

## **DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, April 27, 2016**

**3:00 p.m.**

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

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) 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, Linzie Atkins, Veterans Services Office, Director Michael Becketts, Durham County Social Services (proxy for Commissioner Michael Page), City Manager Tom Bonfield, John Bowman, Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Meredith Daye, Durham Housing Authority (DHA), Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department, Interim Director Calleen Herbert, Department of Academic Community Services Learning Program at North Carolina Central University, Dr. Warren Herndon, Angela Holmes, Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly, Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Vega Swepson, Durham Technical Community College, Tony Tosh, Active Construction Company and Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian Church,

**Excused Committee Members:** Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer (Linzie Atkins attending for Ms. Harvin-Ravin)

**Committee Members Absent:** County Commissioner Michael Page (Michael Becketts, proxy), Emanuel Kearney, Durham Public Schools Homeless and At-Risk Liaison Jackie Love and Adult Employment Program Coordinator Jennifer Jones, Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

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

**Also Present:** Melita Thorpe (Quality Life Enrichment); Pearlie Williams (NAMI Durham); Stephen Hopkins (PAC 1); Cynthia Harris, Nigel Brown, Olive Joyner (Housing for New Hope (HNN)); Dennie Avohn (Salvation Army); Erica Hall (Duke LATCH); Reverend Ernie Mills (Durham Rescue Mission (DRM)); Shzici Mrhess, Barrington Roz (Indigo Consortium) and Tammie Settman (Salvation Army).

**Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Webb-Bledsoe read the HSAC goals aloud and welcomed everyone in attendance. Afterwards, she called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

**Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – March 23, 2016**

**Motion** by Secretary Stoppelkamp, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden to approve the March 23, 2016 HSAC minutes was approved at 3:10 p.m.

**Subject: Public Comment Period**

Comments were made by PAC 1 Co-Facilitator Steve Hopkins regarding the Piedmont Community Coalition located at 1007 Broad Street. Mr. Hopkins noted that Operation Breakthrough previously had

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a self-sufficiency program through Durham County. The Piedmont Community Coalition has a self-sufficiency program currently. He pointed out that if a person is not in this self-sufficiency program they do not receive emergency assistance or any of the services. Mr. Hopkins mentioned there is still conversation taking place to meet with Executive Director Sandra Morgan to discuss the needs assessment which was done in January.

Mr. Hopkins added that a gap exists because there is no emergency assistance program for the rest of the city. He has called around to organizations that do rental and utilities assistance and found there is just no funding.

Mr. Hopkins stated as Co-Facilitator for PAC 1, he would like to know what was going on with Goley Point. He added he had just found out that he had a meeting scheduled with Dallas Parks that he was not aware of.

In response to Mr. Hopkins question regarding Goley Point, Committee Member Meredith Daye (DHA) and Project Manager for Goley Point stated that Goley Point was 99% complete. However, she noted the President of the General Contractor for the project died suddenly. There is a consultant on site which has given an estimated 4-6 weeks before they can fully occupy the entire development. Ms. Daye stated once notification is received that everything has been completed, inspected and accepted by DHA they will take occupancy which puts them at the end of May or 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

Committee McCollers asked for additional information as it related to a recent statement made concerning Goley Point that housing would only be available to families.

Committee Member Daye provided the following breakdown for Goley Point:

- 20 total units
- (4) 1 bedroom units
- 16 Unit building includes the 1 bedroom units
- 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units are scattered throughout the development
- Out of the total 20 units, 14 units are for public housing and out of the 14 units, 12 units are dedicated to the chronically homeless

Committee Member McCollers asked should Goley Point be offered as a potential option for housing during conversations in their housing prioritization meetings. Committee Member Daye stated DHA will be using their current residents that were qualified and if they have to go back out because there has been some lapse since attendance was first verified, they will be coming back. She added that Goley Point has its own individual site-based waiting list.

Based on further conversation that followed concerning Goley Point's occupancy procedures, its waiting list and eligibility criteria, Ms. Daye suggested setting up a meeting with the Senior Property Manager of Goley Point to help expedite the process. However, she added DHA would still have to go by their waiting list.

In reference to Mr. Hopkins concern about emergency assistance for housing and utilities, Committee Member Beckets (proxy for County Commissioner Page) noted that Social Services, through different programs and funds is able to fund more than \$200.00. He added it appears Social Services may need to do better in education about what services they offer.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden thanked Committee Member Daye for her suggestion to deal with concerns off-line.

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Mr. Hopkins also made comments about the chronic homeless and how would they be identified.

Reverend Ernie Mills handed out information concerning the numbers for Durham Rescue Mission's (DRM) 2016 Point-In-Time Count. He hopes that things will get worked out so that DRM will be able to be a part of the Point-In-Time Count next year. He expressed his desire to serve on the Point-In-Time Count committee for next year.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden thanked Reverend Mills for the work he does that he does not receive credit for. She added that his work is transformational and at some point she would like for Reverend Mills to make a presentation to the HSAC on how DRM gets their money without relying on the City for anything. In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's inquiry to Reverend Mills about how his organization receives their money, he stated "just pray".

