

CEHD Meeting • April 17th, 2014

Location: Genesis Home, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

Attendance: Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham), Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home), Janet Xiao (CEF), Matt Schnars (City of Durham), Ann Tropiano (GH), Joyce Stancil-Williams (CASA), Catherine Pleil (DIHN), Daniel Reinholz (CHIN), Stephanie Williams (Alliance), Mary Moore (DTCC), Tiana Terry (VofA), Nigel Brown (HNH), Ernie Mills (DRM), Charita McCollers (Lincoln), Joi Stepney (HNH), Takiyah Milton (LCHC-HCH Clinic intern), Patrick McDonough (Triangle Transit), Eileen Apicella (Triangle Transit), Sharon Elliott Bynum (CAARE), Patrice Nelson (UMD), Cynthia Harris (HNH) and Elizabeth McDermott (LATCH)

I. Welcome & Call to Order: Ryan Fehrman called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

Introductions: All present introduced themselves.

II. Meeting Approval: Minutes from the March 20th meeting were distributed electronically before the meeting. Motion was made by Mary Moore and properly seconded by Joi Stepney, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Liz McDermott with LATCH (Duke Division of Community Health): Presenting on SOAR

- SOAR = SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery primarily for SSI/SSDI individuals who must have diagnosis of physical, mental illness and/or
- Success: 3-6 months to get application through, 95% approval rate
 - & reconsideration approval rating is 80% (compared with 15% nationally)
 - Typically takes 3-4 months
 - Focus/goal: that the applications will be approved the first time
- Provide intensive case management. Will go to where the patient is. Provide step-by-step explanation of the process
 - Liz is the primary contact for Social Security, including submitting medical records, applications etc. The patient does not need to contact Social Security at all.
- Background Information on SSI vs. SSDI:
 - SSI is supplemental security income
 - Eligibility: blind, elderly. Have less than \$2,000 in assets, earning up to \$1,000/month.
 - Individual gets Federally-set amount, up to \$721/month. If they have income coming in, that amount will get reduced.
 - If not paying rent: also reduces SSI
 - Would receive Medicaid, beginning 3 months before the date they filed their application (covering unpaid medical bills)
 - SSDI
 - Given: you have worked/paid into social security income. Monthly amount that you get depends on your SSDI payments while working
 - From onset date, there is a 5 month wait period for payments
 - Comes with Medicare, 2-year wait period from onset date
 - No reporting requirements—unless working and making >\$750/month
 - Question: SSI AND SSDI?
Answer: if SSDI payments are low (lower than \$973), then people can potentially get SSI to supplement.

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- Question: What if a client is unsure whether or not they've applied?
Answer: If people have a history of applying, SOAR can request a CD of their records (has their files, whether decision was made, approval/denial).
 - If person was previously denied but SOAR feels that they are truly disabled, they can build a case based on disability/denial
 - If client has a current application, SOAR can pick it up
 - If client has history of applying and were denied, depending on the situation, SOAR could pick it up immediately (ie. clearly disabled) or put them on a waitlist (not as clear-cut, would take intensive work to figure out)
 - If client says they have an attorney somewhere else: no point in SOAR getting involved—because typically have signed onto paperwork saying that attorney is the representative etc.
- Question: Need to find a payee?
Answer: Some individuals will automatically need a payee (eg. severe cognitive impairment, substance abuse, dementia). Strongly recommend using an agency rather than family/friends
- Reinstatement after time in jail / hospital:
 - If someone is in jail: terminated after more than a year. But within 3 years, they can activate it without having to go through application process again. BUT need to take the release paper to Social Security in order to show proof.
 - If someone is in hospital: reduce the amount that you get
 - Takes longer for Medicaid to get reinstated
- How benefits are distributed: Will send ONE paper check. After that, must be directly deposited or they get a debit card (with lots of fees)
- For applications: Child support money is not fully counted as income.
- Prioritizing: homeless individuals, medically fragile. Will start implementing the Vulnerability Index soon.
- How to make referrals?
 - Two Referrals:
 - 1. Fill out participant consent form (paper form distributed at CEHD meeting)
 - 2. Call Liz or staff specialist Anna or Maria (919-613-6529)
 - Not many full-time SOAR workers – Liz and Candace at LATCH, Pamela at HNH, others part-time eg. Sharita at Lincoln CHC
 - Sharita: will go through SOAR first rather than sending to attorney, in order to avoid attorney fees. Also, SOAR-marked applications will go through the process faster (Durham Social Security office & DDS have specific people who process SOAR applications)

