

**DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FULL CONTINUUM OF CARE**

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

3:00 p.m.

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

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) Full Continuum of Care (CoC) met on the above date and time.

Committee Members Present: Chair Fred Stoppelkamp, Vice-Chair Angela Holmes, Secretary Charita McCollers, Linzie Atkins, Durham County Veteran Services Office, Angeloe Burch, Jr., Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Meredith Daye, Development Director, Durham Housing Authority (DHA), Calleen Herbert, Interim Director Department of Academic Community Services Learning Program at North Carolina Central University, Reverend Dr. Warren Herndon, Jennifer Jones, Adult Employment Program Coordinator, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly, Emanuel Kearney, Melody Marshall, Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison, Tracy Stone-Dino, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, Ve'ga Swepson, Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College, Tony Tosh, Prosperity Recovery Services and Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Excused Committee Members: City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield and Ellecia M. Thompson, Durham VA Medical Center.

Committee Members Absent: Director Michael Becketts, Durham County Social Services Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University.

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler (Department of Community Development) and Senior Executive Assistant Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk).

Also Present: Karen Barfield (St. Joseph's Episcopal Church); Sheldon Mitchell, Valerie Haywood (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)); Olive Joyner, Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope (HFNH)); Lisa Harloy, Shawn Miles (Indigo Consortium); Keishma James, Denita Johnson, Laura Punzell (Durham Housing Authority (DHA)); Tiana Terry, Shaina Gaines, Barbara Banazynski (Volunteers of America); Daniel Oladelo (Volunteers of America – Maple Court); Larry Partee (Former Homeless); Janet Xiao, Bri Marino (Community Empowerment Fund (CEF)); (Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward (FMF)); Alan Felton (Resurrection UMC); Gudren Parmer (Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center); Alma Davis, Shirrell Thomas (Durham Crisis Response Center (DCRC)); Darryl Hicklen (USA Veterans Help); Jess Brandes (CASA) and Rebecca Graves (TROSA)

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Stoppelkamp called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – November 16, 2016

Motion by Committee Member Karriker, seconded by Committee Member Marshall to approve the HSAC minutes of November 16, 2016 was approved unanimously at 3:06 p.m.

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Subject: Public Comment Period

No public comments were made at this time.

Chair Stoppelkamp reminded everyone of the HSAC goals and read them aloud.

Subject: Welcome New HSAC Members

Chair Stoppelkamp introduced the following new HSAC members: Angelo Burch, Durham County Business/Private Sector Representative, Tracy Stone-Dino, Alliance Behavioral Health Care and Ellecia Thompson, Durham VA Hospital. Ms. Stone-Dino and Ms. Ellecia Thompson were not in attendance at the time of introduction. HSAC members and staff introduced themselves and shared what organization they represented.

Subject: Homeless Housing Provider Presentations

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler, Community Development Department, explained that the Homeless Housing Provider presentations were intended to help the HSAC as well as the full CoC understand a little better who the organizations are. Providers were asked to give a brief overview describing their services offered to the community.

Presentations were given by the following providers:

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| ➤ Housing for New Hope | Olive Joyner, Executive Director |
| ➤ Urban Ministries of Durham | Shelton Mitchell, Director |
| ➤ TROSA | Rebecca Graves, Associate Director of Clinical Operations |
| ➤ Volunteers of America | Barbara Banazynski, President & CEO |
| ➤ Alliance Behavioral Healthcare | Tracy Stone-Dino |
| ➤ Durham Crisis Response Center | Shirrell Thomas |
| ➤ Development Ventures Inc. | Meredith Daye, DHA Development Director |
| ➤ USA Veterans Help | Darryl Hicklen, Program Director |
| ➤ Antioch Baptist Church
(Antioch Builds Community)
(Warm Heart Ministries) | Pam Karriker (on behalf of Michael Page) |
| ➤ Families Moving Forward | Ryan Fehrman, Executive Director |
| ➤ Durham Housing Authority | Denita Johnson, DHA Voucher Program Director |
| ➤ CASA | Jess Brandes |

Women's House of Hope and Healing with CAARE were unable to be at the meeting. In their absence Mr. Schmeidler provided a description of the services they offer. He also recognized St. Joseph Episcopal Church and their Director Karen Barfield for opening their doors to assist people when the weather is cold.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden stated it would be helpful if Mr. Schmeidler could get copies of the comments made by the providers during the presentation and distribute them to HSAC members.

Mr. Schmeidler pointed out there was information included in the handouts that gave a description of each organization. In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's request, he asked the representatives who presented to also make available copies of their notes for HSAC members.

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Subject: Q &A for Presentations

Committee Member Herndon applauded Mr. Schmeidler for coordinating the presentations and asked if there was a graph that shows the total number of beds that the organizations have in place and if the beds were similar to other beds that a similar city has? Mr. Schmeidler stated all of the beds reported during the Point-In-Time Count were beds dedicated as shelter for homeless people or for housing for formerly homeless people and are reported to HUD.

Committee Member Herndon also asked for a show of hands of all the providers that had units that are available to youth. In response to this request, only two providers raised their hands.

Committee Member Stone-Dino asked for clarity on whether Committee Member Herndon was referring to households with children or those that are 18 years and older and need housing.

Committee Member Herndon stated as the population grows, are services being offered for children or youth under 18 years old? Mr. Schmeidler responded that Durham does not currently have a shelter that is licensed, beyond the foster care placement, for unaccompanied youth.

Assistant County Manager Cummings wanted to know if there was an explicit goal at DHA or Goley Point to continue to work with those that are being touched by DHA to try and help them move forward.

