

Council to End Homelessness in Durham
September 20, 2018 Minutes

Attendance: Sheldon Mitchell (UMD), Carolyn Hinton (Healing with CAARE), Denita Johnson (DHA), Malcolm White (ABHC), Ashley Towe (VoA), Spencer Bradford (DCIA), Joseph Barnes (Homeshare Durham), Jessica Herbin (VA), Hanaleah Hoberman (DCD), Kevin McNamee (FMF), Carolyn Schuldt (OTM), Odie Roberson (LCHC_HCH), Charita McCollers (LCHC_HCH), Tasha Melvin (FMF), Larry Partee (HPCAC), Catherine Pleil (FMF), Rikki Gardner (HNH), Samantha Martin (HNH), John "JT" Tuong (FMF), Keisha Martin (UMD), Berel Kadens (UMD), Ann Tropiano (FMF)

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM with welcomes and introductions by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell. Minutes from the August 2018 meeting were reviewed. Errors noted were an apostrophe in the word don't and an "s" on further, with those corrections the motion to approve the minutes was made by Carolyn, seconded by Charita and unanimously approved.

1. Agency updates: Charita McCollers shared that the clinic is requiring new patients to bring verification of their homeless status by their second visit. She further reported that recovery programs are also requiring this documentation. Agencies and shelters can provide this documentation to their clients by using agency letterhead and signing the document. It is certainly appreciated if the patients had the documentation with them on their first visit to the clinic. Clinic Social Workers will be calling providers if patients are bringing documentation of their homeless status with them at or by the second visit. The clinics provide medications at a low co-pay or for free and having the documentation can also help the clinic document the need(s) of folks receiving care at the clinic. A "self-declaration" form was also created. Verification letters can be faxed to Charita at: 919-682-8734. Charita may also be able to write letters documenting homelessness for providers. She shared that she saw 900 patients last year.

Charita further shared that unlike other freestanding clinics in other states, Lincoln HCH clinic is a satellite clinic located at 412 Liberty St. and housed at Urban Ministries of Durham. It operates as a low barrier, easy access clinic. Because it is part of Lincoln Community Health Center, there is access to labs, other health clinics, and the pharmacy. Patients can be served in-house and have full access to Lincoln's services. The clinic receives money from the Federal government. Anyone who doesn't have a lease in their name and Veterans who are not eligible for care through the VA hospitals can be served by Lincoln's Healthcare for the Homeless Clinic.

- After participating in a recent DHA Public Housing meeting, Charita shared that the PH program is looking to work with homeless providers to make PH available to our clients. She said there is discussion about how prioritization for homeless folks will work and mentioned that Transitions Plans would likely be used for tenants to move out of PH. She also stated that they are switching to an online application and that currently, both Damar Court and Morreene Road communities have openings.

It was further shared that DHA is looking at their homeless definition to determine whether or not more folks can be accommodated. It was observed that advocacy by CEHD has worked to affect change in Durham and it was noted and agreed that supportive services to our clients is vital to successful outcomes and our work.

- Charita and Carolyn both discussed the Memorial event that occurs in December and brought up a summer solstice event that National programs also participate in. They suggested that Durham adopt this opportunity to celebrate our work, our successes, the people we serve, offer hope, and be recognized as a community. This year's event would have been on June 21st. Malcolm suggested tying a Summer Solstice event with the Mayor's Roundtable. Further discussion led to many individuals and organizations (UMD, FMF, HCH, HNH, DCIA, Durham CAN) pledging themselves or someone from their organization.
- Updates from Denita Johnson: It was noted that 15 vouchers of the 225 awarded to the CoC for households experiencing homelessness, are to help tenants transition out of Permanent Supportive Housing. Denita further shared that the HCV waitlist was opened in August and of the 5375 applications, 1500 were randomly selected and the applicant #s are listed on the lottery website www.dhavouchers.org She stated that letters are expected to be mailed out to the 1500 by October 1, 2018. Denita confirmed that more than half of the 1500 are Durham applicants and that about 62% of all 5375 applicants were from Durham.

Denita also shared that DHA is having meetings regarding changes to the Administrative Plan and that a public hearing was held yesterday and that questions raised will be presented to the DHA Board in October.

Denita shared that Whitted School and LIFE House both adult only projects each have one opening.

Denita also shared that an application she submitted was approved and DHA will receive 14 vouchers for folks with SPMI transitioning out of institutions and that DHA is partnering with ABHC for all referrals.

- Joseph from Homeshare Durham shared that the first match will happen tomorrow. www.homesharedurham.com
 - Catherine brought up the Hurricane and posed a general question as to Durham's response. Good discussion followed and Malcolm stated that he will forward information about FEMA's assistance hotline and website for approved counties.
 - Hanaleah clarified her role (system planning) and asked that system level questions be directed to her. She also invited folks to share their expertise with her and stated that RFPs will be issued for a Coordinated Entry Coordinator and Housing Navigation.
 - Carolyn shared her advocacy efforts which led to unsheltered folks obtaining some services at an emergency shelter and continued to advocate for Durham to solidify a Coordinated Response and for shelter plans to be shared. Hanaleah stated that she can develop policy for communication and bring providers together for commitments on what each will do. It was mentioned that Drew Cummings would be at the upcoming HSAC meeting and that this might be a good time to share CEHD's concern. Carolyn stressed our need to remember those without homes when a plan is finalized and shared that 30 individuals still needed shelter when the emergency shelter at Hillside was closed so that school could re-open.
 - Carolyn shared that Open Table Ministries was awarded a grant from Lowe's Home Improvement for hardware to enlarge their free store. There is also an upcoming fundraiser walk in November to benefit OTM.
2. Chairman Mitchell asked for suggestions for topics and presenters for future meetings. Member feedback included: someone from the ReEntry community, someone from college campuses to address student homelessness (Colleen Biggs Herbert at NCCU was suggested) as was someone from the Duke Homeless Abatement Team.
 - Catherine Pleil brought up the issue of safety and permanent housing. There was some discussion and suggestions around how to assure safety in the communities our clients are moving into. Suggestions were made to partner with DHA, Denita Johnson shared that if the tenant has HCV DHA will work with the landlord to support the tenant. Others shared that CIT officers from the Durham City Police Department and Legal Aid might be resources.
 - Rikki Gardner raised the topic of ViSPDAT training as a possibility and stressed the need that all providers using the tool need adequate training.
 3. Announcements: Kevin McNamee shared that Durham CAN is doing organizing work, Durham for All, and the focus is on reducing fees in criminal the justice system and to empower judges to limit or waive fees. The upcoming assembly is on October 27th at First Presbyterian Church.

Charita shared that Antioch Baptist Church is presenting The Glory Train on Saturday, September 22nd from 2-4 PM with some of the proceeds going to the HCH Clinic.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018