

## **DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2015**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Durham County Human Services Building  
414 E. Main Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on the above date and time.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair John Bowman, Vice-Chair Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Secretary Stephanie Williams, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Edward Abdullah, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Michael Becketts, Director Durham County Social Services (DSS) – proxy for Commissioner Page, Meredith Daye, Development Director, Durham Housing Authority (DHA), Minnie Forte-Brown, Durham Public School (DPS) Board, Calleen Herbert, North Carolina Central University - proxy for Dr. Janice Harper, Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department, Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer, Reverend Warren Herndon, Angela Holmes, Michelle Jordan, Assistant for Community Relations, Continuing Education, Durham Technical Community College, Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly, Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian and Jason Wimmer Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD)

**Absent Committee Members:** County Commissioner Michael Page, and Latasha Wilson (SAVE).

**Excused Committee Members:** Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, City Manager Tom Bonfield, Dr. Janice Harper, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, University Programs, NCCU, Jackie Love, Durham Public Schools Homeless and at Risk Liaison and Fred Stoppelkamp, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)

**Staff Present:** Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler, Matthew Schnars, Administrative Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development) and Sheila Bullock, (Office of the City Clerk).

**Also Present:** Ed Boyte, Cleveland Mediation Center, Spencer Bradford, DCIA, Nigel Brown, Housing for New Hope (HNH), Ryan Fehrman, Genesis Home, Chantelle Fisher-Bourne, Darryl P. Hicklen, Healing with CAARE, Inc./USA Veterans Help, Patrice Nelson, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), Catherine Pleil, Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), Gretchen Senez, Housing for New Hope (HNH) and Janet Xico, Community Empowerment Fund (CEF).

**Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Bowman called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He also recognized new committee member Meredith Daye, Development Director, Durham Housing Authority and Calleen Herbert was sitting in for Dr. Janice Harper, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of University Programs at North Carolina Central University.

**Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – April 22, 2015**

**Motion by** Assistant County Manager Cummings seconded by Committee Member McCollers to approve the HSAC minutes of April 22, 2015 was unanimously approved at 3:13 p.m.

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### **Public Comment Period**

Committee Member Herndon shared comments regarding his recent trip to California as part of a delegation. While there, he visited 3 cities - one of the cities had approximately 300 to 500 individuals living homeless. Committee Member Herndon noted that at 9:00 p.m. the homeless individuals were allowed to put their tents up, however, by 6:00 a.m. the next morning when people are coming into the city, they are required to take their tents down. He commented that across the country there is a struggle but he wanted to share this information because according to Committee Herndon, he feels good about what the HSAC and others, who are concerned about homelessness and poverty, are doing here in Durham to make sure that support is continuously being offered to the individuals that they serve. Committee Member Herndon added that he wanted to applaud everyone for their work and leadership as they continue to serve the people they are serving.

### **Subject: Zero: 2016 Update**

Committee Members reviewed a chart included in their packets entitled “Chronically Homeless Veterans as of May 18, 2015”. Afterwards, Committee Member McCollers asked if the status was known for the three highest number of homeless days for the veterans indicated on the chart, such as whether these Veterans were honorably discharged or not.

Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Manager, Department of Community Development stated that they believe these individuals are residents at Urban Ministries of Durham. He asked Patrice Nelson, Urban Ministries of Durham, if she was aware of who they were by looking at their length of stay. Ms. Nelson responded she was not aware. Mr. Schmeidler commented that staff would bring information back to the next month’s meeting about the status of the individuals.

Committee Member Herndon noted that regarding the numbers, there are 10 this year. He wanted to know what the numbers were last year.

Mr. Schmeidler indicated that they have just started looking at the numbers on a monthly basis and staff can work on developing a report to show this information.

Assistant County Manager Cummings expressed his concern about making sure that something is being done in a coordinated way to assist the people listed on the chart. He commented that he hopes the people that are at 150 days or above are in some sort of program such as the Journey Program and added that just presenting the numbers and days is not helpful unless they are also going to go to the trouble of finding out what is being done. Assistant County Manager Cummings asked was it more effective to work with the people with 2, 12 and 17 days to get them stabilized and what is happening for the folks who are beyond and are they being fully case-managed.

Ms. Nelson noted that if the people are at Urban Ministries they do have a case manager and are working with the Veterans Administration (VA). However, it’s difficult to determine who the chart is referencing. Ms. Nelson stated that the people may have HUD VASH vouchers.

