

## **DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, October 28, 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 Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Vice-Chair Stephanie Williams, Secretary Fred Stoppelkamp, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, City Manager Tom Bonfield, Interim Deputy County Manager Drew Cummings, Development Director Meredith Daye, Durham Housing Authority (DHA), Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer, Calleen Herbert, North Carolina Central University, Dr. Warren Herndon, Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly and Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center.

**Committee Members Absent:** John Bowman, Minnie Forte-Brown, DPS School Board, Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison for DPS, Jackie Love, County Commissioner Michael Page (Michel Becketts proxy), Ve'ga Swepson, Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College and Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**Excused Committee Members:** Michael Becketts, Director Durham County Social Services (DSS) – proxy for Commissioner Page and Angela Holmes.

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

**Also Present:** Lisa Sorg (Bull City Rising); Sandra Lassiter (Stick & Stay Prevention); Seaira Hinnant (Housing for New Hope (HFNH)); Reverend Ernie Mills (Durham Rescue Mission (DRM)); Carolyn E. Horton (Healing With CAARE, Inc.); Patrice Nelson, Brian Gilmer (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)); Alma Davis, Aurelia Sands Belle, Joi Stepney (Durham Crisis Response Center (DCRC)); Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home) and Catherine Pliel (Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)).

### **Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Webb-Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. and read aloud the goals of the HSAC.

### **Subject: Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments made during this time.

### **Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – September 23, 2015**

**Motion** by City Manager Bonfield, seconded by Committee Member Herndon, to approve the HSAC minutes of September 23, 2015 was unanimously approved at 3:15 p.m.

Committee Member Herndon pointed out from the last HSAC meeting he had requested information on the number of individuals waiting to be placed into housing. He would like to receive this number and

## **2 Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee – October 28, 2015**

---

he commented that during the last discussion the number that was mentioned was between 2,000 and 2,500 or higher.

Committee Member Daye stated that she has referred Committee Member Herndon's question to the Durham Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Director and the Public Housing Director. They will get this information to her and she will provide these numbers to Committee Member Herndon.

Committee Member Herndon added that he is looking to find some type of "yard stick" measurement on whether or not the request is indicative of the true picture of what's going on in Durham.

Project Manager Matt Schnars, Community Development Department, commented that only half of the waiting list is found to be actually eligible in the financial category of need.

### **Subject: Context for HUD CoC and Existing Shifting Process and Funding Priorities**

Mr. Schnars provided some background information and highlighted key areas for HSAC members concerning HUD's CoC and ESG shifting process and funding priorities.

### **Subject: HMIS By-Laws**

Draft HMIS By-Laws were presented to the HSAC during their September 2015 meeting. Staff recommends that the HSAC adopt the By-Laws as part of the Governance Charter. Mr. Schnars explained that The Collaborative Application requires a HMIS Governance Charter for By-Laws along with policies and procedures. HUD is requiring that the By-Laws be attached and submitted with the Collaborative Application. In doing so, Durham will receive two points on the Collaborative Application.

Regarding the HMIS By-Laws, Interim Deputy County Manager Cummings asked if staff felt there was anything that HSAC members should be concerned about or pay particular attention to.

Mr. Schnars commented that there is nothing contained in the By-Laws that would bind them to something that they are not already doing operationally.

As it relates to the HMIS By-Laws and the HSAC's meeting schedule, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden had a question concerning the schedule being moved from every month to every other month. Mr. Schnars noted that the By-Laws did not apply to HSAC's meetings but rather the meetings attended by staff.

**Motion** by Interim Deputy County Manager Cummings, seconded by Committee Member Karriker to approve the HMIS By-Laws as written was approved unanimously at 3:29 p.m.

### **Subject: CoC Prioritization Policy**

Mr. Schnars pointed out that HSAC members reviewed the CoC Prioritization Policy at its September 23, 2015 meeting. Per Mr. Schnars, HUD requires the CoC to establish prioritization standards. These standards must be attached to the CoC application as well in order to earn three points.

Comments were made by Interim Deputy County Manager Cummings regarding prioritization services and being strategic with limited resources. He pointed out that he had recently heard that Durham Housing Authority (DHA) had adopted a type of limited homeless preference which appears as if they

### 3 Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee – October 28, 2015

---

are taking a similar stance. He commended DHA and supports further conversations regarding this matter.

Interim Deputy County Manager Cummings added that “being smarter and more strategic with the money that we have is a good idea.”

**Motion** by City Manager Bonfield, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden to approve the CoC Prioritization Policy was approved unanimously at 3:34 p.m.

#### **Subject: State ESG Interim Policies**

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler, Community Development Department, informed Committee Members that an adoption of State ESG Interim Policies is needed by the HSAC. He explained that North Carolina is requesting copies of these policies be included in the State ESG Regional Application which is due by November 6, 2015.

Per Mr. Schmeidler, the recommendation of adopting the policies is on an emergency basis. He added hopefully it will allow for a successful State ESG Regional Application and to also bring approximately \$156,000 to the Durham Community for Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing assistance.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked if staff received help in shaping the policies. Mr. Schmeidler responded that they considered a number of different things and ended up consulting the Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) which serves 79 North Carolina counties. HSAC staff utilized BoS CoC’s policies as a template and made minor revisions to adjust the policy for Durham’s specific situations. The language is taken from the Assistance Policies of the BoS. These policies are available on NCCH website at NCCH.org.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden’s question regarding who headed up the BoS CoC, Mr. Schmeidler stated that the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness is the agency that provides staff to the BoS CoC. Denise Newmaker is the Executive Director.

**Motion** by Committee Member Karriker, seconded by Committee Member Herbert to approve the State ESG Interim Policies was approved unanimously at 3:41 p.m.

#### **Subject: 2015 State ESG Funding Approval**

Mr. Schmeidler presented the following summary from the 2015 State ESG Funding Approval process:

- The State of NC released materials for the Regional ESG funding on September 25, 2015.
- Press release was put out on September 29, 2015 or September 30, 2015 and distributed through the CoC e-mail list.
- October 16<sup>th</sup> - initial deadline for the submission of project applications. Two applications were received for some of the funds and since all of the funds were not being requested, the deadline was extended for an additional week to allow additional agencies to apply.
- Genesis Home and Housing for New hope were not interested in applying for funds this year.
- Applications for The Durham Crisis Response Center (DCRC) and Healing with CAARE were received by the extended deadline date.
- DCRC does not have a data base comparable to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Unfortunately, since they were not able to provide the kind of performance information requested in the application they are not being recommended for funding at this time.

#### 4 Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee – October 28, 2015

---

The Department of Community Development, with the support of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), recommends the following projects be approved for the State of North Carolina ESG funding:

- Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network      \$24,000 (Emergency Response/Shelter Operations)
- Healing with CAARE      \$65,467 (Housing Stabilization/Rapid Rehousing)
- Urban Ministries of Durham      \$66,557 (Housing Stabilization/Rapid Rehousing)

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden expressed her growing concern that the DCRC, a special agency, is not being able to get money through this funding. She stated that she would like to find out exactly what is expected from the DCRC because she needs to know. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden pointed out the DCRC even received technical assistance this time and they still were not able to receive funding. She wants to know what is it that this agency has to do to get this money for women or men who are fleeing abuse. She commented they have no problem with giving money to the same people over and over again and she would like to see some change. She noted that staff did not have to answer her questions because she plans to pose her questions to the City Manager. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden went on to say that they need to pay special attention and look at this matter carefully to make sure they are not putting the agency through “unnecessary hoops.”

In regards to the organizations that have been recommended to receive funding, Committee Member Herndon wanted to know how many years have they been supported.

Mr. Schmeidler responded that through the State ESG process he thinks the Durham Inter-Faith Hospitality Network (IHN) and Urban Ministries of Durham has been funded for maybe 12 years or longer. CAARE has been receiving Rapid Rehousing funding through the State ESG process for 3 or 4 years.

Interim Deputy County Manager Cummings agrees it would be great if they could continue to work with DCRC to assist them in reaching the point where their database and other things would make them eligible for this funding. He also feels that the proposed agencies are all high performing agencies and he thinks that they represent well and they are doing good work.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden commented that she did not mean to question anybody’s qualifications. However, she is worried about the DCRC who has been overlooked historically and something needs to be done. She added that the men and women in this organization need to be protected and not in the usual way.

Chair Webb-Bledsoe asked that whatever answer is found to the funding issues regarding the DCRC, that it be placed on the next HSAC meeting agenda for a follow-up.

**Motion** by Interim Deputy County Manager Cummings, seconded by Committee Member Herndon to approve staff recommendations for the 2015 State ESG Funding of projects was approved at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Subject: 2015 CoC Collaborative Application and Project Scoring and Ranking Approval**

Mr. Schnars gave some background and provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the 2015 CoC Collaborative Application and project scoring and ranking approval.