IV. Patrick (Manager of Planning and Transit-Oriented Development) & Eileen (Community Liaison and Events Coordinator) with Triangle Transit: Presenting on the Light Rail Planning Process

- Will be releasing a lot of information on environmental assessment this winter – includes effects on homeless/low-income communities
- Triangle Transit: will have Sunday service starting in August!
- Question: How will this impact the bus line

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- Bull City Connector has parallel route – doesn't make sense to run it every 20 mins. compared to lightrail running every 10 mins. Should the route change (maybe from Northgate to NCCU/DTCC)?
- Hoping to redirect 40,000 hours of bus line per year – eg. underserved neighborhoods
- Bull City Connector usage: 1800 people per day
- We will see bus service expand in Durham over next 5 years, with higher level of service leading up to the light rail station
- Question: Cost to the consumer?
Answer: Regional day passes are probably most cost-effective. Will apply to multiple types of transportation, across DATA/TTA/Cary/Raleigh.
 - Also: some clients may qualify for disability fare discounts
- Question: Any future plans to extend the line?
Answer: Both Durham/Orange County voted to raise sales tax (exempting groceries, medicine) to get this done, but Wake County Commissioners have not put this on their agenda.
 - RTP area = needs to get to Wake County
- Question: Availability of affordable housing?
Answer: City council set goal as 15% for affordable housing, 60% AMI.
 - Challenge = they don't regulate land, so can't offer developers incentives. That has to come from the City of Durham.
 - Do research on best practices – eg. Denver raised money for affordable housing fund, put 190 affordable apartment units
- Question: Funding level? Is it covered by the Durham/Orange County sales taxes?
Answer: Currently applying to Federal government for funding, approved to move forward into environmental assessment stage. Also working with state to try to figure out how the new transportation funding formula works. There will be some state funding, but maybe less than anticipated.
- Question: Projected ridership?
Answer: estimated 23,000 per day

V. Tiana Terry with VoA: Presenting on the Supportive Services For Veterans and their Families (SSVF) Program

- VoA has 17 SSVF grants nationwide. This grant in Durham County also covers 14 other counties; started in October this year. New grant starts again in Oct 1, 2015.
- Program Description:
 - Housing stability amongst veterans and their families (new initiative)
 - Rental assistance for those at risk of losing housing
 - Homeless veterans getting into housing
 - Intense case management, up to 3 months. After discharge, also follow for short period of time.
 - Housing First model; can only assist with rent for up to 5 months
 - Ideally, the household/veteran has income or gateway to income
 - Also assist with deposits for veterans receiving HUD VASH & Section 8

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- Also: can assist in car repairs, child care, emergency food – things that supportive services don't always cover
- Eligibility: veteran OR veteran in the household
 - Homeless or imminent risk of being homeless
 - For referrals:
 - If renting from private landlord: require court-ordered eviction
 - If renting from property manager: require late notice
 - PROCESS: contact Tiana Terry (919-530-1100) and she will email a referral home
- Starting 3 weeks ago, VoA's SSVF program can also serve veterans not eligible for healthcare services
 - Work with veterans in transitional housing and emergency shelters
 - Have housed 80 veterans; 70 out of Durham
- Goal is to serve 250 veterans & families
- Question: Has anyone refused wraparound services?
 - Answer: not as long as they're needing rental assistance from us
- Question: Does VoA have optional faith-based programming?
Answer: Not for VoA-Carolinas.
- VoA also has grant per diem program at Maple Court & HVRP in office, focusing on employment for veterans.

VI. Agency Announcements

- Terry Allebaugh is wrapping up his years of service at Housing for New Hope, next month will be his last meeting. We will have time at the next meeting to share stories, recollections etc.
- HRD classes in the community for anyone unemployed/underemployed/working part-time. Generous fee waiver provided by the Federal government. Classes focused on Workforce Ready Re-Entry focusing on people ranging from being charged or recently released from incarceration.
- Those interested in 2014 point-in-time count numbers will be released at next Wednesday's HSAC meeting, held in new location (Health & Human Services building, one of the new conference rooms)
- NCCU Sleepout for the Homeless took place yesterday night
- Project Homeless Connect 2014 will be held on October 10th

VII. Adjournment: Ryan adjourned the meeting at 11:35am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Xiao, Secretary

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