

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Council Chambers – 1st Floor – City Hall - 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, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Robert “Bo” Glenn, Jr., Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff’s Department, 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, Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University Medical Center and Pearlie Williams NAMI Durham

Committee Members with Excused Absences - Drew Cummings, Assistant County Manager, Jackie Love, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison for Durham Public Schools, Kimberly Monroe, Reverend Chris Tuttle, Stephanie Williams, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare and Jason Wimmer, OEWD

Committee Members Absent: County Commissioner Michael Page and Edward Abdullah

Also Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler and Matthew Schnars (Department of Community Development); Latasha Wilson (SAVE Healthcare); Stephen Hopkins; Patrice Nelson (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)); Catherine Pliel (Durham Inter-faith Hospitality Network (IHN)); Denzel Scsley and Bernard Mitchell (NCCU); Caroline Phillips (UNC); Nigel Brown (Housing for New Hope (HNH)); Darryl P. Hicklen (Healing with CAARE, Inc./USA Veterans); Reverend Ernie Mills (Durham Rescue Mission); Nadine Lalea (C.O.P.N.I.L.) and Jim Wise, Reporter (News & Observer)

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Forte-Brown called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and read aloud the four goals of the HSAC. A moment of silence was held to reflect upon these goals.

Chair Forte-Brown introduced and welcomed new Committee Member Lindsey Jordan Arledge, Homeless Programs Supervisor (Durham VA Medical Center).

Introductions were made by each Committee Member as they stated who they were and the organization they represented.

Subject: Minutes Review & Approval

Motion by Reverend Herndon seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014 (Special Meeting) and January 22, 2014 were unanimously approved at 3:09 p.m.

Subject: Public Comment Period

Chair Forte-Brown and HSAC Members recognized Durham Police Officers William Fleeman, Thomas Scozzafava and Corporal Andrew Lawson as “Unsung Heroes” for their help during the Point-in-Time Count which was canceled due to inclement weather. Project Manager Matthew Schnars (Department of Community Development explained that the day after the count would have taken place, Officers Flema and Scozzafava went out on their own and provided outreach, referral and shelter information to the homeless as well as visited about 23 sites and left information. Mr. Schnars noted that their efforts proved to be a great collaboration of partnership.

In reference to the 23 sites visited Committee Member Glenn asked if the officers had any sense of how many people were unsheltered, but were also chronically homeless. The response was 12 people.

Reverend Herndon asked the officers to give three locations in the City where they found people. Mr. Schnars noted that he would forward to the HSAC a report that the officers created to show this information.

Subject: Housing Results Team, Fred Stoppelkamp, Chair

As a result of a recommendation made at the last HSAC meeting concerning the Results Teams’ reports, Chair Forte-Brown noted that the Executive Team decided that each month only two subcommittees would be featured to present their reports. Committee Member Stoppelkamp reported:

- In January 2014 the Housing Results Team voted to recommend focusing on housing the chronically homeless by the end of 2015. Since the 2014 Point-in-Time Count was canceled, the team will use the 2013 count of 29 chronically homeless unsheltered people.
- Committee Member Stoppelkamp reviewed the HUD definition of chronic homelessness and the definition of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
- List of agencies that provide PSH in Durham was shared with the Committee. The Team will be working with agencies to determine possible incentives that may increase the turnover so that units will be available for current chronically homeless unsheltered people.
- Aaron Cain, City-County Planning Department attended the Team’s February 2014 meeting to talk about the incentives available to builders to build affordable housing. However, Mr. Cain explained that no builder has taken advantage of the “density incentive” within the last 10 years. Therefore, the Planning Department is creating recommendations for the City and County to create more incentives that might entice builders to add affordable units to what they are currently building.
- The Planning Department will continue discussion of incentives at a Joint City-County meeting being held on March 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall.

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In response to Committee Member Glenn's questions about what types of incentives are being looked at to encourage people to move from existing PSH into the general market, Committee Member Stoppelkamp stated that Housing for New Hope is looking at possible job training and job placement.