Mr. Schnars pointed out the pre-application process was a 100% objective process and not a subjective one. For the renewals, the Annual Performance Report (APR) was used. Points were given for the outcome areas contained in the APR.

## 5 Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee – October 28, 2015

---

Discussion followed concerning the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and their role in the scoring process.

Committee Member Herndon asked how they would know if they were reaching their HSAC goals. Mr. Schnars referred Committee Members to page 38, Section 3 of the CoC Application which talks about HUD's performance measures. He pointed out that they are doing well in some areas and not as well in others.

In reference to Committee Member Herndon's question, is it more "connecting the dots" or is it more resources that are needed in order to get to their goal faster and serve our community, Mr. Schnars responded that HUD has determined it is not more resources, especially with the Veterans. He also pointed out that HUD has determined there is enough money to end Veterans homelessness and they know there is a need for more funding for the chronic homeless. There is also a need for better organization of the community's resources.

Committee Member Herndon, noted again from his previous statement in the last HSAC meeting, Durham is a community of "haves and have not" and they should continue to work to ensure that they connect the dots.

Vice-Chair Williams commented that Alliance has fallen on the Straddle. She pointed out that the whole scoring process was objective but Alliance has always used the Housing First model. They do not require income to get into their program; therefore, they did not receive the maximum amount of points for that category which hurt them in the application process. However, this is the process that they use for their chronically homeless individuals as well as their families. Vice-Chair Williams voiced her concern that if Alliance is in the Tier 2, they could lose funding which would displace 13 households. She is also concerned that the people that they serve who have mental illness may not be funded again.

In reference to the Veterans issue, Committee Member McCollers asked if HUD was having any conversation about dishonorably discharged Veterans. She feels that some of the numbers are being impacted by people who do not qualify for some of the housing options because of their discharge status.

Mr. Schmeidler commented about Committee Member Herndon's question regarding addressing chronic homeless. He feels that one opportunity for the community and the CoC is to take advantage of the referral process that DHA is implementing for the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

In responding to Committee Member McCollers' question about dishonorably discharge Veterans, Mr. Schmeidler stated that HUD is aware of this issue and they are encouraging CoCs to use other CoC resources to address the needs of those Veterans who do not qualify for VA benefits.

Committee Member McCollers wanted to know if there was a preference built into the system, to which Mr. Schmeidler responded, not at this time. He noted that through the Mayor's Challenge, there is that preference but the community has not formally adopted a process.

Committee Member McCollers pointed that the VI-SPDAT scores of some people are not high enough and therefore they are not being pulled in. She feels there should be some type of plan to help these individuals.

## **6 Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee – October 28, 2015**

---

Mr. Schnars explained they are working on the “Mayor’s Challenge” with the Veterans Administration, Durham County and all of the Veterans Providers. They have been making a great deal of progress and he will share this information at a later meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked if the Greensboro office approves the CoC Collaborative Application and Project Scoring and Ranking. Mr. Schnars answered no and added it goes directly to HUD in DC. She asked if HUD gets recommendation from Greensboro. Mr. Schnars responded no.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden stated that there is something about this process that does not include equity. She added that something is not quite right when there are so many other agencies.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden is requesting that HSAC staff prepare a report sharing what action has been taken regarding the Mayor’s Challenge.

**Motion** by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Committee Member McCollers to approve the 2015 CoC Collaborative Application and Project Scoring and Ranking Approval was approved at 4:32 p.m. (Abstained: Secretary Stephanie Williams / Nays: Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden)

It was noted that Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden voted nay on this item in reference to the process.

### **Subject: Reminders/Announcement**

Chair Webb-Bledsoe announced there are two vacancies on the HSAC. One is for the category of “Homeless” and the other is for the category of “Professional and Business.”

The Executive Group will be meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Member Herndon thanked everyone for all of the great work they are doing. He reminded everyone to please make sure Durham does not become a “haves” and a “have not city.”

Community Development Director Reginald Johnson thanked staff for their work and presentations. He also announced that the City of Durham received two awards at the N.C. Housing Finance Agency luncheon. One award received was in the homeownership category for The Bungalows at Southside and the other was for Denson Apartments that houses homeless Veterans. Mr. Johnson pointed out that of the four awards given; Durham was involved in two of them.

### **Subject: Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Webb-Bledsoe adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock  
Office of the City Clerk