

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

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 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); 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); Janeen Gordon, (Durham County Social Services and Proxy for Commissioner Ellen Reckhow); Calleen Herbert, (NCCU Office of Community Engagement and Service); Reverend Dr. Warren Herndon (Faith Community Representative for City of Durham/Greater Joy International Ministries); Jennifer Jones (OEWD); Pam Karriker, Christian Academy (Faith Community Representative, Durham County); Melody Marshall, Homeless Liaison (Durham Public Schools); Alma Davis (Durham Crisis Response Center – DCRC); Mayor Steve Schewel; Council Member Mark Anthony Middleton (Proxy for Mayor Steve Schewel); 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).

Excused Committee Members: Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)).

Committee Members Absent: Captain Stan Harris (Durham County Sheriff's Department); Emanuel Kearney (Former Homeless Representative, City of Durham); Alex Protzman, LIFE Skills Foundation; Tracy-Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Tony Tosh (Corporate Private Sector Representative for City of Durham/Prosperity Recovery Services) and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler and Matthew Walker; Assistant Director of Strategy Karen Lado (Department of Community Development); Administrative Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development); Deputy Clerk Monica Toomer (County Clerk to the Board's Office) and Senior Administrative Assistant Macio Carlton (County Clerk to the Board's Office)

Also Present: Carolyn Schuldt; Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward); Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope); Sam Martin (Housing for New Hope); Deborah West, Larry Porter (Former Homeless); Olive Joyner (Housing for New Hope); Laura Punzell (Housing For New Hope); Carolyn Hinton (Healing with CAARE); Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries of Durham); Nigel Brown (Housing for New Hope); and Rita McDaniel (Southside Community Neighborhood Association).

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending, and read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

November 15, 2017 HSAC Meeting – **Motion** by Committee Member Karriker, seconded by Committee Member Herndon to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

December 20, 2017 HSAC Meeting – **Motion** by Committee Member Cummings, seconded by Committee Member Burch to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subject: Public Comment Period

Chair Holmes reminded each speaker about the three-minute time limit.

Ryan Fehrman, Families Moving Forward, expressed his concerns with Community Development Department regarding a lack of information provided on funding and the deadline for applications. Mr. Fehrman added the money was moved from citizens currently homeless to citizens moving into permanent housing. He asked for an update on the funds available for those who are currently homeless.

Committee Member Cummings motioned, seconded by Committee Member McCollers, to request for an official response from the Department of Community Development at the next HSAC meeting on March 28, 2018 on the issues raised about the funding stream. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Warren Herndon, Faith Community Representative, City of Durham, explained about 51% of children in United States lived in poverty with 25-30% residing in Durham County. He added as the HSAC worked to reduce the homeless situation to please keep children in your heart.

Subject: Focus Strategies Revised Report and Adoption of Recommendations

Lloyd Schmeidler, Department of Community Development, informed the Committee of the Focus Strategies Report. He added the study with Durham Homeless Community occurred between March 2017 and September 2017. Mr. Schmeidler added with money left from the

contract, Enterprise Solutions finalized a report. He stated the presentation was to focus mostly on the results on the modeling work. Mr. Schmeidler mentioned the Continuum of Care (CoC) agency was looking for guidance from the HSAC for specific recommendations.

Megan Kurteff Schatz, President of Focus Strategies and Tracy Bennett, Director of Analytics and Evaluations, shared a presentation titled “*Durham Homeless System Modeling and Recommendations*” which discussed the following:

- About Focus Strategies
- Purpose of Our Work in Durham
- Project Overview
- Preliminary Recommendations – Summary and Review
- Program and System Strategies
- Leadership and Governance
- System Modeling Results
- Background on Modeling Analysis
- Scenarios
- Modeling Results – Updating Housing Inventory
- Modeling Results – Achieving Performance Targets in 2018
- Modeling Results – Adding Rapid Rehousing in 2019
- Modeling Results – Adding RRH and Diversions in 2019
- Revised Recommendations – Summary
- Revised Recommendations – Program and System Strategies
- Revised Recommendations – Performance Targets
- Revised Recommendations – Shelter Diversion and Problem Solving
- Question and Answer

Committee Member Herndon asked how the data gathered affected youth in the report. Ms. Bennett answered the data used was able to provide some results for youth, but the modeling itself did not pull out results. She added the modeling did not address youth due to the limited data. Committee Member Herndon questioned how Focus Strategies projections fit into the four (4) Federal Open Door Goals. Ms. Schatz stated the federal goals were set as a strategy of taking the crisis of homeless and putting it into more manageable groups to address. She added this was a way to take the resources and determine what was needed to improve. Ms. Bennett mentioned the number of homeless families both sheltered and unsheltered were small and the target was based off the results. She added the model did not look at the difference between chronic and non-chronic.

Carolyn Hinton, Healing with CAARE, asked what proposal would be used to divert people from entering a shelter. Ms. Schatz responded instead of welcoming people into homeless shelters, try to see where people were housed previously and attempt to repair that relationship. Ms. Schatz suggested contacting family and friends if possible or providing benefits such as food stamps or financial funding for homeless. Ms. Hinton asked how someone could find housing in Durham with diminishing housing inventory. Ms. Schatz responded housing inventory was a problem for

many communities. She suggested building commitments with landlords, hiring great staff and being creative as ways to build housing inventory.

Committee Member Crooms asked if the model considered the fluctuation in housing supply. Ms. Bennett responded the model was based on static supply and does not have the flexibility to incorporate fluctuation. Committee Member Crooms asked what advice would be given for people who are not able to be diverted and end up homeless after dollars were invested in rapid rehousing and money was being diverted away from the shelters. Ms. Schatz answered the system optimization, metrics and measures could be described as solving each housing crisis with as little resources as possible.

Committee Member McCollers inquired about the projected amounts of \$500,000 and \$250,000 for rapid housing in Durham. She questioned how Durham was supposed to accrue the funds needed. Mr. Schmeidler responded the scenarios were a model exercise and the Continuum of Care (CoC) did not clarify any funding sources. He added the funding could be combination of monies from all sources available.

Committee Member Karriker asked if the Committee could discuss more about rapid housing and funding at the next meeting on March 28, 2018. She asked to also hear recommendations and conversations with the providers and explain how it applied to the CoC.

Autumn Joy, Housing for New Hope, stated she worked with rapid housing for several years and one problem was not being able to offer rapid housing to someone without any identification. She added another challenge was the number of units available and the expectation to house everyone relocating to Durham. Ms. Joy mentioned possibly expanding the housing inventory outside of the City limits to be able provide more housing.

Committee Member Burch asked for clarification on the rapid rehousing program. He added if the shelters are not welcoming homeless, where the homeless citizens were supposed to go. Ms. Schatz responded diversion was to help people stay housed with the skills and resources available on demand. She stated if diversion was not possible, then bringing the homeless into shelters was an option. Committee Member Gordon added the Department of Social Services had many programs for diversion to keep people housed and out of homeless shelters. She added the spectrum of programs included rental assistance, open door programs, legal aid and Duke Legal Clinics.

Subject: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Alternate Delegate

Matt Schnars served as Durham's alternate to the NC Governance Committee, with Lloyd Schmeidler as the representative. The Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency recommended that the CoC Board appoint Matt Walker, Goal One Team Lead, to serve as Durham's alternate on the NC Governance Committee through June 30, 2018. Chair Holmes made a request to seek approval.

Motion by Committee Member Stoppelkamp, seconded by Committee Member Burch. Motion approved unanimously.

Committee Member Herndon asked Mr. Walker to introduce himself. Mr. Walker stated he was from Philadelphia and spent numerous years working with the housing authority and other non-profit organizations. Mr. Walker thanked the HSAC for the opportunity and their approval.

Subject: Continuum of Care (CoC) Standards

Lloyd Schmeidler, Department of Community Development, discussed the CoC Written Standards. He stated the draft version/interim standards were released and the public was invited to comment on the draft version.

Mr. Schmeidler shared a presentation on the titled “*CoC Written Standards*” discussing the following:

- Introduction
- Three Program Standards Documents
- Why Standards?
- Outline of Each Set of Standards
- Performance Standards and Benchmarks 1
- Performance Standards and Benchmarks 2
- Performance Standards and Benchmarks 3
- Implications of the Standards
- Consultation and Adoption Process
- Questions and Discussion

Mr. Schmeidler mentioned the CoC Agency would review all comments and amend the standards if needed. He added the HSAC would be asked to adopt the revised standards on a permanent basis between the March 28, 2018 meeting and July 1, 2018.

Subject: Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies and Procedures

Chair Holmes stated the adoption of CES Policies and Procedures were scheduled to occur at the January 17, 2018 meeting. However due to inclement weather, the meeting was cancelled. She added an email was sent to committee members to conduct an online vote before the Housing and Urban Development January 23, 2018 deadline. Chair Holmes confirmed the email vote and approved the CES Policies and Procedures.

Subject: HSAC Subcommittees/Results Teams Purpose and Scope

Chair Holmes stated the HSAC Subcommittees/Results Teams Purpose and Scope would be discussed on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at the Structure Committee meeting. Chair Holmes added the Executive Committee would take lead and provide feedback Committee.

Subject: Announcements

Chair Holmes asked if there were any announcements.

Committee Member Burch announced he would be running for State House 30 and asked for the support of the Committee.

Committee Member Herndon expressed his concern with the increase in homeless numbers. Mr. Burch responded with about 295 families in need, most of the money was for education, job opportunities, pay equity and family support systems. He added the Committee should look at a strategic plan and research ways to address those concerns.

Jennifer Jones, Economic Development and Workforce Development, stated the Construction Industry Career Fair would be held on March 7, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. She added there were 32 employers signed up.

Committee Member Schmeidler mentioned the State Emergency Solutions Grant Program did not fully fund Durham County in the 2017 cycle. He added an announcement on February 12, 2018 allowed agencies that were approved for funding in Durham to apply for additional funds. Mr. Schmeidler stated Families Moving Forward and Families Together were the only two agencies in the County that received funding.

Council Member Mark Anthony-Middleton introduced himself to the committee as the Alternate for Mayor Steve Schewel.

Subject: Reminders

Chair Holmes reminded everyone of the next HSAC meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the Durham County Human Services Building, 414 E. Main Street in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Holmes adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Macio Carlton
Senior Administrative Assistant
County Clerk's Office

