

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • December 15, 2016, 10:00-11:30am

*Location: Families Moving Forward, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701*

**Attendance:** Angela Holmes (Homeless Services Advisory Committee), Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health Center), Courtney Millsap (DCRC), Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA), Jaylyn McLean (Healing with CAARE), Kat Reach (Families Moving Forward), Lorisa Seibel (Reinvestment Partners), Maria Morales Levy (DCRC), Mary Moore (Durham Tech), Melissa Oberrath (TFAHC), Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools), Olive Joyner (Housing for New Hope), Randy Oberrath (TFAHC), Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope), Roshanna Parker (Criminal Justice Resource Center), Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward), Spencer Bradford (DCIA), Valaria Brown (Alliance BHC)

**Janet convened the meeting at 10:05am**

**Valaria motioned to pass the November meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Melody, and passed.**

### **Library Closure / Drop-in Center Efforts**

- Two weeks ago, different organizations/partners gathered together, as well as folks from the downtown library. The library will be vacating on January 15.
  - 25-50 folks use the space during the day that are not going to have anywhere to spend their day.
  - We think those people might be experiencing homelessness—there's need for folks to have a space to go during the day.
  - At the gathering, the conversation focused on identifying a good space, primarily looking at county properties & local churches.
    - Trinity UMC doesn't have capacity to handle folks for long periods during the day. Problem was bathroom access. Don't have a way for the hallway with restrooms to be separate from the rest of the building. If folks were there all day long, they'd have access to the building, and they were concerned about security. But they're open to midday or afternoon program!
    - Looking at a couple of other spaces – eg. Nehemiah
  - What we're looking for: space to house 25-50 people during the day, warm, place to sit down, use the restroom, access to water
  - Hope is to eventually have some programming, but for now maybe just have some laptops/computers.
  - Q: Was Wellness City considered?
    - Yes, Wellness City is one of the options we'd like to open up to people, along with Sunrise Recovery Center
    - We also wanted to try to create a new space, because those spaces – while open to all – are geared towards those with mental illness/substance use. There might be triggers for some folks.
    - Having several partners opening their space would be good.
- Programming Discussions:
  - On HSAC, there was a presenter, Lillian Presley, who needed space for programming (spaghetti theater). Opportunities for talent- and story-sharing.

### **Unlocking Doors Update:**

- We have our first listings from a landlord!
- Could DHA pool the voucher resources, for multiple voucher-holders to be able to be roommates in a 3+ BR home? This will meet a huge need.

### **Looking back at 2016, the group shared collective reflections. What stood out from this year?**

- Ann: the opening of Goley Point
- Carolyn: partnership with Trinity's children's ministry music program
- Valaria: Unlocking Doors, Initiative: a moment for me to get all partners as involved and at the table with DHA as possible. Hopefully, under the new administration, new things will be opened and some positive changes will move forward!
- Melissa: We've been working with the homeless for a number of years now, and Carolyn had encouraged us to come to some of the meetings. This year has just been the experience of being with all of you, and being plugged into this.
- Randy: Out of all these relationships, we can accomplish something great in Durham. This year has been a lot of learning for us! And how to negotiate all the applications/paperwork.
- Melody: To see Durhamites work together to end homelessness has been overwhelming, and I appreciate having this chair at this table.
- Catherine: the opportunity to spend time with the kids
- Shana: open/inclusive community collaboration
- Lloyd: care reviews, and people working really hard to help those men get into housing. The fact that we housed 38 people on the homeless prioritization list, and at least 18 of them were identified as chronically homeless. That's 3+ people a month!
- Olive: Thankful for new Operations Director Rikki, and to be part of a collaborative team
- Carolyn: remembering the joy of housing somebody—and also the difficulty hearing from a homeless person that he was run over by a car. “Human beings sometimes are rude ... but they jolly well aren't a speed bump. So, just remember as we go into 2017, that we are making great progress, but there are people out there that feel like we think they're speedbumps. And humanity is important, even when we can't put them into housing.”
- Maria: admiration and encouragement for those on the front lines of housing/homelessness work!
- Janet: The ability to pick up the phone and call folks at this table, to lean on each other for support and knowledge.
- Lloyd: recognizing Durham's achievement of ending chronic homelessness among veterans.