Committee Member Daye explained that DHA partners with several agencies in the community to support their residents in gaining self-sufficiency and increasing their income as well as their job prospects. This effort allows people to transition out of affordable housing, via public housing or the Housing Choice Voucher program into more conventional housing.

Assistant County Manager Cummings stated it would be helpful for the HSAC to see data on how often the efforts are successful. He added it would also be good to see the data showing the success of folks who are transitioning out.

Committee Member Daye explained that the information can be collected on those people that DHA are working with as they transition through. However, once people transition out it is harder to continue the engagement with them. Per Committee Member Daye, DHA attempts to keep as much information on file as they can in case the person re-enters.

Based on information given by Alliance Behavioral Healthcare during their presentation regarding the number of homeless people in Durham, Mr. Larry Partee wanted to know if the number was a “guesstimate” or was it based on actual statistics. Committee Member Stone-Dino responded that her information was part of their report from 2014-2015. She added that the numbers were probably an approximation and they could fluctuate.

Mr. Schmeidler noted that the HMIS indicates over the last several years that there are about 1200 people annually entering the shelter. He added that the numbers currently don’t include people living on the streets or in the woods and the numbers also don’t include people at the Durham Rescue Mission.

Concerning the information given by the Durham Crisis Response Center (DCRC) that 58 people were turned away, Committee Member Atkins asked what was meant by the term “refused service.” Ms. Thomas explained that at the time people requested shelter, there were no beds available so DCRC would call other shelters in adjoining counties to help out.

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In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's question as to whether DCRC had a grants writer, Ms. Sherrill stated yes. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden expressed concern for the people that were turned away by DCRC and added that the organization had inadequate resources for the special group of people that they are trying to serve.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden commented that one of the things she noticed over the many years she has worked with homelessness in Durham is that our systems are set up so that it is very difficult for people to move out of homelessness. She added that those who work with governmental agencies need to look at their policies to make sure they are not part of the problem. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden commented that sometimes things are set up to keep people where they are instead of giving them hope so they can move to another level. In addition, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden noted that another thing she has noticed is sometimes it is good to avail ourselves to training to make sure that we don't have any of those "isms" in our system that are causing us to not be able to better serve our people. She went on to say if there are "isms" it is very important that they be confronted and that sometimes several stereotypes are a part of the homeless population. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden stated somehow we need to get through those stereotypes so we can better help the homeless population.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's comments, Ms. Joyner commented that one of the challenges for HFNH is once they get people into housing it is difficult to move people through housing and onto stable and safe housing that will eventually lead to some type of stability and independence. She believes that they have to approach case management differently to include behavioral changes and clinical case management.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden pointed out that most of the agencies have boards of directors and you need to be very careful on how people are placed in these positions because they can either make or break you. She commented that it is very important that the demographics be known for the agencies they are serving. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden added that this is Durham and they need to be fair and equitable in every way, especially folks who are directing the movement in the agencies.

Committee Member Marshall noted that regarding the presentations, there appeared to be some discrepancy in the numbers as it related to mental health services. She wanted to know if it was because the clinical providers were separate from Alliance Behavioral Healthcare.

Secretary McCollers pointed out that a person would have to know what mental health looks like in Durham County. She explained that for a person who is uninsured, services are very minimal and people have to qualify to get more intensive services. Secretary McCollers further noted that the mental health system is not adequately set up in a way where they can do the work that the people they serve actually need.

Committee Member Tosh asked what programs can be put in place to help people stop using drugs. Mr. Mitchell responded that UMD has a recovery program as a component that people can participate in. However, it is a challenge because the campus is open and the people have the resources to obtain the product. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that they try to work in partnership with the police to keep certain elements away from their population that they know is vulnerable to substance abuse.

Other providers briefly spoke about their organization's substance abuse programs.

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Regarding housing, Vice-Chair Holmes asked the providers what type of housing were they sending people to live in and are these houses passing code inspections.

Ms. Joyner responded that as part of HFNH's package for submitting to their funders they have to have a report of the inspection and if the housing does not pass they can't get it through. The inspections are done through Durham City inspectors.

In regards to the homeless, Ms. Barfield stated that St. Joseph Episcopal Church's primary goal is to build relationships with their homeless neighbors. St. Joseph is not a feeding or a housing ministry, however, the church does offer breakfast Monday through Friday. Ms. Barfield added that when the temperature goes below freezing at night the church tries to open their Parish Hall and let people come in and sleep but they do try to limit the number of people to 12 or 15. Ms. Barfield has written a grant that will allow the church to connect even more with the homeless to get them partnered with the appropriate resources.

Chair Stoppelkamp personally thanked all of the providers for their presentations and all of the work they are doing. He announced to the HSAC that all of the providers will be part of the Coordinated Intake process.

Subject: Reminders

Mr. Schmeidler announced, as a reminder, that the Homeless Memorial Day Service would be held Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Durham Farmer's Market in Durham Central Park.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, on behalf of Mayor Bell and the Durham City Council, thanked everyone who had worked on the HSAC the past year. She wished everyone a glorious and joyous Christmas or whatever holiday they celebrated and the best New Year ever. She asked that everyone stay engaged with their government. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden also reminded everyone that they have a purpose for being here and that is to help somebody and then their living would not be in vain.

Committee Member Herndon, referencing one of the HSAC goals to "prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020," stated as they move forward they should also start gathering data on run-away youth under the age of 18.

The next HSAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Stoppelkamp also wished everyone happy holidays.

Subject: Adjourn

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, seconded by Committee Member Herndon to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Stoppelkamp adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sheila Bullock, Senior Executive Assistant, Office of the City Clerk