Reverend Herndon wanted to know the average age of the 29 individuals that Committee Member Stoppelkamp spoke about earlier. He asked that information on age, gender and whether the number is increasing or decreasing from the last count be provided for the next meeting.

Committee Member Harris stated there are about four or five families with children living at the Budget Inn. He noted that the environment is not a good one - drugs, prostitution and gang fights. He asked the Committee how they could get these families out of this environment.

Committee Member Stoppelkamp responded by saying he feels there is plenty of affordable housing but it's not safe. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden added that money is needed for affordable housing and not just public money all the time. She stated that they have to come up with some other way to get money because they have become dependent on governments to do things but you have to create some other alternatives – think outside the box.

Committee Member McCollers pointed out the coordinated intake process is a resource for homeless families. The families can be connected with Durham County Social Services (DSS) to identify whether there is a need for shelter, rapid re-housing or other services.

Committee Member McLean reported that Durham Housing Authority (DHA) does not have emergency housing. However, families could apply through the public housing program. She mentioned that Edgemont Elms accepts applications on-site for their particular development and families would not go on the overall DHA waiting list. Applications are not being accepted for Section 8 and there are approximately 2000 people on the waiting list for public housing.

A recommendation was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden for the faith community to call upon their churches, temples, synagogues etc. to adopt families. She suggested that they take specific action such as raise an offering to help the homeless. Also, the faith community should hold onto those families until they become self-sufficient.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's comments, Reverend Herndon noted that the faith community was assisting homeless families in some way but not at the level it needs to be done. Committee Member Pearlie Williams agreed with Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden. She pointed out that the faith communities assist people when they come out of prison and they walk with them until they become stable again. She added that this is the same principle surrounding a homeless person. The faith community along with the city can stand by them until they get back on their feet.

Additional discussion and comments followed concerning the faith community's role at helping to end homelessness.

Subject: Access to Care, Drew Cummings/Kimberly Monroe

Committee Members Cummings and Monroe were unable to attend this meeting due to work conflicts. Therefore, the Access to Care report will be received at a later time.

Subject: City ESG Recommendations

Mr. Schnars gave a brief summary of the ratings process for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recommendations. He commented that there is a total estimated amount of \$100,000 in ESG money available; however, they have not received an actual dollar amount from HUD. Also, the City's funding source of \$200,000 for rapid re-housing is reflected in the recommendations. This funding is a continuation amount for the Housing for New Hope project.

City Manager Bonfield asked for some clarity on the \$248,833 recommendation for Housing for New Hope in reference to how much of this amount would go towards payment of rent and utilities and how many households would this serve. Mr. Schnars did not have this information available but felt that about 2/3 or more of the funding would be direct assistance and according to the application, 80 households would be served. Mr. Schnars noted that the 80 households did not include family households.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden questioned the \$7,500 administration request of ESG funds and asked what Community Development would be doing with the money. She felt that this amount could go directly to helping someone.

Community Development Director Reginald Johnson gave a brief explanation. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden stated that she would meet with staff afterwards.

Further discussion and comments were made concerning the FY 14-15 ESG recommendations which included housing for persons with special needs, number of persons housed in February under rapid re-housing and faith community involvement with housing.

Motion by Committee Member Glenn, seconded by Vice-Chair Bowman to approve staff's FY 2014-15 ESG recommendations was unanimously approved at 3:48 p.m.

