

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • February 18, 2016, 10:00-11:30am

Location: Families Moving Forward (Queen Street Location), 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701

Present: Andrew Franklin (CEF), Asia Elzein (FMF), Brenda Tillman (DHA), Catherine Pleil (FMF), Cynthia Harris (HNH), Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA), Drew Johnson (LCHC-HCH), Fred Stoppelkamp (UMD/HSAC), Jacqueline Love (Durham Public Schools), Janet Xiao (CEF), Lorisa Seibel (Reinvestment Partners), Maria Davis Dorsey (DDI), Mary Moore (Durham Tech), Matt Schnars (City of Durham), Matthew Case (LCHC-HCH), Pam Krakow (Durham Tech), Ryan Fehrman (FMF), Spencer Bradford (DCIA), Tiana Terry (Volunteers of America), Tim Pittman (DHA), Valaria Brown (Alliance BHC), Zach DiMiele (DCIA)

Welcome and Call to Order: Olive called the meeting to order at 10:00am. The group shared introductions.

Landlords and Vouchers Workgroup Update, Janet Xiao (CEF) and Tim Pittman (Durham Housing Authority)

- Janet distributed draft of Housing/Homeless Supports for Voucher-Holders Inventory (aka. the Matrix) and gave the group an update.
- According to the DHA Finance Committee, there are 140 vouchers issued where the tenant is still searching for an available unit, plus 180 more that are authorized but not yet issued. On top of that, more vouchers could be issued. According to Bo Glenn's calculations, \$2 million+ per year of federal money could be added to the community if landlords can be convinced to accept vouchers and if capacity at the DHA improves.
- People indicated interest if they were interested in a second landlords/vouchers workgroup to decide on provider commitments: Tiana will send someone; Catherine; Fred; Olive?; Tim; Doneicia; Lorisa; Cynthia; Valaria

Point in Time Count (Brief Update), Matt Schnars

- Numbers: the raw number of people that we found outside was 32
 - 4 were in an "overflow shelter" (churches opened doors)—technically sheltered
- Process:
 - As a point of reference, we had 44 last year, so the number has stayed low.
 - The process this year was as comprehensive since I've seen since my involvement in 2012. We had 90 volunteers.
 - Good process, covered a large swathe of land. Everything is geocoded, which allows us to increase where we find folks from year to year.
 - Many HSAC members were involved.
- Final number is still to come from HMIS (still waiting on a report revision that will change some of the data requirements, eg. "chronic homelessness" definition).
 - Fred asked: will there be a big data jump?
 - A: Preliminarily it looks like the number will be a little bit low. Need to look at whether or not people have a disabling condition.
 - They need to have 365 days either on the streets or in an emergency shelter. That's another critical piece that we can pull out of HMIS.
- Interesting findings:

- The police officers that were involved had such a good experience that they were inquisitive and wanted to be more involved. They are now going out to encampments on daily shifts, and they're now emailing us to say, "At the corner of X location, can someone come out here and respond?" They look to our department first on counsel on what to do, when they're called for violation etc.
- On the "mobile care review process": The team I was on found the guys on Ninth Street on wheelchairs. The interesting thing is that they were encouraged by the mobile care review process, where Housing for New Hope came out to the church to conduct the care review. Both of them remarked on that in their interview. We think they're going to get help.
- Olive remarked that Matt shared in an email that the unsheltered count is the lowest it has been since 2005. There's some evidence that we are making headway into ending homelessness in Durham.

CEHD Signature Project & Plan to End Homelessness in Durham, Olive

- Olive asked: how many people were around when they did the original plan to end homelessness in Durham?
 - Two: Lorisa, Spencer
 - It's been ten years—a lot of work has been done to put together this plan (90 member steering committee with involvement from City/County, United Way of the Triangle, health, faith-based, business sector, educational institutions). I encourage you all to read it. Janet will send out the link to everyone.
 - Do we have all the stakeholders in the room?
 - This is our anniversary year! 2016 deserves our attention. We at least need to mention that we put this plan out, and have to at least respond to it and maybe build some momentum. Rather than start something brand new, a good place to start this
 - These are issues that we're going to have to address. The issues have changed but the bottom line is there are barriers keeping us from ending homelessness in Durham.
 - It doesn't make sense to start all over again. We have a plan! A number of things we said we'd do 10 years ago, we still need to do the same things today. I've put together a category of where we need to focus our attention, and I didn't need to come up with anything new—it's all here!
 - The mission of the plan: Durham will change its plan from "managing homelessness" to "preventing and eliminating homelessness."
 - Example: I was at a coordinated intake meeting, and there was a woman who had received an eviction notice and was about to become homeless
 - Do we have to watch the thing completely spiral out before we do anything? How long is it going to take us to get her back in housing? To bring her into a shelter when she's already in a home... We can do better than that.
 - "We don't take a voucher" = we have to push back and turn this around.
 - Jackie Love asked: what are some reasons that landlords give for not taking vouchers?
 - Olive: Housing Authority is understaffed

