

**DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

2:00 p.m.

**Durham County Human Services Building
414 E. Main Street – 2nd Floor Conference Room**

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) held a Special Meeting on the above date and time.

Committee Members Present: Chair Angela Holmes (Former Homeless Representative for Durham County); Co-Chair Charita McCollers (Federal Health Care for the Homeless/Lincoln Community Health Center); Linzie Atkins (Durham County Veteran Services Office); Reverend Dr. Angelo Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff (Durham County Manager's Office); Jennifer Jones (Office of Economic and Workforce Development); Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly); Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation); Aurelia Sands-Belle (Durham Crisis Response Center – DCRC); Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Ve'ga Swepson, Resource Specialist (Durham Technical Community College); Ellecia M. Thompson (Durham VA Medical Center) and Tony Tosh (Corporate Private Sector Representative for City of Durham/Prosperity Recovery Services).

Excused Committee Members: Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden (Durham City Council Representative); Janeen Gordon (Durham County Social Services Department – *Proxy for Commissioner Reckhow*); Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative for the City of Durham/TROSA) and Helen Tripp (Durham County EMS).

Committee Members Absent: City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield; County Commissioner Ellen W. Reckhow; Meredith Daye, Development Director (Durham Housing Authority – DHA); Captain Stan Harris (Durham County Sheriff's Department); Calleen Herbert, Interim Director Department of Academic Community Services Learning Program (North Carolina Central University); Reverend Dr. Warren Herndon (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham/Greater Joy International Ministries); Emanuel Kearney (Former Homeless Representative for City of Durham); Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison); Fred Stoppelkamp (Non-Profit Representative for Durham County/Urban Ministries of Durham); Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Assistant Director of Strategy Karen Lado, Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler, Matthew Schnars, Administrative Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development) and Senior Executive Assistant Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk).

Also Present: Olive Joyner, Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope – HNH); Sheldon Mitchell, Valerie Hayward (Urban Ministries of Durham); Jonathan Crooms (Durham County Veterans Services); Hailey Leiva, Kayell Kim (LIFE Skills Foundation); Catherine Pleil, Shana Carignan

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Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward); Carolyn Hinton, Lanea Foster (Healing with CAARE); Alma Davis (Durham Crisis Response Center – DCRC) and Candice Chilton (Duke-SOAR).

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Holmes called the Special Meeting of the HSAC to order at 2:09 p.m. and at this point she turned the meeting over to Project Manager Matt Schnars (Department of Community Development).

Mr. Schnars thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained the purpose of the first half of the meeting was to receive a report prepared by Focus Strategies on Durham's Homeless System Performance and Preliminary Recommendations. Megan Kurteff Schatz, MSW, MPP with Focus Strategies presented the report through a power point via electronic skype video from California. Genevieve Williams also with Focus Strategies helped to facilitate the presentation.

The presentation provided information on the following topics:

- Explanation of the HEARTH ACT and the Opening Doors Plan
- Purpose of Our Work in Durham
- Ending Homelessness
- Principles of a Homeless Crisis Response System
- A System to End Homelessness
- Homeless Crisis Response System
- Project Overview
- Information Sources
- System Inventory

Durham's Homeless System - What We Learned

- SWAP Performance Measures
- HMIS DATA Quality
- Alignment of Inventory and Investment with Need
- Bed and Unit Utilization
- Entries from Homelessness
- Entries from Housed
- Lengths of Stay in Programs
- Exits to Permanent Housing
- Cost Effectiveness: Cost Per PH Exit
- Returns to Homelessness
- Governance Structure Strengths
- Governance Challenges

Durham's Homeless System – What We Recommend – Preliminary Summary

- Program and System Strategies
- Leadership and Governance

Some of the discussion held by HSAC members as well as Housing Providers during the presentation included:

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- Making sure people who are dealing with substance abuse issues receive on-going support to help them recover from the addiction so they can be housed.
- Utilization process
- Rapid Re-Housing as it relates to HUD Guidelines
- Concern over whether or not the Homeless Providers will be able to implement the recommendations presented by Focus Strategies

The Focus Strategies presentation ended at approximately 3:55 p.m.

