

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 20, 2017 @ 3 pm
Durham County Human Services Building
414 East 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 Bonfield; Jonathan Crooms, Durham County Veteran Services (Proxy for Lois Harvin –Ravin); Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff, Durham County Manager’s Office; Meredith Daye, Development Director (Durham Housing Authority); Reverend Dr. Warren Herndon (Faith Community Representative for City of Durham/Greater Joy International Ministries); Jennifer Jones (OEWD); Emanuel Kearney (Former Homeless Representative for City of Durham); Pam Karriker, Christian Academy (Faith Community Representative, Durham County); Melody Marshall, Homeless Liaison (Durham Public Schools); Alex Protzman, LIFE Skills Foundation; Aurelia Sands-Belle (Durham Crisis Response Center – DCRC); Mayor Steve Schewel; 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); Chris Toenes, Non-Profit Representative (City of Durham); 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: none

Committee Members Absent: Reverend Dr. B Angeloe Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); Janeen Gordon, (Durham County Social Services and Proxy for Commissioner Ellen Reckhow); Captain Stan Harris, (Durham County Sheriff’s Department); Calleen Herbert, (NCCU Office of Community Engagement and Service); and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler and Matthew Walker; and Deputy City Clerk Diana Schreiber (Office of the City Clerk).

Also Present: Tiana Terry, Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward), Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope), Olive Joyner, Shirrell Thomas (Durham Crisis Response Center), Catherine Plefl, Virginia Mitchell, Lanea Foster, Joyce Hicklen, Carolyn Hinton, Charles Tiller, William Elmore.

Chair of the HSAC Board Angela Holmes called the meeting to order.

Chair Holmes called for Speakers from the Floor. The following persons spoke:

Reverend Herndon shared concerns about financial resources; referred to the Annual Action Plan and upcoming financial decisions being made by Neighborhood Improvement Services and Department of Community Development; encouraged that families and youth continue to be the center of decision making.

Ryan Fehrman, Families Moving Forward, spoke to the Department of Community Development's decision to eliminate CDBG funds that had previously been used to shelter homeless; wanted to make certain the stakeholders were aware of the situation; mentioned the upcoming application deadlines; and expressed disappointment by the decision made by CD staff and felt communication needed improvement.

By majority vote, the HSAC Committee called to hear a staff update from the Department of Community Development on the Annual Action Plan and needs assessment.

Reginald Johnson, Director of Department of Community Development, shared that comments were heard at the 'needs' public hearing held December 18, 2017 which was part of the process to determine entitlement funding for homeless services; in terms of final recommendations, stated that they would be adopted by City Council in May 2018; up until that point, conversations would be heard, adjustments made and then final recommendations would be presented to Council.

Additional Speakers:

Reverend Herndon, Durham is great place to live; made various statements about doing our best to communicate about allocating tight resources; encouraged communication between stakeholders and keeping families at center of the decision making process.

Tony Tosh, Prosperity Recovery Services, spoke in response to false statements and insisted the truth would set us free.

Pam Karriker, first time she had heard about the funding crisis; felt HSAC was not incorporated into the change of direction; and encouraged future decision making to include HSAC.

Drew Cummings, County Manager's Office, expected future hard decisions to be made in terms of funding; County had been long time funder of Urban Ministries, Genesis Home and Families Moving Forward; spoke to shelters being involved in the rapid rehousing continuum with the goal of getting persons into stable housing situations quickly and efficiently; and to achieve this end, could involve changing partners.

Alex Protzman, Executive Director of Life Skills Foundation, did not receive shelter money but his organization had been involved in rapid rehousing; worried about the responsibilities under the title of rapid rehousing; explained his organization would not be taking on rapid rehousing next year since it was not an effective use of his organizations time and was not useful to young adults; urged to make decisions to providers to be innovative.

Charita McCollers, Lincoln Community Health Center, was involved in homeless service providing for past six years; spoke in favor of providing case management services that were essential to knowing where resources were; without case management, persons would not know that rapid rehousing existed; was disappointed HSAC did not know that the change in perspective; and encouraged activism to resolve the situation and make it fair to recipients of care.

Emmanuel Kearney, formerly homeless, spoke in support of case management and wrap around services for rapid rehousing; explained that some homeless were not confident about moving into housing without support services; and had wanted a chance to express his opinion about the funding changes.

Chair Angela Holmes thanked all for their comments; appreciated the members of HSAC attending for the quorum; appreciated Mayor Pro Tem Cole-McFadden's service on the HSAC Board; welcomed Mayor Schewel; and stated that presentations would be given as listed.

Lloyd Schmeidler, Department of Community Development, stated he needed a HSAC decision on Item #4, revised funding recommendations for State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG); indicated a memo was in the packet explaining the rationale for recommending approval of the revised awards, state was reconsidering the application for Families Together for street outreach of homeless prevention and rapid rehousing; only the rapid rehousing portion of the application had been approved for \$54,138, with \$10,000 remaining to be applied for street outreach that was under the same category as emergency shelter operations or emergency response; stated staff was recommending the HSAC approve increasing the State ESG allocation to Families Moving Forward over the original funding of \$86,206 to the full amount of \$96,206, the Families Together allocation would remain the same at \$54,138.

Mr. Schmeidler continued that the original amounts that were recommended by the COC were \$86,206 for Families Moving Forward and \$74,138 for Families Together; the state only approved the \$54,138 and reduced the amount by \$10,000 not approving funds to emergency services or homeless prevention, leaving \$20,000; the state was willing to award another \$10,000 to Families Moving Forward for emergency response activities, if the HSAC board supported the allocation.

Mr. Schmeidler admitted that there were some deficiencies in the Families Together application related to performance on the emergency solutions grant in Wake County; stated that not enough funds of the grant had been spent by October 2017, as anticipated; acknowledged that Families Together had not had much experience in street outreach and noted the COC Board had recognized this fact when approving the application, however, there had been no other organization applying for the funds at that time; and summarized there would be \$10,000 allocation but \$10,000 would still be lost.

Lanea Foster (Southeast Community Resources/Healing with CAARE) requested information or documentation from the State to determine why the application was not accepted and how the application could be fixed, going forward.

Chair Holmes asked if there were any additional speakers; being none, it was asked if there was a motion.

MOTION by Fred Stoppelkamp, seconded by Reverend Herndon, to approve the recommendations and award Families Moving Forward an additional \$10,000; the motion passed unanimously.

Lloyd Schmeidler introduced the next section of the agenda by explaining the enclosed housing inventory chart with statistics representing the following categories: program types, shelters, beds, transitional housing, beds for veterans, local organizations, rapid rehousing beds, permanent supportive housing beds; summarized that 60% of beds were for permanent housing in the city; and highlighted the utilization rates.

Chair Holmes revised the agenda to allow speaker Alicia Thompson of the Durham Veterans Hospital, to address the committee first in order to depart early.

The following providers of various homeless, veteran and family service organizations made presentations.

Alicia Thompson, representing Durham Veterans' Hospital: Veteran services.

Olive Joyner, representing Housing for New Hope: Rapid rehousing, scatter sites.

TROSA - no presentation made.

Virginia Mitchell, representing Healing with CAARE: rapid rehousing provider, provider of foods and medical care.

Tracy Stone-Dino, representing Alliance: managed care organization

Sherrell Thomas, representing Durham Crisis Response Center: emergency shelter operator for survivors of domestic violence.

Meredith Daye, representing DHA, Development Ventures Inc.: Goley Pointe public housing, housing chronically homeless families

Ryan Fehrman, representing Families Moving Forward: case management and housing locator for families with children.

Joyce Hicklen, representing CASA: affordable housing provider to families and veterans.

Fred Stoppelkamp, representing Urban Ministries of Durham: emergency shelter provider.

Announcements

Department of Community Development's Director Reginald Johnson made an announcement that Matthew Schnars had accepted a new position with Durham County Budget Office; and introduced Matthew Walker, Goal One Team Manager.

Homeless Memorial Day Service on Dec 21, 2017 at 6 pm in Durham Farmer's Market Pavilion; 20 individuals had died homeless in Durham this past year.

MLK Holiday celebrations scheduled on Monday, January 15, 2018 with parade starting from NC Mutual Life Insurance building to First Presbyterian Church; a honorary program with choir would be held at the church.

MOTION by Referend Herndon, seconded by Charita McCollers to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting, Jan 17th, 2018.

Diana Schreiber

Acting City Clerk