#### **Subject: HSAC Membership Opportunities**

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler, Department of Community Development, announced terms were ending for two HSAC members appointed by the Durham County Commissioners.

Committee Member John Bowman, representing the Corporate/Private Sector, has decided to not request re-appointment. Mr. Schmeidler expressed gratitude from the City and the HSAC for all of Committee Member Bowman's work and contributions.

Committee Member Fred Stoppelkamp was appointed as a representative of the Non-Profit Community for the HSAC. His appointment is also ending and Committee Members applauded him seeking re-appointment.

Mr. Schmeidler stated that both seats would be open to the community seeking appointment by the County Commissioners to the HSAC.

#### **Subject: CoC Planning Grant**

Mr. Schmeidler reported that the Durham CoC Planning Grant submitted in November 2015 was awarded. He provided an overview of the CoC Planning Grant application specifically Section 2B entitled "Project Description".

Mr. Schmeidler talked a little about Unified Funding Agency (UFA) and explained that annually CoCs across the country have the option of applying to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to become a UFA. He added that Durham CoC has not been interested in applying to become a UFA. However, if they did decide to seek UFA status and they are approved they would need to apply for this status on an annual basis through the CoC process. Mr. Schmeidler added that essentially Durham CoC would operate with CoC funds similar to the way the City of Durham operates with CDBG, ESG, HOME funds and other federal funds that are administered.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's inquiry about at what point would Durham seek UFA status, Mr. Schmeidler stated that they could apply any year and the process is a part of the CoC registration process.

In reference to Mr. Schmeidler's presentation, Committee Member Herndon asked if this would be the first opportunity for the CoC to do business with the consulting firm.

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Mr. Schmeidler responded specifically for Durham, yes. He added that the NC Coalition to End Homelessness contracted with the organization somewhere around 2012-2013 and did an analysis of the current HMIS implementation. Work done led to the decision by the Governance Committee over the state-wide HMIS to switch firms for our HMIS Lead Agency from the NC Housing Coalition to the current Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness.

Mr. Hopkins expressed concern regarding the following statement from Page 13 of the CoC Planning Grant application as it relates to the use of the Planning Grant funds:

“Opening Doors. CoC Planning Grant funds will be used to improve DCD’s capacity to move the Durham CoC into full compliance ..... Planning funds will be used to improve DCD’s ability to measure and evaluate Durham’s progress.....”

Mr. Hopkins noted that it is not good for the Department of Community Development to be the Lead Agency, a funding source and an evaluator.

Reginald Johnson, Director, Department of Community Development responded that the Department of Community Development is the staff to the decision making body and they follow the direction of the HSAC.

Additional comments were made regarding Mr. Hopkins’ concern.

Mr. Schmeidler stated that the process of developing the contract with HUD has not begun. Staff anticipates the grant agreement for the contract with HUD for the Planning Grant will happen sometime between the third quarter of this calendar year.

#### **Subject: Project Homeless Connect**

Mr. Schmeidler reported that the Department of Community Development staff is recommending combining Project Homeless Connect with the Annual Homeless Point in Time Count in January 2017. Staff is seeking a motion from the HSAC for a “scaled down” version of Project Homeless Connect that would coincide with the Point in Time Count.

Some of the issues that led staff to this recommendation included:

- **Scheduling:** September 23, 2016 is the only date the Durham Bulls Athletic Park is available. This date would be one week after the Bull City Stand Down which targets Veterans and homeless Veterans and is scheduled for September 16, 2016. Asking community agencies to be involved and preparing for both events and being present at both events would be problematic for many of the community partners.
- **Resources:** Resources for community planning are limited.
- **Most attendees are not homeless people:** Attendees are low-income people who are seeking assistance. Durham does not have a large number of un-sheltered homeless people. Project Homeless Connect has not been able to be used successfully to move homeless people and to make housing opportunities available to them. It takes more than a one-day event to find housing opportunities for individuals and families.
- **Dedicated Funding:** There is a lack of dedicated funding

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Committee Member McCollers wanted to know what the process would look like if Project Homeless Connect was combined with the Point in Time Count. Mr. Schmeidler responded by saying they have considered doing an event the Wednesday prior to the Point in Time Count. Discussion followed regarding how the event would be structured.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked how other cities do Project Homeless Connect; specifically what time of year is the event normally held? Mr. Schmeidler pointed out that Orange County moved their Point in Time Count from the fall into the spring. Wake County had an event this year in January in conjunction with their Point in Time Count. Denver held their event in August. Mr. Schmeidler noted that Point in Time Counts are not required by HUD or other Federal partners.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden stated that she was troubled by having the event in the winter and she is also troubled by not having it all. She added the perception would be that they do not really care about the homeless and just because there were no un-sheltered people last year does not mean there will not be any this year. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden feels somehow the event needs to continue, they need to try to get some of the volunteers from the past and to also ask for the dedicated funding for the event.

Mr. Schmeidler stated that a decision on this matter was not needed at this time.