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler (Department of Community Development) gave an explanation of two handouts that were distributed to the HSAC. The first handout was a memo from Anitra Bailey, Vice-Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) which listed their recommendations. Nigel Brown, Chair of the CAC, is an employee of Housing for New Hope which presents a conflict of interest. Therefore he excused himself from the process. At the August 23, 2017 HSAC meeting members requested a description of the projects. This document was provided as well to members.

Mr. Schmeidler stated they could not recommend all of the projects for funding. However, they did make an objective effort to score and rank the projects which is reflected in the CAC's recommendation.

After Mr. Schmeidler's explanation Chair Holmes opened the second half of the HSAC's Special Meeting concerning the Continuum of Care (CoC) priority ranking.

Because of a lack of quorum of HSAC members, Chair Holmes opened the floor for questions and discussion concerning funding applications and the CAC's recommendation. She also informed everyone that an electronic vote would be conducted at a later date.

Carolyn Hinton (Healing with CAARE) had some questions and concern about the ranking and scoring process. She stated that one of the projects her organization applied for was not included in the list of projects that was being reviewed. She requested information regarding this matter.

Ms. Hinton also wanted to know what was submitted for review – their initial application or the application itself and what was evaluated by the CAC.

Thirdly, Ms. Hinton asked “what does project consistent and accurate information” mean in reference to the issues that were listed for Healing with CAARE. She would like clarification on this as well as the meaning of “active participation in CoC” and what are reasonable costs.

Ms. Hinton also asked about Healing with CAARE's ranking as a new project. She felt the organization should have been ranked 5th but instead it was ranked 12th.

Some discussion followed regarding Ms. Hinton's issues. Committee Member Burch stated that Ms. Hinton's questions should be handled with staff and Healing with CAARE. He expressed his concern that this meeting was not the proper forum to discuss her questions.

Ms. Hinton agreed with Committee Burch and she stated that she thinks voting should be deferred until the issues are clarified. Mr. Schmeidler stated that staff would be happy to meet with Ms. Hinton and Ms. Lanea Foster.

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Chair Holmes asked Ms. Hinton to put all of her questions in writing and submit them to staff. Mr. Schnars stated he would go back and re-send the e-mail that was previously sent which contains clear instructions on how to ask questions and submit them to staff.

Mr. Schnars also reminded everyone of the September 28, 2017 deadline for the entire CoC application to be submitted.

Committee Member Sands-Belle asked for an explanation on how organizations are not meeting the threshold but are still receiving funds. Mr. Schmeidler made reference to the memo from the CAC that included a description on issues that lead to a number of projects not meeting threshold.

Committee Member Cummings pointed out the confusion that seems to be caused by the two different scoring processes – threshold criteria and scoring criteria. He commented that it might help reduce confusion in the future if the threshold criteria were given some kind of numerical value.

In response to Ms. Foster's question about what was the measurement for threshold and how does staff know if an agency is meeting threshold or not, Mr. Schmeidler explained there was a two-part threshold this year. The first part of the process was the pre-application process and the second was the application process itself. He explained the steps to each process.

Mr. Schmeidler announced that all of the applications received will be published on durhamopeningdoors.org.

Ms. Foster pointed out that the conversation regarding Ms. Hinton's concerns was important for the entire HSAC to be a part of and this was why she had asked at the August 23, 2017 HSAC meeting how would questions and conversations going to be provided so everyone would have an opportunity to see all of the comments if they were going to be voting on recommendations.

Chair Holmes explained that once Ms. Hinton's submits her questions in writing to staff they would also go to HSAC Members as well.

Subject: Adjourn

Due to lack of quorum, no action was taken to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock
Office of the City Clerk