### **2017 Officer Elections:**

- We opened the floor for nominations, and voted in:
  - Chair:
    - Valaria nominated **Sheldon Mitchell**, seconded by Spencer.
  - Vice Chair:

- Carolyn nominated **Catherine Pleil**, seconded by Ann.
- Secretary:
  - Janet nominated **Melody Marshall**, seconded by Ann.
- We have our officers for 2017! We ask that all of you would be supportive of the officers. If you know people who would add to our wealth of knowledge, please reach out to Sheldon, Catherine and Melody. This is *our* collective group, and it's our responsibility to participate! They're there to guide, lead and record for us, but we own this as a group! Hopefully at the end of 2017, we'll have even more success stories in our reflections, and be even closer to our goal.

### Agency Announcements:

- Spencer: Those of you receiving Emergency Food and Shelter Program (**EFSP**) funds this round should receive an email a couple of days ago that the national office is releasing those funds. Hopefully those will be arriving in bank accounts by the end of the week.
  - Reminder: if your banking account number has changed, which previously was receiving these direct deposits, let me know and you'll need to submit a new bank account form to the national office.
  - Background: ESFP is federal funds for crisis and poverty relief work, allocated each budget cycle by congress and distributed by the national United Way. Every community has a local board that allocates those out to providers of crisis financial assistance, homeless shelter/services, and food and hunger relief programs. Durham is getting \$124,000 this cycle to spend on those services, about half of which each year our local board allocates to homeless service providers with the remaining, and half going to hunger relief and emergency financial assistance in the community.
- Spencer: The **homeless memorial vigil** will take place on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00pm at the Farmers Market Pavilion (501 Foster St). We have confirmed almost all the ministers and faith community leaders who will be participating in that, and we'll be issuing more publicity today about the event. I emailed an electronic version of this out just before the meeting this morning, and we'll be following that with a Facebook post that you can share as well. For the programme, we have had 3 deceased homeless neighbors reported to us. You're very welcome to share more information about the event and attend.
- Lloyd: Our office is coordinating efforts to plan for the annual **Point-in-Time Count** of homeless people in Durham.
  - Background: Since 1999, Durham has conducted counts on an annual basis. Most of our shelter count is done through HMIS (our common database of people experiencing homelessness and accessing shelters).
    - Our unsheltered count takes more work; we're using a mobile app for cell phones and mobile devices to locate locations of people to be counted. We want to do the best we can to identify everybody who's living on the streets – Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>. We could use more leaders for sending out search teams. All search teams will be accompanied by a uniformed police officer to ensure their safety. If any of you are interested in serving as a team leader for that effort, we'd be grateful. We're pairing the PIT count with the **Project**

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**Homeless Connect** event the next morning, January 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am-12:00pm. That event will take place in the PNC Triangle Club in the Durham Athletic Ball Park. Specifically targeting unsheltered people living on the streets.

- If you hear about unsheltered families who might be living in a car, van or parking lot, we do want to make contact with them on the night of the count, so we're trying to do some outreach ahead of time.
- From what we can tell, Durham Rescue Mission is not interested in clarifying which of their beds are dedicated for use by homeless people, or in allowing volunteers to come in to interview people (as per CoC policy for PIT count process). But as long as they insist that all of their beds
- We negotiated heavily in 2-3 months leading up to the 2016 count, they would not entertain a conversation about a portion of their beds being dedicated for use by homeless people, or allowing
- In the last several years, RUMC has had an emergency shelter for extreme cold. They're not doing that this year because of volunteer issues.
- Antioch Baptist Church is planning to do this again this year. They will accept men and single women.
- Q: Is there an organized white flag effort? A: The DRM sends out vans and they publicize that. They can also go to UMD.
- Olive will check with Mike Kelly and see if we can at least get bus passes to people at their camps, to see if they can get to downtown. Sometimes they decide to do that and aren't able to because they don't have a bus pass.

**Olive adjourned the meeting at 11:21am.**