Committee Member Karriker commented that the discussion at the Executive Committee meeting seem to indicate the participating groups were not in favor of continuing Project Homeless Connect because of the difficulty in getting personnel at the event.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden responded that maybe other groups need to be sought out who have time to devote to the event because it is very important.

Committee Member Holmes shared her concern on behalf of herself and other homeless people. She noted that if an organization does not want to participate with the Project Homeless Connect event anymore then it appears to her that they are saying homeless people are not worth anything and the organizations don't care about them.

Vice-Chair Williams felt that it wasn't a point that people didn't want Project Homeless Connect but that they want it on a smaller scale.

Former HSAC Member Pearlie Williams (Durham NAMI) strongly encouraged people not to give up on Project Homeless Connect. She stated there are so many services needed in the community. Ms. Williams commended the HSAC on the amazing things it has done through Project Homeless Connect.

Mr. Hopkins suggested it may be better to move Project Homeless Connect to July or August. He added that the focus initially was not just on the homeless; it was on preventing people from becoming homeless.

Committee Member Herndon suggested a quarterly or bi-annual event where a database could be connected into staff's annual program. He added this would provide some on-going information. Mr. Schmeidler responded there are databases available.

Committee Member Tosh recommended that the discussion should also be about seeing how to get people jobs to pay their rent and to teach them how to become a productive member of society.

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No action was taken on item #6 Project Homeless Connect.

Chair Webb-Bledsoe extended an invitation to HSAC members and others to assist Mr. Schmeidler and Mr. Schnars on determining the best way to resolve the Project Homeless Connect matter.

### **Subject: HSAC Performance Management**

A power presentation entitled “2016 Housing Inventory and Point in Time Count Results and Analysis” was given by Mr. Schmeidler. The presentation included the following:

- What is the Vision?
- Who is Counted as Homeless?
- Who Else is Counted?
- Were there housing inventory changes impacting the count?”
- Permanent Housing Bed Inventory and People Housed 2008-2016
- ES and TH Inventory, 2008-2016
- 2016 Homeless Count by Living Situation
- 2016 Homeless Count Demographics: Gender
- Number of Persons by Age in Families
- Number of Persons by Age – Adults
- 2016 Homeless Count Race and Ethnicity
- 2016 Homeless Count Subpopulations
- 2016 Permanent Housing Participants by Living Situation
- Concluding Thoughts

During additional comments received from Reverend Mills he expressed his disappointment about DRM being left out of the annual Point in Time Count. He stated the homeless are very emotional and sensitive people who do not want to be “hounded” with questions. Reverend Mills felt he needed to protect the homeless from the 100 volunteers that wanted to come into the DRM and conduct the Point in Time Count survey. He added he did not have a problem with an outsider coming into the shelter to do the bed inventory phase of the Point in Time Count because there is no interaction with the homeless at that time. He thanked Committee Member Bowman for coming into the shelter on the night of the count to conduct the bed inventory at DRM.

Reverend Mills wanted it noted that the numbers submitted by staff at this meeting are not an accurate count of the homeless in Durham County.

Pearlie Williams questioned the statistics regarding the mentally ill provided in Mr. Schmeidler’s presentation. Mr. Schmeidler explained the information came from the HMIS.

### **Subject: HSAC Structure Subcommittee**

Committee Member Karriker and the HSAC Structure Subcommittee are asking that members of the community be allowed to chair HSAC Subcommittees.

Secretary Stoppelkamp added there has not been a chair for the Income Subcommittee in the last 7-8 months. Unofficially someone who is not a member of the HSAC has been appointed to chair the Youth Subcommittee.

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**Motion** by Secretary Stoppelkamp, seconded by Committee Member Karriker that an individual does not have to be a member of the HSAC to chair a subcommittee of the HSAC was approved at 4:29 p.m.

Mr. Schmeidler gave a summary regarding reorganizing the CoC application process. Committee Members reviewed documents pertaining to the *Durham CoC Letter of Intent & Application Process*.

Due to the time and members having to leave the meeting, Chair Webb-Bledsoe asked Mr. Schmeidler to electronically send the HMIS Implementation Progress Report Draft (Agenda Item #7) to HSAC members.

In response to Committee Member Herndon's question as to how many years has CoC funds been received, Mr. Schmeidler stated since about 1998. He added they have been awarded CoC funds ever since with the exception of 2005.

### **Subject: HSAC Housing Subcommittee**

Secretary Stoppelkamp reported the Housing Results Team is still taking Housing Choice Voucher referrals received from the CoC. Three referrals have been done for the month of April and there are three more so far for May. Secretary Stoppelkamp thanked DHA for providing the referrals.

### **Subject: Reminders/Announcement**

Chair Webb-Bledsoe reminded everyone there will be no HSAC meeting in May 2016. The next regular HSAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Durham County Human Services Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 414 E. Main Street.

Also, there will be no HSAC meeting in July 2016.

### **Subject: Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Webb-Bledsoe adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock  
Office of the City Clerk