

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

3:00 p.m.

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

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on the above date and time.

Committee Members Present: Chair Angela Holmes (Former Homeless Representative for Durham County); Vice-Chair Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless; Secretary Ellecia M. Thompson (Durham VA Medical Center); City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield; Reverend Dr. B. Angelo Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden; Meredith Daye, Development Director (Durham Housing Authority); Janeen Gordon (Durham County Social Services – *proxy for Durham County Commissioner Ellen W. Reckhow*); Stan Harris (Durham County Sheriff's Department); Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service); Reverend Dr. Warren Herndon (Faith Community Representative for City of Durham/Greater Joy International Ministries); Emanuel Kearney (Former Homeless Representative for City of Durham); Melody Marshall, Homeless Liaison (Durham Public Schools); Aurelia Sands-Belle (Durham Crisis Response Center – DCRC); Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Fred Stoppelkamp (Non-Profit Representative for Durham County/Urban Ministries of Durham); Ve'ga Swepson, Resource Specialist (Durham Technical Community College); Tony Tosh (Corporate Private Sector Representative for City of Durham/Prosperity Recovery Services) and Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)).

Excused Committee Members: Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly); Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation) and Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative for the City of Durham/TROSA).

Committee Members Absent: Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff (Durham County Manager's Office); Jennifer Jones (City of Durham Office of Economic & Workforce Development); County Commissioner Ellen W. Reckhow and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

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

Also Present: Lanea Foster (Southeast Community Resources/Healing with CAARE); Carolyn Hinton and Shelton Harris (Healing with CAARE); Chantel Scott (Public Comment Period Speaker); Olive Joyner, Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope (HFNH); Alma Davis (Durham Crisis Response Center (DCRC); Pearlie Williams (NAMI Durham); Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward (FMF); Larry Partee' (Citizen); Gena Cohen and Brittany Harris (Lincoln Community Health Care).

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Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending. Afterwards she read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

At this point in the meeting Chair Holmes announced since there were not enough HSAC members for a quorum they would come back and vote on the August 2017 minutes later in the meeting.

Subject: Public Comment Period

Chair Holmes advised all speakers that they would have three minutes to speak.

Carolyn Hinton, Executive Director of Healing with CAARE, Inc. (CAARE), provided a brief summary about the organization's participation in homeless programs in Durham and the services CAARE provides to alleviate homelessness in Durham. Ms. Hinton presented the following information regarding services provided from January 2017 through September 2017 as well as various other details about CAARE.

- 66 homeless individuals have walked into CAARE's facility
- 50 individuals have been serviced through CAARE's CIP outreach program which delivers food to homeless people
- 31 homeless veterans have received services
- 3 homeless individuals received assistance with discretionary funds from the agency which allowed them to get into housing
- 3 individuals used the facility on an emergency basis which provided stabilization for them
- Since 1995 CAARE, Inc. has provided stabilization health outcomes to the Durham community.

Ms. Hinton invited HSAC members to come by and take a tour of CAARE as well as have an opportunity to discuss more statistics and to see the wonderful work that is being done at CAARE.

In response to Larry Partee's questions, regarding how CAARE was ranked in the funding process compared to the organizations that did receive funding, Ms. Hinton stated they were ranked 5th in the assessment that was conducted. Mr. Partee' also asked what excuse was given for CAARE not being funded. Ms. Hinton felt that this question should be addressed by Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler (Department of Community Development). Mr. Schmeidler pointed out that no one has been funded yet and what has been done so far is that recommendations have been made to HUD for funding. Mr. Schmeidler also explained the consolidated Continuum of Care (CoC) application process.

Chantel Scott, a mother of three, shared her family's homeless experience. She commented that she was one of the homeless people that received assistance from Chair Holmes. Ms. Scott also thanked Committee Member Marshall for helping to get her children in school. She wanted the HSAC to know that she has been homeless for six years. However, as a result of all of the

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people Chair Holmes reached out to, she and her family will be stable and moving into a three bedroom apartment.

Mr. Cresson Brown, Jr., had originally signed up to speak during the public comment period. However, Vice-Chair McCollers announced that he had sustained an injury and was not able to attend the meeting.

Committee Member Herndon made comments concerning the number of single women with families, ages 17 to 35 years of age in Durham who are living in poverty. He noted that he is very happy to serve on the HSAC with other members and that they are doing great work, however there is more work that needs to be done.

