

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • June 15, 2017 10:00–11:30am
Location: Families Moving Forward, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

Attendance: *Chairman Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries); Catherine Pleil (Families Moving Forward); Matthew Schnars (City of Durham); Randy Oberrath (Freedom and Hope Center); Valaria Brown (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Valerie Haywood (Urban Ministries); Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA); Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools); Olive Joyner (Housing For New Hope); Janet Xiao (Community Empowerment Fund); Fred Stoppelkamp (Urban Ministries); Adrian L'Esperance (Urban Ministries); Katie Bauman (Pathways to Change-Strong Fathers); Carolyn McCormick (FMF Resident); Khsib Abdullah (Believers United for Progress); Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health Center-HCH); Stephanie Huffman (Urban Ministries)*

The meeting of the Council to End Homeless in Durham was called to order by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell with welcomes and introductions. Minutes were reviewed with a motion to accept by Valaria Brown and seconded by Fred Stoppelkamp.

The first order of business was highlighted by a presentation from Katie Bauman with Pathways to Change and the Strong Fathers Program. Katie shared information regarding the Strong Fathers Program including its historical foundation at Center for Child and Family Health. Strong Fathers provides interventions for fathers who were victims of violence. The program has graduated 17 classes which are facilitated through a closed group session model. Curriculum includes information regarding child development, parenting skills, co-parenting, and domestic violence. The class is facilitated by one female and one male to model respectful disagreement and differing perspectives. The overarching approach is non-judgmental and strength-based. Most participants are referred from DSS and the court system but referrals from other partner agencies are welcomed. The next intake cycle starts next week, June 20-22, with intake sessions beginning the following week at the Cooperative Extension building. Other off-site classes are being explored to include jail and other community outreach opportunities. The program is offered free of charge and referrals can be made through the website. July 11th will begin the first Spanish-speaking class in partnership with El Futuro.

Mr. K. Abdullah shared that he would be willing to partner with Strong Fathers by providing dinner and provided Katie with his contact information. Randy Oberrath noted that a similar program

in Winston Salem was closed due to lack of funding and wished the program well in its supports our community. Sheldon shared our appreciation and encouraged consideration for partnership with Strong Fathers.

The next order of business included an update from Janet Xiao regarding the upcoming Mayor's Landlord Roundtable which will be held on Tuesday July 11 from 10-11:30 at the Self-Help Temple Building— 302 W. Main St. Janet shared that last year landlords were asked to share input regarding their concerns with participating with housing voucher programs. It was further shared that the overall response from the community was positive leading to this year's partnership with the Durham Housing Authority. Janet shared that the doors will open at 9:45 starting with speakers including Mayor Bill Bell and a call for partnership to Landlords. The last half hour will provide the landlords with opportunity to share. Janet shared that endorsements are needed to circulate information and asked that our body commit to sending representatives to attend the event, circulate the event's invitation, and send organization logos to be listed on the website as an endorser. The Council to End Homeless in Durham offered its endorsement of the event through an official unanimous vote—motion was made by Catherine Pleil and seconded by Olive Joyner . Charita McCollers requested that we receive a blurb to assist with endorsement efforts to provide to our representing agencies.

Further information was shared by Janet regarding the housing within the Durham community. It was noted that since June of last year, 89 referrals were made but only 33 were housed (15 of the 89 referrals had expired) . Janet led an exploratory discussion of reasons why it's been difficult to make referrals. Discussion reflected responses that included the following: 1) freeze of referrals, 2) neglecting the housing opportunities that are outside of Durham; 3) criminal & credit records—Janet noted that DHA decreased look-back periods of records and added more leniency on payback on prior debt; 4) inspection timelines (Janet will follow-up); & 5) bedroom availability. Janet suggested that with this information and the given barriers, a community goal would be significant in planning for our

community's next steps. After extensive exploration how we should prepare for development of the community goal, it was decided that a meeting be held on in the upcoming weeks. This meeting will provide more clarity and DHA will be invited to participate in this conversation. Janet noted that researchers at Duke are examining the Durham community to identify target areas in the community to partner with ideal landlords in the area.

Janet will follow-up with Unlocking Doors providers with MOUs that will detail partnerships. Changes in the MOU include 12 months of responsive crisis intervention and/or case management; support /communication to landlords including 2 business day response time; documentation of property at the time of move-in (including photos or videos); storing the documentation with your agency in case this information is used in the risk mitigation process; and assisting landlords in navigating the risk mitigation process. Chairman Mitchell expressed the Council's ongoing appreciation of Janet's work and for the update and facilitation of the discussion regarding the Mayor's Landlord Roundtable.

The floor was then opened up for announcements as noted as follows:

Olive: Housing for New Hope's Dove House will be closing as of mid-June. All clients have been successfully placed. A program committee is considering how to re-purpose the facility.

Matt: Final stages of the reports will be delivered regarding the homeless data and interviews that were completed in the community

Sheldon: No meeting will be held during the month of July and the body will reconvene in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Melody Marshall, CEHD Secretary