- Olive: Voucher-holders need support (case management, employment)—and there’s no funding for support services, because without support the voucher-holders lose their vouchers.
- Tim: Durham is a high-cost area to live in and low-vacancy community. Those two combined make it hard to find any sort of affordable housing, and also landlords don’t have to participate with us to fill their unit vacancies. So most big apartment complexes are running at 1% vacancy, because they can easily find people who pay more.
- The guiding principle for this document = evidence-based practices, results-based accountability, community-driven, cultural competency, system of care approach, strength-based models.
- 4 categories:
 - Permanent housing
 - Prevention/engagement
 - Transition to independence
 - Services and support subcommittees
- Catherine asked: can we capture what has been done, based on this document? And can this work converge with HSAC’s planning?
 - Prevention: launched rapid rehousing
- Matt added: what happened with 10 year plan across the country: if you didn’t do it, you wouldn’t get Federal funds. There wasn’t a guidance or template as to what the plan should look like. What happened that was positive was shifting from “managing” (without a plan) to seeking the larger community input.
 - What occurred in 2009-2010: Fed gov’t said we should do broad Fed plan ourselves; drew from what communities did all over the country. Resulted in “Opening Doors”—Federal plan. What has occurred with that is that it’s a really good framework/plan, with benchmarks and criteria to determine whether you’ve met those benchmarks, so that is what has been adopted ad hoc across the country. Now with Fed involvement (more than just HUD), all agencies are behind that with funding.
- Olive: as providers, we see firsthand where our systems are not working. What are some *basic things* we could do, on-the-ground, to help reach the higher goals?
 - Matt added: the one thing I disagree a little bit with you on is, that folks that are on the ground tend to look up and say, “Policymakers, what will you do about this?” Policymakers need to hear lots from folks on the ground—that’s the way that policymaking and resource development is more effective.
 - Olive: I agree, it starts with us!
- City Hall opportunities to support affordable housing in the community:
 - March 7th: Budget retreat – City said they wanted to expand penny for housing. Keep tax rate but increase amount of money. I’d like to see 2c for housing. Public hearing, so anyone can speak; will get heard at 7:00pm.

- March 10th: draft housing plan presented by the consultant. Would be good to fill the room below. She is talking about people 60% AMI and all the way down to 0. Work session for 3/21 City Council meeting.
- March 21st: rezoning of Farrington/Lee Village reconsidered.
- This is an opportune time when affordable housing is the #1 issue for that City Council election. It's a great opportunity to make great advances.
- Discussion:
 - "I am my neighbor's keeper" initiative = use the system that we currently have (RR) to add person to the lease? Might there be a middle ground?
 - Adding \$50-100 per month might help that household take away financial burden
 - Marketing campaign to take away stigma/shame
 - Issue with doubled up: do they have enough space? If it's their choice and if it's a good solution for that family ...
 - Could put parameters on this. Sounds like we're trying to address people who have enough space and not enough \$\$ to sustain
 - Family mediation – a lot of people get kicked out of "doubled up" situations because of conflicts/disagreements
 - Loop in other resources, eg. faith communities?
 - Ask Wellness City: RI to present – don't they already serve as a central resource center?
 - Possible to create infrastructure for shared voucher use?
 - UMD is doing a roommate matching program with single adults now
 - Thinking creatively: Younger guy, was using Uber and Airbnb. Lady said she'd let him stay at Airbnb for free if she can get a writeoff on taxes. She got tax break because it was an in-kind donation.
- We didn't get a chance to hear from many of you who still have very good ideas. Over the next couple of days, please email them to Janet to include in the notes. We're going to summarize them before the next meeting, and we will list the ones that we see as our most "popular"—somehow we will decide as a group which ones are most important.

Agency Announcements:

- Mary: will email the workforce announcements. Reminder that Durham Tech has "Skilling Up" (\$250 in scholarships for people who have been impacted by downturn in tobacco industry). No documentation, but a self-attestation (150 word essay). For short-term credentials.
- Pam: info on new program that's exciting for this group. We're starting a new community health worker training program. Basic training (48 hours) for going into their own communities, no matter if it's a health-related idea eg. diabetes education or homelessness or gang violence. The cost is \$133. Will take place in April.
- Maria: DDI's Executive Director is moving over to the Chamber of Commerce. He will begin his new position on April 4th. We are now seeking another ED.

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- Loris: RP is offering free tax prep at EDCI every other Wed (Eng/Spanish) and Northgate on the other days. Also have property tax assistance for homeowners. This is something that City/County planning to expand.
- DCIA: is going to be doing a series on affordable housing and homelessness at our monthly meetings later this year. Already had expressions of interest on housing resources and opportunities for veterans in our community, and developments in the affordable housing transit campaign. I'd like to hear from folks about other aspects of affordable housing and homeless services in the community that congregations might be able to have an impact on this year, so if you have a particular facet/program/project that would be valuable for faith communities to connect with, let Spencer know!
- Valaria: in April, housing training. April is Fair Housing month. ABHC will be sponsoring April 5th fair housing training from City of Durham. NCJC Reasonable Accommodation on April 12th (?). April 26th is general info about SOAR. Open to all service providers and members of CEHD. Free, takes place at Durham County Human Services Building. To reserve a spot, call 919-651-8858.
- March 29: Orange County Project Connect
- April 26: Orange County DSS is sponsoring a large job fair
- March 1st: FNS at DSS (invitation-only job fair)

Olive adjourned the meeting at 11:37am.