

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • March 16, 2017 10:00–11:30am
Location: Families Moving Forward, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

Attendance: *Chairman Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries); Rikki Gardner (Housing For New Hope); Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health); Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham); Matthew Schnars (City of Durham); Randy Oberrath (Freedom and Hope Center); Meredith Odinak (Families Moving Forward); Breana van Velzen (Community Empowerment Fund); Janet Xiao (Community Empowerment Fund); 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); Valaria Brown (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools); BJ Littlejohn (Healing with CAARE); Lamar Marshall (Each One Teach One); Tia Willis (healthcare for the Homeless); Nyasha Robinson (Greater Outreach Services); Jackie Brown (HSAC Income Results Team); Melissa Oberrath (TFAHC); Terry Munn (TEC); Miguel Hunter (Triangle Empowerment Center); Cierra Elkerson (Duke Latch-DHCT)*

The Meeting of the Council to End Homelessness in Durham (CEHD) was called to order by Chairman, Sheldon Mitchell with welcomes and introductions. Minutes were reviewed with a motion to approve made by Randy Oberrath, seconded by Olive Joyner & approved by the body. The first order of business was offered by Rafael Baptista with an update regarding the Nehemiah Day Center. His report indicated that the facility's usage is steadily increasing each week and reported that approximately 25 people were served last week. Rafael reminded the committee that the facility is equipped with computers with internet access with restrooms and comfortable/safe space available. The committee was encouraged to continue to consider partnering with Mrs. Davis, who is currently operating the Nehemiah Day Center, for program coordination. She will be present in future meeting to discuss furthering partnership with service providers.

Rafael also shared that two weeks ago, a meeting was held at Trinity United Methodist Church with homeless members of our community, service providers and other stakeholders to identify priorities for a long-term day center for members of the community experiencing homelessness. Priorities identified during this meeting included the center's abilities to: 1) meet basic needs (hygiene and safety); 2) Access to jobs and job training 3) Assist with navigating bureaucracy of politics, red tape and policy; and 4) Offer case management options. Rafael described next steps to include small groups with focused conversations with community providers to develop a long-term strategy. A presentation with further information will be offered to members of the HSAC at an upcoming meeting.

The next order of business focused on the Ground-Up Housing Solutions Program offered by Terry Munn, CEO Triangle Empowerment Center and Miguel Hunter, Director. Ground Up (or G-Up) Housing Solutions is a housing program that is a part of Triangle Empowerment Center, Inc. G-Up offers several housing options including emergency/transitional housing, respite housing and permanent supportive housing. G-Up operates on housing first model with wrap-around services with priority populations of chronically homeless adults (age 18 and up) who are LGBTQ, senior citizens, aged out youth,

substance abuse, have disabilities (i.e. HIV/AIDS, physical/mental challenges, learning disabilities, etc.), victims of sexual/domestic abuse and medical recovery. G-Up currently has housing for 10 single residency units and application fee and deposits may be required. Questions and comments regarding the presentation were presented and responded to. Terry also shared that he will send the presentation to Sheldon to share with committee and is happy to answer any further questions, if needed.

Next, Anthony Scott and Denita Johnson with DHA provided the committee with an update regarding Housing Choice Vouchers. Recently the press released indications of federal budget cuts next year from the federal voucher program (2% cut). Anthony and Denita shared that DHA is currently working to develop and plan for current and further expected cuts. Matt offered the question of how the current vouchers that are out could be affected and would there be extreme cases of having to pull individuals from the program. Anthony and Denita responded sharing that interviews for individuals who have current vouchers will be held tomorrow and noted that 103 voucher holders are currently looking for housing. Matt invited DHA representatives to present at the next HSAC meeting to further update that body with current status of Housing Choice Vouchers. Prior to ending the presentation, Anthony stressed the need for members of our committee and community to contact congress on the needs of our community and housing through phone calls and letters. Letters and information will be developed to help strategize how this body can help voice concerns to congress.

The final order of business was presented by Janet Xiao regarding the mitigation risk-fund. Janet offered historical information regarding the fund noting that CEHD wanted to explore how we could assist voucher holders in Durham. It was shared that landlord partnerships in Durham had dropped from 700-400 resulting in less opportunity for voucher-holders and less choice. Janet shared details surrounding the work that has been done to invite landlords to partner and building that work. The current need for a Risk Mitigation Fund has been highlighted. Janet and her team will present at the next HSAC meeting to request support for this incentive for potential landlords. A letter has been circulated in support of the mitigation risk-fund and will be presented to the HSAC and other community stakeholders. Discussion regarding the presentation was facilitated with Lloyd posing the question as to who will make the decision regarding the risk-mitigation fund. Janet responded noting that the HSAC housing results team has been pushing effort—HSAC will be the initial authority regarding the 10 year fund that has been unused. Olive then asked how much is in fund with a response of \$10,000 with potential funding making us a leader in the state. Sheldon asked what was the estimated amount needed with a response of \$24,000. Other questions and comments were made regarding the work with further information available at the next upcoming HSAC meeting.

Announcements:

Matt: Inspections for rapid rehousing programs has become a concern. Reminder that the expectation is they are done within HUD requirements.

Jackie: HSAC income results team-working on addressing income for homeless individuals. NC Works is available to assist. Jennifer Jones (City of Workforce Development) is available to train the trainer. Next training is early June and wanted to get on our radar. Good opportunity for individuals utilizing the day center.

Lloyd: NC Coalition to End Homelessness Conference May 8-9

Barbeque Chicken Dinner/ 50/50 raffle April 8. Tickets are \$8. \$1 ticket for the raffle. Proceeds will benefit the Avery Boys and Girls Club of Durham

Janet: Using Behavioral Economics Lab at Duke—March 28th at 12:00-2:30

Matt: Police department paid for the continued use of PIT app to integrate CIT work and chronic homeless intervention work within Durham.

The Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sheldon at 11:29 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melody Marshall, CEHD Recording Secretary