

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

**Attendance:** *Catherine Pleil (Families Moving Forward); Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools); Rikki Gardner (Housing For New Hope); Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health); Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham); Matthew Schnars (City of Durham); Carolyn Schmidt (Open Table Ministry); Tiana Terry (Volunteers of America); Randy Oberrath (Freedom and Hope Center); Gudiun Parmer (CJRC); Kat Peach (Families Moving Forward); Breana van Velzen (Community Empowerment Fund); Janet Xiao (Community Empowerment Fund); Emily Carr (LCHC); Olive Joyner (Housing For New Hope); Valene Haywood (Urban Ministries); Fred Stoppelkamp (Urban Ministries); Alex Protzman (Life Skills Foundation); Melissa Oberrath (Freedom and Hope Center); Scott Davis (FMF); Shana Carigaan (FMF); Psiyina Davis (Nehemiah Christian Center); Jaylyn McLean (Healing With CAARE); Courtney Millsap (DCRC); Erica Wilkerson (Durham VA Medical Center).*

*Excused Absence: Chairman Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries)*

The Meeting of the Council to End Homelessness in Durham (CEHD) was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Catherine Pleil at 10:01 a.m. with welcome and acknowledgments.

It was moved and seconded that the January minutes be approved and was passed by the body with no revisions.

The initial order of business encompassed updates regarding the Nehemiah Day Center housed at Nehemiah Christian Church. Ms. Psiyina Davis, co-pastor of Nehemiah, provided information regarding the current status of the facility describing the usage as slow with expected numbers to increase with improved awareness. Ms. Davis also shared that the church is currently equipped with approximately 20 computers (with others available when needed), restroom facilities, security and a small staff. Several meetings with community providers have taken place but no formal programming is currently established. Ms. Davis acknowledged that that she and her staff have strategized regarding plans to support increased usage of the facility. Janet and Olive, as well as several other members of the body, expressed appreciation

to Pastor Davis for Nehemiah's commitment to the community and assured Mrs. Davis that our body is here to support in any way.

The next order of business focused on updates regarding Durham's Young Adult Resource Center (YARC). Mr. Alex Protzman, Director of LifeSkills Foundation, provided the committee with updates regarding the status of unaccompanied, homeless youth in Durham and upcoming programs to support young adults experiencing homelessness. Mr. Protzman shared findings on current efforts in place to connect homeless youth and noted a deficit in the identification and service of this sub-population. Mr. Protzman discussed the current planning of a "one-stop-shop" targeted for transition-aged youth ages 16-24 that will provide a wide range of services from personal hygiene facilities, housing, vocational, educational, social supports. Alex currently serves as the HSAC sub-committee Youth Chair and shared with the committee plans for a youth Point-In-Time count in April. Logistics regarding space for the YARC was discussed highlighting the specific needs/perceptions of potential youth served. Olive expressed appreciation for Alex's targeted work with young adults and applauded the work for being a much needed resource in our community. Further information regarding the upcoming YARC can be found on the LifeSkills.org website under YARC. Monthly planning meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 1:00 for those interested in supporting grass-roots efforts of the upcoming center. Lloyd also highlighted that LifeSkills Foundation was a recipient of a \$60,000 grant from the city for Rapid Rehousing for young citizens.

The meeting then transitioned to Lloyd Schmeidler and Matthew Schnars who provided updates regarding the recent Bull City Fresh Start Initiative. This Initiative encompassed 3 aspects including the initial canvassing, the night-time count, and the Connect event held the

following day. Lloyd and Matt provided committee members with preliminary data collected from the event. Data noted that 234 citizens were housed in emergency shelters, 54 citizens were housed in one of the 4 transitional housing programs, and there were 60 unsheltered citizens identified. Demographic information was also highlighted to include age and race. Matt noted that he will electronically share a larger document with the committee that provides more specific sub-population breakdowns and historical numbers.

Comments regarding the PIT Count:

- Olive encouraged the body to not disregard the high numbers of students/families identified within Durham Public Schools under McKinney-Vento's definition of homelessness and highlighted that these families are at imminent risk of becoming homeless under HUD's definition.
- Charita noted that she felt processes for the PIT count this year were smooth and feels that the count is likely more accurate than years before. Charita also expressed her concerns about possibly missing citizens that were known to be unsheltered but were not found. Randy responded noting the highly transient nature of Durham's unsheltered population.
- Lloyd celebrated Matt's efforts in the successful implementation of the mobile app used during the PIT count. He further noted that the Durham Police Department and CIT Officers will continued to utilize the mobile app throughout the year.

A debriefing meeting will be held tomorrow, 2/17/17, at 10:00 to continue conversations regarding findings from the Bull City Connect Event. An official presentation of the numbers will be presented to the HSAC in March or April.

Catherine and the committee thanked Matt and Lloyd for their work and efforts in successfully implementing the count.

The final order of business focused on the 1228 Carrol St. property (5.5 acres with a total of over 24,000 sq ft of space). Lloyd provided a quick review regarding the property: The mayor sent out a letter regarding federal surplus property available with priority granting if the property is used for homeless housing or homeless services. Organizations had 60 days to indicate interest in using the space for homeless services. On Feb. 1, a meeting was organized by the City to share some information regarding the process and potential uses of the property with citizens. No specific role for the CoC or any other governing body was noted to lead or guide the process in identifying interested homeless services providers. However, if no homeless service provider expresses interest in acquiring the property, it will be sold for public use. Updates will continue to be shared throughout the process. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2016 at 10:00.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Families Moving Forward-Chef for Change Fund Raising Event next week \$25 tickets available
- Empty Bowls-March 2, 2017 at the Convention Center Tickets available on UM website
- Housing For New Hope will sponsor an event- Beer and Hymns- this Sunday at Full Steam Brewery at 7:30
- Bread for the World- Statewide Convention March 11 St. Phillips Church

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melody Marshall, CEHD Secretary