

Council to End Homelessness in Durham • October 19, 2017, 2017 10:00-11:30am

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

Attendance: *Chairman Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries); Valerie Haywood (Urban Ministries); Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools); Olive Joyner (Housing For New Hope); Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health Center-HCH); D. Malik Kennedy (Duke University Police Department); Carolyn E. Hinton (Healing With CAARE); Ann Tropiano (Families Moving Forward); Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry); Leena Govindasamy (Volunteers of America); Darius Hunt (Volunteers of America); Justine McNair (FMF-Intern); Fred Stoppelkamp (Urban Ministries); Lorraine Wayneback (UMD-Intern); Dimamond Clinton (UMD-Intern); Valaria Brown (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham); Courtney Millsap (DCRC); Catherine Pleil (Families Moving Forward); Genna Cohen (LCHC-HCH)*

The meeting of the Council to End Homeless in Durham was called to order by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell with welcomes and introductions. Minutes and highlights from last month's meeting were reviewed with one grammatical correction. A motion to approve was offered by Catherine Pleil, seconded by Fred Stoppelkamp and approved by the body.

Sheldon then invited the body to review the discussion regarding the Focus Strategies Recommendations presented at the last meeting and encouraged the body to share thoughts and recommendations. The Governance Structure of the HSAC was offered for discussion to include strengths regarding our data-driven nature as well as challenges and concerns. Charita noted that Durham should continue to focus on the coordinated entry efforts to ensure that all persons experiencing homelessness in our community are connected to necessary resources. Program and System Strategies were reviewed to include coordinated entry/low barriers, system-wide shelter diversion, investment in RRH, connection of homeless system and affordable housing priorities, landlord recruitment and housing location services and expansion of HMIS participation and data quality.

Sheldon led the discussion and encouraged the body to brainstorm how to address concerns regarding the Coordinated Entry/Low Barrier. Highlights of the discussion included better methods to identify unserved individuals that aren't documented in HMIS; information for training for all DSS staff (as well as the public at large) regarding the coordinated intake process; informing the community on

the types of resources available and response for people not eligible for services do to residency. Olive Joyner also encouraged the body to acknowledge and consider the impact of the services of homeless people arriving from other counties and states. Malik Kennedy echoed Olive's concern to prioritize Durham's homeless population and our need to monitor the intake of homeless individuals that are not residents of our county. Lloyd Schmeidler then directed the conversation towards shelter diversion, emphasizing the encouragement of utilizing diversion resources that can keep individuals out of shelter. Conversations regarding diversion resources for homeless offenders, investment in rapid rehousing and appropriate diversion funding through review of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding was also offered.

When considering the recommendation for investment in Rapid Rehousing, Olive noted the significant issue that our community does not offer rapid rehousing for singles. The conversation also highlighted a need to identify and expand funding sources outside of ESG funding through advocacy—especially advocacy from CEHD providers. Landlord recruitment and housing location services was then discussed to include clarity of strategies to effectively utilize Housing Choice Vouchers. Olive noted that Housing for New Hope provides services to assist in locating housing for Voucher Holders and made recommendations that the system should better define the housing location service, itself, and consider the opportunity to apply for funding to provide that specific resource.

To address the expansion of HMIS participation and data quality, recommendation included capturing Street Outreach encounters, documenting aftercare services, and appropriate HMIS training and awareness for direct staff. It was also noted that Durham Rescue Mission continues to a pose concern regarding accurate count of homeless individuals counted in HMIS. Sheldon thanked the body for their active participation and rich discussion to support the Focus Strategies Recommendations.

Announcements:

Lloyd: Reminder of Bull City Fresh Start to prepare for –next planning meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 am.

-DHA approved changes to the administrative plan that indicate that 225 HCV referral opportunities will be given to the Durham CoC which will allow homeless housing providers that have housing inventory to make referral directly to DHA.

-Carolyn (Walk in Their Shoes)—Fundraiser November 4 at 9 am for Open Table Ministries—Soul Lite Park. Registration at Opentableministry.org

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell at 11:41 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melody Marshall
CEHD Secretary