Subject: Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler (Department of Community Development) presented a report and a power point presentation entitled "Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) Summary 2013". He made a correction to page four of the report where a portion of a sentence was left off.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Why is the AHAR important
- Where does the AHAR information come from
- What does the AHAR tell us about homelessness in Durham?
 - Only 91 families stayed in CHIN participating Emergency Shelter (ES) & Transitional Housing (TH) programs
 - 58% of families moved into shelter after spending time staying with family or friends
 - 77% of families stayed less than 3 months in their previous housing
 - 87% of families were last permanently housed in Durham
- What does the AHAR tell us about homeless single adults in Durham?
 - 1123 individual adults stayed in CHIN participating ES & TH programs.
 - Most stayed in an ES
 - 99% of the 272 veterans housed were single adults
 - 36% of single adults are reported as having a disability
 - 60% of adults in ES stayed a month or less
- ES & TH Total AHAR Count & CoC Estimate 2010-2013
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) AHAR Count & Estimate, 2010-2013
- Zip Code of Last Permanent Address, 2010-2013

Secretary Bailey wanted to know what was meant by “place not meant for human habitation” as referenced in the AHAR. Mr. Schmeidler explained that someone who is unsheltered/living in the woods.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked about the number of people who come from the prison system. Mr. Schmeidler responded about 6% of 998 people come from the jails; which would be about 60 people for ES individuals. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden added that the prison system needs to do some work for the homeless.

Additional comments regarding the prison system and the homeless were made by Chair Minnie Forte-Brown.

Subject: 100K Homes 60 Minutes Video

HSAC members viewed a video presented by Mr. Schnars. The video recently aired on “60 Minutes” and showcased the “100K Homes Campaign”. HSAC members were asked to consider adopting the model for Durham.

Mr. Schnars commented that when the HSAC originally was presented with the 100K Homes opportunity it voted to not participate in the campaign.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden pointed out that when the 100K Homes Campaign item was initially presented to the HSAC there was some discussion about Orange and Durham County doing something but the HSAC wanted Durham to do their “own thing”. She added that it wasn’t that the HSAC was not interested in the opportunity; but it was unacceptable because of the structure.

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Additional discussion took place regarding the 100k Homes Campaign and how it could be implemented in Durham.

Motion by Committee Member Glenn seconded by Secretary Bailey that the Department of Community Development contact the 100K Homes Campaign and open discussions be held to possibly work with Durham County and that these discussions be culminated into a proposal that would be presented at the HSAC's next meeting or the meeting after was unanimously approved at 4:28 p.m.

Vice-Chair Bowman pointed out that the issue was not whether Durham joins the campaign but if a model can be adopted at some point, owners and landlords would have to be engaged to solve the problem.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden commented that during a meeting she attended, HUD officials asked why Durham was not engaging private entities.

Reverend Ernie Mills (Durham Rescue Mission) noted that all of their support comes from the private sector. He added that the Rescue Mission gave back over \$12,000,000 to the community last year that came in from the private sector.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden recognized the Durham Rescue Mission for recently receiving the Carlie B. Sessoms award presented by the Durham Human Relations Commission for all the good work that they are doing.

Subject: Winston Salem Homeless System

Motion by Committee Member Glenn, seconded by Vice-Chair Bowman to extend the ending time of today's HSAC meeting from 4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in order to hear item #9 (Winston Salem Homeless System) was unanimously approved at 4:31 p.m.

Mr. Schnars provided some background on the Winston Salem Homeless System and summarized a document entitled "Winston Salem Continuum of Care Presentation Highlights".

Committee Member Glenn pointed out that Winston-Salem and Durham have a similar population. Winston Salem's 2013 Point in Time count reported under 400 people. However, they are receiving about 1.7 million dollars in funding which is more than what Durham is receiving. He wanted to know the reason for this.

Mr. Schnars noted that sustainability affects the process from HUD's perspective. He also commented that in 2005 Durham did not make threshold for the CoC score application and not making threshold can be a setback. He further explained that Winston Salem's Community Development Department understood HUD's complexities and processes in reference to the PSH bonus that used to be available.

Chair Forte-Brown suggested that maybe Durham needs to have discussion with Winston Salem about this process. Mr. Schnars stated they are consulting them.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden commented that one of the things Winston Salem has had for a long time and Durham did not was the accountability. She feels that Durham is now on track with this. She also would like to know how much Winston Salem has to pay the United Way for their involvement because she felt that every penny should go towards services for the homeless.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Forte-Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the HSAC will be Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located on the 1st floor of City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk