

**Council to End Homelessness in Durham** • January 19, 2017 10:00–11:30am  
*Location: Families Moving Forward, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701*

**Attendance:** *Rikki Gardner (Housing For New Hope); Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health); Lillian Presley (Spaghetti Theatre); Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham); Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry); Tiana Terry (Volunteers of America); Jeremy Jennings (Freedom and Hope Center); Randy Oberrath (Freedom and Hope Center); B. Angeloe Burch (Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance); Gudiun Parmer (CJRC); Michael Becketts (Department of Social Services); Kat Peach (Families Moving Forward); Meredith Odinak (Families Moving Forward); Breana van Velzen (Community Empowerment Fund); Janet Xiao (Community Empowerment Fund); Spencer Bradford (DCIA); Emily Carr (LCHC); Rafael Baptista (Durham County Managers Office); Denita Johnson (DHA); Anthony Scott (DHA); Ann Tropiano (Families Moving Forward); Olive Joyner (Housing For New Hope); Maria Davis Dorsey (DDI); Valene Haywood (Urban Ministries); Fred Stoppelkamp (Urban Ministries); Valaria Brown (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA)*

The Meeting of the Council to End Homelessness in Durham (CEHD) was called to order by Chairman, Sheldon Mitchell at 10:01 a.m. with a welcome and acknowledgment of leadership from last year: Olive, Fred and Janet. Introductions of attendees were then shared.

December Minute Approval: Carolyn moved that minutes be approved with Olive's second. Minutes were approved with one amendment noting that Ann Tropiano's presence at December's meeting.

- Library Closures Updates were provided from Rafael Baptista:

Main Library closed last Friday and will remain closed for approximately 2 years. The county is committed to providing a safe facility for homeless neighbors previously utilizing the library.

Nehemiah Christian Center, located at 514 N Mangum Street, will be open from 9am until 5 pm. The facility is currently has 15-20 computers, bathrooms, security and has the capacity for 25-50 people. Further conversations regarding provider services are welcome and will be scheduled along with discussion regarding extended library branch hours. Several specific questions were posed to include how DSS can partner as a provider at the Nehemiah location. Psyiena Davis, Co-Pastor of Nehemiah, will be available as the primary staff along with CIT-trained security from Old Dominion Security.

Various library staff will also be deployed to CJRC Literacy Center with librarians on staff.

Lillian Presley, Spaghetti Theater, shared regarding possible day programming through theater and self-esteem-building activities. Sheldon thanked Ms. Presley for her desire to participate as a possible provider and suggested that she contact Ms. Davis for a meeting to further explore partnership. Sheldon invited all providers to consider offering program as appropriate to the needs and desires of homeless citizens.

Janet shared her appreciation to the committee for work and stressed how leadership will be sustained at Nehemiah. Janet also shared that communication concerns as there has been little communication in sharing that the space is available. Sheldon shared that the final vote will occur on Monday and posters and communication will be posted on library doors and disseminated through providers. Janet shared she will also take leadership in getting the word out regarding the space. Olive asked if there was an opportunity to gain feedback from homeless neighbors that attend Carolyn's program on Mondays (over 100 people). Carolyn noted possible reading barriers. Further discussion surrounding services was provided

highlighting Charita's call to consider the desires of homeless neighbors and rethink how we communicate and provide services are beneficial and valuable to them.

- Housing Choice Voucher-Mr. Anthony Scott & Denita Johnson from Durham Housing Authority shared update regarding HUD funding. On Dec. 31, budgeting decided how many vouchers will be offered. In September, there was a commitment of 225 vouchers. 236 families who are voucher holders are now looking for housing. 1 out of 3 get housing with vouchers. As soon as these families are housed, DHA will release further vouchers. Funding is annual and funding has already been cut by 5%.

190 families were housed between Sept and Dec. With this, Olive noted that with current trends, reopening should come with-in the next few months. Lloyd asked would it be helpful to continue making referrals to be put on waiting lists. The response was no--referrals should not be made due to timeframe of application process. Encouragingly, this stop on referrals should not be long.

Lloyd requested conversation regarding public housing options for homeless citizens. HUD reports 85% occupancy of the 54 units set aside for homeless individuals with appropriate wrap-around services. Mr. Scott shared that more accurate occupancy numbers range in the in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. He further shared that, initially, there was a hold for available units in the RAD program at Morreene Rd. and Damar Court and some of these units may become available soon. Further discussion regarding RAD resources and access for unsheltered citizens was facilitated. It was noted that the process needs to be re-examined and DHA committed that next month they will be able to provide clarity on 54 unit occupancy. Lloyd expressed appreciation of commitment of Durham Housing Authority to the homeless citizens of Durham.

- Bull City Fresh Start (Lloyd): New name given to combine PIT and Connect (Previously Project Homeless Connect)  
Utilizes "3-C" programing: Canvas, Count and Connect. Canvassing has been going on since September, where officers have been completing preliminary interviews and identifying where their unsheltered locations. PIT will be held on January 25 and will meet at Durham Bulls PNC Triangle Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) at 8:00 pm with count occurring between 9:00pm-12 am. Training will be offered Monday and Tuesday as well as online. 2-3 more Team Leads are still needed especially if you've done the count in the past. 30 people are currently registered to volunteer but need about 75. Registration is available at [Durhamopeningdoors.com](http://Durhamopeningdoors.com). If interested in leading, please email Lloyd.

Connect Event focuses on unsheltered people in the Durham community scheduled from 9-noon, Thursday, January 26 at Durham Bulls Park. Additional volunteers are needed to be event volunteer.

Specific needs for the event: Lloyd has received commitment from Department of Motor Vehicles for ID at the Connect event but needs approved agencies available to verify individuals are homeless. Clarity is needed to identify which agencies in Durham have been approved agencies and how an agency can be approved. Cherita shared a possibility of Lincoln Clinic serving as an agency available to verify.

Community Life Court Sessions, which handles minor offenses such as class3 misdemeanors, will also be available on-site at the Connect Event. Lloyd will send description to group. If interested in clients participating, they should come between 9 and 9:30 to give the opportunity for the DA office to pull files and bring to session. Scott Holmes and a colleague from NCCU Law will be available to represent individuals.

While the target audience for the event is unsheltered citizens, no homeless person in the community will be turned away. A discussion regarding the impact of Durham Rescue Mission's refusal to participate in the PIT was facilitated noting that Rescue Mission does not note difference in the beds between homeless individuals or substance recovery use. Detailed discussion was had regarding the implications of their non-participation on the Durham count.

- 1228 Carrol St.-Fred  
Update: Mayor sent out letter regarding federal surplus property want to offer property lease-free as long as property is focused around homeless and homeless services. On January 3, Fred received notice regarding the property and scheduled property tour with about 15 providers and potential interested party. Fred reported that the property is not zoned for day center and noted significant push back from neighbors. There has been some possibility of a housing initiative similar to Golley Point. The city should send letter of intent stating that the community is interested in obtaining the location. Further processes and timelines will be shared as the more information becomes available. Fred highlighted that the City/County should take the lead and partner with providers in service provision. Angeloe and Charita, again, highlighted the importance of exploring the desires and needs of homeless citizens.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2016 at 10:00.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Spencer shared that all agencies who have not received EFC funds should submit now.
- Area Church will hold a service that benefits at First Pres. Offering will be donated to CROP walk.
- Immigrant Services: DCIA.org to make a reservation for
- Volunteers of America- shared a reminder of services offered for Veterans
- Save The Date: Feb. 20 IMA is sponsoring Town Hall Meeting regarding at Fisher Memorial 6:30  
Anthony Scott, Michael Beckett and Chief Marsh will be present
- Durham Brass Bonanza Feb. 4 will sponsor a community event of Durham Open Table

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melody Marshall, CEHD Secretary