Committee Member Herndon pointed out that 51% of our children across the country are living in some form of poverty and that he has been told that somewhere between 60 to 70% of Durham Public Schools students are receiving free and reduced lunch which means that there are some challenges also. Committee Member Herndon also noted that over 500 children in Durham Public Schools are living in some form of poverty. Durham's demographics has shifted, the cost of living in Durham has shifted as well as the cost of family living in Durham has shifted. Committee Member Herndon commented that there is between 20 to 30% of our families that are living in some form of poverty and that number is far too high.

Committee Member Herndon believes that they have to continue to work to make and keep Durham a great place to live. Therefore, they all need to continue to work for the citizens that are having difficulties in the community. He stated that he looks forward to working with HSAC members collaboratively as they make Durham a great place to live for all citizens.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden stated that Committee Member Herndon represented the faith community and she wanted to know what the faith community was doing to help resolve some of the issues that he pointed out.

Committee Member Herndon explained there is a list that includes information on what each faith community does to assist families across the community. Services provided range from clothes closets and various other assistance that the faith community has been called upon to do on a daily and weekly basis. The faith community is working in unison with other groups to make sure they are supporting as many families as they can.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden stated that one of the key pieces to getting out of poverty is education. She wanted to know what the faith community was doing to help families recognize the importance of education. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden noted that there is problem in the community and until they face the "root" causes of the problem it will continue as it has been over the years. They have to strengthen the education part.

Committee Member Herndon commented that the number one answer to the education problem is the "Rites of Passage" program. He has worked with the program for over 20 years where participants go into the school and work with the families to make sure the kids are educated. Committee Member Herndon also pointed out that most of the faith communities have youth programs. He encourages everyone to become a mentor to a young person if they are not already mentoring. Committee Member Herndon thanked Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden for her questions concerning the youth and added they all can make a difference working with the youth.

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Additional comments followed concerning the type of assistance offered by the faith community and others.

Pearlie Williams (NAMI Durham) wanted to know the statistical number of females that suffer with mental health issues that Committee Member Herndon has worked with through his entirety. In response, Committee Member Herndon stated that he has asked the same question and he feels the answer is forthcoming.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden mentioned that everyone should be keenly aware of the fact that funding for mental health services has been cut. She added this issue is a state responsibility therefore; they need to go to the General Assembly and ask when are they going to do what they are supposed to do.

Committee Member Herndon encouraged everyone to start going to Raleigh and to also begin to request private foundations and grants.

Minutes Review and Approval – August 23, 2017 Regular HSAC Meeting & August 30, 2017 Special HSAC Meeting

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden noted a correction to the August 23, 2017 HSAC meeting. She pointed out that she was in attendance although the minutes listed her as having an excused absence.

Sheila Bullock, Clerk to the HSAC stated she would make note of the correction.

Motion by Committee Member Stoppelkamp, seconded by Vice-Chair McCollers to have Ms. Bullock make the correction to the minutes to show that Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden was present at the August 23, 2017 HSAC meeting and to approve the minutes with corrections was unanimously approved at 3:33 p.m.

Motion by Vice-Chair McCollers, seconded by Committee Member Stoppelkamp to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2017 HSAC Special Meeting as written was unanimously approved at 3:35 p.m.

Subject: Welcome New HSAC Member

Chair Holmes introduced and welcomed new HSAC Member Jonathan Crooms (Durham County Veteran Services Office) who replaced Linzie Atkins.

Subject: HSAC History & Purpose

Project Manager Matthew Schnars (Department of Community Development) provided a brief review of the history of the HSAC and its fundamental purpose as it relates to the broader context of the Durham CoC. He explained that the HSAC serves as the decision-making board for the CoC and is responsible for two main things (1) selecting and managing the collaborative applicant, which is the City of Durham Department of Community Development, and (2) selecting and managing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Also, the CoC is responsible for the CoC funding recommendations as well as recommendations for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. Mr. Schnars reported that all totaled in Durham the HSAC is responsible for about 1.5 or 1.6 million dollars in direct funding recommendations.

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Committee Member Herndon thanked Mr. Schnars and the entire staff for the great work they do. He made a recommendation that the City of Durham investigate the possibility of inviting Dr. Ben Carson, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and his delegation to come to Durham in a similar fashion as did President Obama, which as Committee Member Herndon noted, was how Durham ended up with the MBK Grant. He added that a meeting with Dr. Carson could present an opportunity to sensitize him to the needs of the Durham community and could foster on-going conversations. Committee Member Herndon also suggested this meeting should occur in March. He commented that hopefully they could get a grant for \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked if Dr. Carson would be visiting Durham at his own expense. She then asked what they could expect from his visit.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, Committee Member Herndon stated that we expect the same thing to occur under President Obama with the MBK initiative. He explained that the Secretary of Labor came to Durham and met with leaders across the community. During the course of this meeting, the needs of Durham were communicated as well as the needs of North Carolina. As a result, Durham has a grant from MBK which means that Durham is asking for additional federal funding for housing for low wealth communities in the City of Durham.

