

## **DURHAM CONTINUUM OF CARE**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Durham County Human Services Building  
414 E. Main Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

The Durham Continuum of Care (CoC) met on the above date and time.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Mayme Webb-Bledsoe; Vice-Chair Stephanie Williams; Secretary Fred Stoppelkamp; Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center; Meredith Daye, Development Director, Durham Housing Authority (DHA); Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer; Calleen Herbert, Interim Director, Department of Academic Community Services Learning Program at North Carolina Central University; Dr. Warren Herndon; Angela Holmes; Jennifer Jones, OEWD; Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly; Emanuel Kearney; Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center; Ve'ga Swepson, Resource Specialist; Durham Technical Community College; Tony Tosh and Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**Committee Members Absent:** Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden; City Manager Tom Bonfield; Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings; Director Michael Becketts, Durham County Social Services (proxy for County Commissioner Michael Page); John Bowman; Minnie Forte-Brown, Durham Public Schools Board; Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department; Jackie Love, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison, Durham Public Schools and County Commissioner Michael Page.

**Excused Committee Members:** None

**Also Present:** Todd Tronzo, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD); Verlanda Dawson, Volunteers of America; Alex Protzman, Life Skills Foundation; Linzie Atkins, Durham County Veteran Services; Seaira Hinnant, Gretchen Senez, Olive Joyner, Housing for New Hope (HFNH); Patrice Nelson, Valerie Haywood, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD); Darryl P. Hicklen, Ralph Pettway, Janice Shelton (USA Veterans Help); Krystal Harris, Erica Jennings, Durham County Social Services (DSS); Ryan Fehrman, Families Moving Forward; Helen Kinser, Step Up Durham; Valaria Brinn, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare; Brenda Ruffin, ACRA, Inc. and Dr. Ernie Mills, Durham Rescue Mission (DRM).

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

**Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Webb-Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance and read aloud the goals for the HSAC.

Chair Webb-Bledsoe took a moment to acknowledge the passing of Dr. Sharon Elliott Bynum (Healing with CAARE, Inc.) and Joy Hager (Volunteers for America of the Carolinas, Maple Court).

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### **Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – November 18, 2016**

**Motion** by Committee Member Herndon seconded by Secretary Stoppelkamp to approve the HSAC minutes of November 18, 2016 was approved unanimously at 3:09 p.m.

### **Subject: Public Comment Period**

Committee Member Herndon shared that he had participated in the annual candlelight vigil for the homelessness community. He reminded everyone that they are entering some of the coldest time of the city and anything that can be done to assist those who are homeless would be very much appreciated.

Committee Member Herndon also encouraged others to participate in the annual homeless vigil for 2016 if they have not had an opportunity to do so.

### **Subject: Welcome New HSAC Members**

Chair Webb-Bledsoe extended a welcome to new HSAC member Tony Tosh, appointee for the City of Durham representing the Corporate Private Sector and City appointee Emanuel Kearney, formerly homeless representative.

### **Subject: Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness**

Chair Webb-Bledsoe stressed the importance of participating on the subcommittees. She commented that overall they can't do it and most of the work takes place in the subcommittees. Chair Webb-Bledsoe feels that many of the members that participate within the HSAC have selected a subcommittee to serve on but there are still others that are wondering which committee they may want to participate with. She encourages people to become a part of a subcommittee while they are part of the HSAC. Chair Webb-Bledsoe explained that a person does not have to be a representative of a specific group; just have the interest.

Members reviewed a handout that listed the HSAC members and the subcommittee they serve on. Chair Webb-Bledsoe pointed out that there are several names on the list that do not have a subcommittee next to it. Again, she encouraged everyone's involvement with the subcommittees.

Subcommittee Chairs introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their subcommittee's focus.

Committee Member Herndon asked what the unemployment rate was for individuals who have been homeless. Matt Schnars, Project Manager (Community Development Department) stated that staff could check on this information.

Committee Member Herndon feels that the middle class is shrinking which is causing more individuals to be put in adverse situations for the groups that the CoC is working with. He stated that if the requested data is presented it will let the group know how they are doing and what things can be done to make things happen for their population.

CoC members were provided cards in order to write down any questions that may not be addressed during the course of the meeting. Chair Webb-Bledsoe stated that someone would get their answers back to them.

Committee Member Tosh wanted to know if people were assisted with getting a trade. Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Manager (Community Development Department) responded yes and explained that

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this was part of the work by the Income Results Team along with making those connections between trainings and opportunities with the homeless housing providers where people are temporarily residing.