In response to Committee Member Herndon’s earlier question regarding last year’s numbers, Chair Bowman referenced the HSAC minutes of September 2014 and noted that there were 39 chronically homeless persons reported in CHIN as of September 18, 2014 and 72 homeless Veterans.

Additional discussion and comments followed regarding Veterans and the information contained in the chart.

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Mr. Schmeidler provided a review of the chart entitled “*Open Permanent Housing Units as of May 18, 2015*”. The chart showed the housing vacancies reflected in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as of May 18, 2015.

In response to Assistant County Manager Cummings’ question about what is happening with the HUD VASH Voucher, Committee Member Arledge pointed out she is not sure how the information on the chart is differentiated between families and individuals because the VA receives vouchers and they can be used by an individual or a family. She also pointed out that this data does not coincide with the VA’s data as far as how many vouchers are issued. She noted that they do not have that many vouchers available in Durham.

Mr. Schmeidler encouraged everyone to visit the website at <http://tabsoft.co/1QbrJrE> and look at the data visualizations and other information contained there.

#### **Subject: 2015-16 CoC & ESG Funding Priorities**

Committee Members were directed to a memo contained in their packets from Director Reginald Johnson, Department of Community Development. The memo outlined the department’s recommendations for the 2015-2016 CoC and ESG funding priorities.

Mr. Schmeidler reported the process for soliciting pre-applications has started for this year’s CoC cycle and pointed out that the process has started ahead of the actual release of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Staff anticipates the NOFA later in June or early July 2015.

**Motion** by Committee Member Herndon seconded by Committee Member Becketts to adopt staff’s recommendations for funding was approved at 3:34 p.m.

Committee Member Williams abstained from voting on this item.

#### **Subject: CoC Governance Charter – Presenter: Structure Subcommittee**

In keeping with requirements of the CoC Interim Rule, Coc’s must adopt a Governance Charter. The Structure Subcommittee presented a draft of the Durham Coc Governance Charter to the HSAC for their review in October 2014. At the April 2015 HSAC meeting a revised document was reviewed by HSAC members and a review of the draft in early May has been completed by Durham’s City Attorney to make sure it is aligned with the HSAC Interlocal Agreement.

Committee Member Tuttle noted that a few revisions had been made to the draft since the last HSAC meeting. He added that the HSAC would approve the Charter and then it would move forward to the full CoC for approval.

**Motion** by Committee Member Wimmer seconded by Committee Member McCollers to approve the CoC Governance Charter was approved at 3:40 p.m.

Committee Member Daye abstained from voting on this item.

#### **Subject: HIC & PIT Policy Draft**

The Performance Management Subcommittee submitted a draft policy to the HSAC concerning the Point in Time and Homeless Housing Inventory Count. Chair Bowman stated that this item would not

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be voted on at this meeting, however, he asked that members review it and be ready to vote at the June 2015 meeting.

#### **Subject: Charting New Paths out of Homelessness**

Gretchen Senez, (HNN) gave a power point presentation entitled “Chartering New Paths Out of Homelessness”. Her presentation provided new collaborative efforts of Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network, Durham Partnership for Children, Genesis Home, Housing for New Hope and Urban Ministries of Durham to realign their working relationships to create a more effective and efficient system for serving homeless families.

Ms. Senez announced that they received over \$200,000 from the United Way. Also, Ryan Fehrman, Genesis Home, reported that Genesis Home is in the process of merging with Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network. The agencies will be at the Genesis Home site and the name will be changed.

Committee Member Herndon asked if the collaborative effort would have a component that might connect with businesses to set up internships, possibly starting off as non-paid and then move to paid giving an opportunity to allow some form of self-sufficiency.

Ms. Senez explained the good thing about the group is that as much as they would like to do it all, they also know individually what each one does well. They want to focus their efforts on that but not to the exclusion of what’s needed by the community. She added although there are five organizations seated at the table, there are a lot of seats at the table where everyone can come together to produce suitable outcomes.

#### **Subject: Homeless Diversion**

Ed Boyt, Assistant Director for the Cleveland Mediation Center gave a presentation on “Closing the Front Door: Creating a Successful Diversion Program for Homeless Families”. He explained that diversion is a strategy that helps people determine if there is any other safe and appropriate place for them to stay other than a shelter. Discussions that followed the presentation included:

- Prevention
- Conflict resolution
- Matching assistance to the need
- Centralized intake
- Average house per households that are diverted
- Advocating for individuals making \$10,000 annually and having to pay about 30% of salary towards rent
- Is there a need for after care with divergent clients

#### **Subject: Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Bowman adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock  
Office of the City Clerk