
- Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe handed out a flyer and invited everyone to attend a Youth Results Team sponsored event entitled *Community Conversation – Impact of Homelessness on LGBTQ Youth in Durham*. This event will host twenty-five persons and anyone that would like to attend is asked to sign up. Lunch will be provided and the youth in Durham will be speaking about their experiences.
- Committee Member Stoppelkamp announced that the Durham Economic Resource Center (DERC) will be hosting a Providers Forum and Information Session on Friday, May 30, 2014 and Friday, June 6, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Forte-Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock
Office of the City Clerk