

**DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
&
COUNCIL TO END HOMELESSNESS IN DURHAM
JOINT MEETING OF THE DURHAM CONTINUUM OF CARE**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

3:00 p.m.

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

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) and the Council to End Homelessness in Durham (CEHD) held a joint meeting on the above date and time.

Committee Members Present: Vice-Chair Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Secretary Stephanie Williams, City Manager Tom Bonfield, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Edward Abdullah, Dr. Janice Harper, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, University Programs, NCCU, Angela Holmes, Pam Karriker Christian Assembly, Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Fred Stoppelkamp, DERC and Latasha Wilson SAVE.

Excused Committee Members: Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, Chair John Bowman, Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department; Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian and Jason Wimmer, OEWD.

Absent Committee Members: County Commissioner Michael Page, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Director Michael Becketts, Durham County Social Services, Minnie Forte-Brown, DPS School Board, Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer, Reverend Warren Herndon and Jackie Love, DPS Homeless and at Risk Liaison.

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

Also Present: Nigel Brown, Martha Friedman, Christopher Jackson, Gretchen Senez, Joi Stepney, Chris Rawlinson (Housing for New Hope (HNH), Pearlie Williams (NAMI Durham), Patrice Nelson, Maruka Rivers, Harley Baker (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), Brenda Tillman (Durham Housing Authority (DHA), Tiana Terry (Volunteers of America), Rosemary Booth (Duke LATCH Program), LaToya Flager (USA Veterans Help), Serena Wilson (LCHC- HCH Clinic), Darryl P. Hicklen (Healing with CAARE, Inc. / USA Veterans Help), Shawn M. Ross (Indigo Consortium), Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum (Healing with CAARE, Inc.) and Ashly Spikes, Nicole Meeks (DERC).

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Vice-Chair Webb-Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. and read aloud the goals of the HSAC.

Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – December 17, 2014

There were not enough HSAC members to constitute a quorum; therefore, Vice-Chair Webb-Bledsoe suspended approval of the December 17, 2014 minutes.

Subject: Public Comment Period

No public comments received at this time.

Subject: 2014 Durham Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) Summary

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler, Department of Community Development, led a discussion concerning the 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). He provided a power point presentation summarizing some highlights of the report.

After the discussion, Committee Member McCollers commented that the number of people leaving shelter situations and going into rooming houses is not tracked. She noted that going into a rooming house is still an unstable situation.

Maruka Rivers, (UMD) pointed out that in CHIN and for HUD if a person is paying rent to a landlord, even if it is a rooming house, it would be considered permanent housing. Therefore, those numbers are included in the permanent housing count.

Tiana Terry, (Volunteers of America) commented that with her organization, persons in rooming houses are required to have a lease. She noted that the lease provides for a more permanent situation so that people just won't be put out in 30 days. Volunteers of America consider the rooming houses to be permanent housing.

Committee Member Abdullah asked if there were people within the network who could assist someone transitioning from a shelter into a rooming house and help with tracking the data.

Mr. Schmeidler stated that rooming houses are welcome to use CHIN. He explained the CHIN system is intended to be used by programs that have housing dedicated for use by homeless individuals.

The AHAR report is available in its entirety on durhamopeningdoors.org.

Subject: Homeless Housing System Capacity and Definitions

Project Manager Matt Schnars, Department of Community Development, gave a simplified explanation of the homeless housing bed inventory, focusing on how the system works and how people who are being served are counted. The presentation highlighted topics such as category housing types, homeless programs, bed capacity and eligibility criteria for housing.

Discussion and comments followed concerning community resources, occupancy status of the 463 units referenced in Mr. Schnars presentation, waiting lists, turn-over rate for housing units and housing inventory.

Mr. Schmeidler noted that there is more turn over with the rapid re-housing and supportive services for Veteran families programs. He added that these are short-term rent assistance programs. However, with the Permanent Supportive Housing programs there is about a 10% turn over per year.

Subject: ZERO: 2016

Mr. Schnars reminded Committee Members that one of the goals of the HSAC is to end Veterans homelessness by 2015. Currently, Phoenix, AZ, Salt Lake City, UT and New Orleans have announced the end to Veterans homelessness. ZERO: 2016 framework is a national effort, coordinated by the

group Community Solutions, to end Veterans Homelessness. Materials are available for use if the HSAC desires to use them.

Mr. Schnars gave a review of the ZERO: 2016 concept which included the definition and metrics on how to reach the goal of ending homelessness.

Additional discussion took place concerning the usage of the HUD VASH Vouchers, the availability of HUD VASH units and permanent housing placements of homeless Veterans.

In summary, Mr. Schnars asked if the HSAC wanted to adopt the ZERO: 2016 framework. If so, what would they need to do differently or what would they need to continue to do and expand on. He added that the framework suggests that monthly update progress reports also be done.

City Manager Bonfield wanted to know if there was anything out there that would make that difference that would change the numbers. Mr. Schnars stated there are HUD VASH vouchers that have not been used and additional HUD VASH vouchers have been issued to Durham. However, the Durham Housing Authority (DHA) and the Veterans Administration (VA) have the challenge of finding the landlords and coordinating getting Veterans into the apartments.

At the request of Director Reginald Johnson, Department of Community Development, Mr. Schnars elaborated more on how the challenges with landlords play a role.

Comments were made by Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum (Healing with CAARE, Inc.) regarding building relationships with landlords. She feels the conversations need to take place on a broader spectrum where there won't be just one solution. She added that each client is different and each landlord is different.

Committee Member McCollers pointed out that the Housing Results Team of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee has already started having this type of discussion concerning landlords. She noted that help is needed by housing partners of the rapid re-housing programs and that Section 8 needs help in locating landlords who are willing to house people. Hopefully, in 2015 the Housing Results Team will be inviting people to become a part of this discussion.

Mr. Schmeidler made additional comments about the need for Permanent Supportive Housing versus Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing as it relates to the scheduled unsheltered count.

City Manager Bonfield asked about how the metrics worked in reference to the Non-Veterans and families. A discussion about this followed.

Subject: Announcements

Mr. Schmeidler announced that former HSAC Member Pearlie Williams wanted everyone to be aware of the 37th Annual Legislative Breakfast on Mental Health entitled "N.C. Mental Health Care Crisis Discrimination and Solutions is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the Friday Center, UNC-Chapel Hill from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The registration and web information will be forwarded by Mr. Schmeidler to the CoC.

Reminders - Durham Point-in-Time Count – Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Vice-Chair Webb-Bledsoe adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock
Office of the City Clerk