In regards to whether Dr. Carson's trip to Durham would be at his own expense, Committee Member Herndon stated yes the cost of the event should be absorbed by Dr. Carson's travel budget.

Ms. Hinton asked what was currently being done to build capacity for their diverse community.

Subject: 2017 CoC Application Review

Mr. Schnars informed the Committee that the CoC application was submitted right before the meeting of HSAC. He then provided a review of the 2017 CoC application process and highlighted key risks and opportunities the HSAC should know as the final application is submitted. During the presentation Committee Members reviewed a document entitled *2017 Continuum of Care Collaborative Application – Durham Application Score Estimate*.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked if HUD provided a person to come and do technical assistance. Mr. Schnars stated no, HUD does not provide anyone to come but staff has sent six technical assistance requests in the last year and a half. All but two of the requests have been granted. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden suggested that an elected official ask HUD to come for the technical piece.

Mr. Schnars stated he could send his presentation out to Committee Members after the meeting if they were interested in receiving it. Mr. Schmeidler gave a brief explanation on how staff estimated points.

Lanea Foster (Southeast Community Resources/Healing with CAARE, Inc.) asked for a comparison of what the scores were last year and what staff anticipates them to be this year as well as the strategy to improve the scores in each one of the areas. Mr. Schmeidler noted that a lot of the strategy is around what they have done and some is around what they are planning to do.

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In reference to Mr. Schnars presentation involving the numbers for Veterans, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden pointed out that the available points were 15 but the estimated points were 11. She asked why the score was so low.

Mr. Schnars stated that staff did a conservative estimate on the numbers. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked why HUD gave Durham an award for their work in ending chronic homelessness among Veterans. Mr. Schnars pointed out that the award was actually from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden expressed her concern about the numbers being low and added that the points should be higher. She commented that they have to be really intentional about what they do to end homelessness if they are going to get higher scores.

Committee Member Tosh distributed some handouts and asked what can the Committee do to stop people from living under the bridges and to get them to go the shelter? Mr. Schmeidler responded that Housing for New Hope (HFNH) has a part-time person who regularly does outreach to unsheltered people throughout the Durham community. Mr. Schmeidler noted that if there are people in need of outreach assistance please communicate with the Department of Community Development or directly with HFNH. He stated there are two faith-based organizations that are doing outreach to unsheltered people as well as Open Table Ministry. Mr. Schmeidler mentioned other organizations and community partners that are reaching out to the unsheltered in Durham.

Vice-Chair McCollers made comments about capacity and performance. She expressed her concern that anytime they have a situation where they do not fund projects in their community then they are losing access to a subset of their homeless community that they are supposed to be serving. She hopes that their efforts and strategies are helping to build a capacity in whatever ways needed of those entities so that they can make sure they are reaching all of their homeless citizens in Durham County.

Subject: State ESG

Mr. Schmeidler reported that the state released its regional application on September 12, 2017. The deadline is October 30, 2017 to complete a regional application. The process is similar to the consolidated CoC application but is less intense and for a smaller amount of money. Mr. Schmeidler noted that the state indicates Durham is eligible to apply for \$160,343.00. Communication was sent out shortly after the state released the application to Durham. Four organizations have expressed interest in applying for the funds. The local deadline for the project applications is by 4:00 p.m. to the Department of Community Development on Friday, October 6, 2017.

Mr. Schmeidler highlighted a new form that all of the housing providers should be aware of. He explained the state is asking for a Certificate of Local Planning Area Participation and Coordination. This document needs to be completed between the organizations applying for ESG fund and the CoC Lead Agency.

Subject: 2018 Bull City Fresh Start

Mr. Schnars directed HSAC members' attention to the planning meeting schedule in their packets for the 2018 Bull City Fresh Start. He provided a review of the 2017 event and an overview of the preliminary plans for the 2018 event. 2018 Bull City Fresh start will be at the Durham Bulls Stadium on Wednesday, January 24, 2018. More information will be forthcoming.

Subject: Reminders

Chair Holmes reminded everyone of the next HSAC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2017 starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Durham County Human Services Building, 414 E. Main Street in the 2nd floor Conference Room.

Subject: Adjourn

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole McFadden, seconded by Committee Member Herndon to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Holmes adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock
Office of the City Clerk