Secretary Stoppelkamp (Chair, Housing Results Team) gave an update on the referral process for the CoC Housing Choice Vouchers. Per Secretary Stoppelkamp, there is nothing in place to determine where the housing choice voucher referrals should be sent to ensure that applications are completed and criteria is met. He added a vote will be needed to address the issue of who will handle the housing choice vouchers that the CoC refers.

Members reviewed the *CoC Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Referral Policy* drafted by Mr. Schmeidler. Secretary Stoppelkamp stated that this item will be brought up again at the February meeting because something has to be in place. The Community Development Department is already receiving applications. He noted that because this is a pilot program through Durham Housing Authority (DHA) it is important the vouchers get used up. If they are not used it doesn't look strong on the pilot program and DHA made go in a different direction.

Mr. Schnars gave some background on the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness as well as provided an update on Durham's progress towards ending chronic homelessness among Veterans. He also talked about certification submission to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). This submission will be a request to verify that Durham has ended chronic homelessness among Veterans per the USICH framework.

Mr. Schnars recognized the following collaborative partners under the Durham Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness:

- Durham VA Medical Center
- Durham Housing Authority
- Durham County Veterans Services Office
- City of Durham
- Urban Ministries of Durham
- Volunteers of America of the Carolinas
- USA Veterans Help
- Healing with CAARE, Inc.
- Housing for New Hope
- Alliance Behavioral Health Care
- Families Moving Forward
- Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers

Committee Member Herndon suggested meeting with Beverly Thompson, City of Durham Public Affairs Director to arrange having an article placed in newspaper to highlight this exciting collaborative effort of ending chronic homelessness among Veterans. He also recommended Mr. Schnars follow up with the Durham Chamber of Commerce. As Committee Member Herndon explained, so many companies are moving here because Durham provides incentives and our Veterans need to receive "first dibs" on some of the jobs these companies provide. He would like for staff to present a report on the progress of his requests to Committee Members within the next couple of months.

Mr. Schnars stated that the Mayor and City Manager have been made aware that the certification request has been submitted. However, staff would like to wait until a more official verification is received from the USICH before talking to Public Affairs and having any kind of public presentation.

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### **Subject: Point in Time Background & History**

A power point presentation on the history, purpose and development of homeless point in time counts was given by Mr. Schmeidler.

In response to Mr. Schmeidler's presentation, Committee Member Herndon wanted to know how children and youth were counted. Mr. Schmeidler pointed out that the primary way of counting children is when they are in an emergency shelter/transitional housing for families. He added that not many unsheltered families have been found on the night of the Point in Time Count.

Headquarters for this year's Point in Time Count will be at Healing with CAARE.

### **Subject: Homeless Eligibility and Federal Programs**

Mr. Schnars presented background information and an overview of some of the other Federal Programs, their local context and differences on eligibility processes.

Patrice Nelson, Director (UMD) expressed concern regarding the increase in the total homeless count.

Committee Member Harvin-Ravin added that the resources are here in Durham. The VA Medical Center draws in Veterans from other places and the "picture" is not always reflected that Durham is not necessarily housing their Veterans, but that they are drawing Veterans from outside the Durham area which contributes to the rise in numbers.

### **Subject: Point in Time National and Local Data**

There is an increasing amount of national and local data currently published by HUD. Mr. Schnars provided an overview highlighting key aspects of the Point in time Count at the national and local level. He noted that he will be placing the data on the website so CoC members will have access to it.

Committee Member Herndon pointed out that as new companies enter into the community the focus should be on minimum wage jobs. He asked when was the last time a delegation meeting was held in the City of Durham so they can stay ahead of the crisis.

Mr. Schnars responded that the HSAC is that delegation and is empowered to make decisions for Durham. In response, Committee Member Herndon stated that was great, however, he felt that Durham's legislators, County Commissioners, City Officials and others need to know as much as the HSAC knows so when the funding comes down who will be ultimately held accountable.

Chair Webb-Bledsoe asked individuals at the meeting who were not a part of the HSAC, to complete the membership agreement and to turn in cards with any questions they may have that did not get addressed during the meeting.

### **Subject: Reminders**

- Annual Homeless Point in Time Count – Wednesday, January 27, 2016

**Subject: Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Webb-Bledsoe adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock  
Office of the City Clerk