

Council to End Homelessness in Durham
Families Moving Forward - February 15, 2018 Minutes

Attendance: Christine Yewawa, Yolanda Mainor, Lloyd Schmeidler, Sheldon Mitchell, Tasha Melvin, Janet Xiao, Casey Stanton, Rikki Gardner, Courtney Millsap, Andrea Mikesell, Melody Marshall, Spencer Bradford, JoAnn Moseley-Chambers. Sandra Lassister, Samantha Martin, Fred Stoppelkamp, Joyce Kicklen, Ann Tropiano, Doneicia Johnson, Catherine Pleil, Charita McCollers

The meeting was called to order with welcomes and introductions by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell who also shared regrets from Carolyn Schuldt, Vice Chair who couldn't be present today. Chairman Mitchell acknowledged that the snow in January led to the cancellation of last's month's meeting. Minutes from the December 2017 meeting were reviewed and highlights were shared along with encouragement for those in attendance to share good news and accomplishments throughout the year as opposed to only in December when we often reflect on the past year.

Review of December 2017 minutes – elections for CEHD officers were held and finalized. Sheldon Mitchell will continue as Chair, Carolyn Schuldt as Vice Chair and Ann Tropiano as Secretary.

Motion to approve December minutes made by Spencer Bradford and seconded by Janet Xiao.

1. Coordinated Entry Update - Lloyd Schmeidler---- Lloyd distributed copies of a summary of the interim performance standards for projects assisting people experiencing homelessness. He pointed out that the standards still need to be approved by HSAC later this spring. The document will be posted on Opening Doors website where all can view and comment on the documents beginning later this week. It is hoped that any amendments will be made prior to presenting to HSAC performance committee. A reminder that State ESG and Federal partners require communities to have written standards was issued. Lloyd further shared that it is desired that providers look at how existing practices align or not with the performance standards and question the need to make changes either to providers' standards or the CoC standards.

Lloyd further shared that the board approved coordinated entry procedures which are posted on the first page at www.durhamopeningdoors.org and all are encouraged to read them. Org Code consultant worked with community partners to get feedback prior to compiling the manual and recommends that this document continues to be reviewed and changed as needed and best reflects our community's needs and processes.

Lloyd shared that the basic principle is system wide prioritization of existing resources/services to those most in need based on assessment (Vi-SPDAT).

Lloyd further recommended that agencies:

- adopt policies and procedures,
- maintain low barrier to enrollment (no more than what primary funder requires),
- assure fair and equal access,
- facilitate appropriate safety planning (those fleeing violence—need to be a priority),
- create and share written eligibility standards,
- communicate vacancies; (it was suggested that improvement could be improved maybe by using HMIS system);

There was conversation about how HMIS could be more widely used among shelter, street outreach, and other community partners to link those in need to open shelter beds. It was suggested that direct providers need to work with individuals to gather the documentation needed for housing and to also obtain contact information such as email addresses, phone numbers, and a place where they can usually be located. Melody commented that when she has a family in need of shelter she reaches out directly to UMD and/or FMF. (The schools do not use HMIS).

Charita McCollers asked for Lloyd to remind the group that Durham Rescue Mission has chosen not to participate with CoC or the PIT. 2015 policy requires projects that say they have beds for homeless people to use HMIS or to allow community volunteers to access the people in the beds to verify use by homeless individuals; since DRM says no to both HMIS and allowing volunteers to count those served at DRM, the practical effect of this is that the beds at DRM cannot be used to verify homeless status or chronically homeless status per the CoC.

2. Janet Xiao gave an update about the Unlocking Doors Initiative and shared that the risk mitigation fund is fully live. She shared that thanks to funders, providers can engage with landlords using the fund as another tool to incentivize them to at least talk to us.

- Keren Nazario is the new contact for Housing Choice Vouchers at DHA
- key partner agreements were handed out with the reminder to have them signed and submitted-via mail or email; an ecopy is available on the Unlocking Doors website.
- reminder that anyone in the CoC can make referrals
- the risk mitigation funds covers VASH and HCV, potentially RRH; discussion still needs to happen and request was made to RRH programs to share their numbers with Opening Doors.
- the agreement that agencies must give to landlords was handed out. Funds can cover a maximum of \$2,000 to a landlord to prevent tenant from moving out; funds would cover damages to property above and beyond security deposit. Agreement gets emailed to Unlocking Doors email, or faxed or mailed to CEF attention Unlocking Doors.

3. Advocacy: Affordable Housing – Casey Stanton with Durham CAN shared an update on the county lots on E. Main St. Persistent and consistent organizing will help win.

- There is an online form for feedback for which the link will be sent out.
- There is a shared visioning meeting scheduled in March
- the promise is for 100% affordable housing on one site and up to 80% of the other site. \$35,000 and under income household--- City/county and private partnership
- the County commissioners vote in May
- it was suggested that CEHD could think about submitting recommendations, desires, needs, and what this group thinks is feasible.
- The question, “How do we start to engage the private sector on their practices?” was raised.
- Information will be sent to CEHD secretary who will disseminate it.

4. Point in Time Update – Lloyd Schmeidler

The PIT was held on January 24th. Most projects offering shelter are using HMIS and those who aren't were visited by trained volunteers. Projects using HMIS were asked to finalize their data by the end of next week/February 24, 2018. Reports are in HMIS and Agency Administrators can run reports for accuracy. DCD led teams out to conduct the count and had good community participation and stated that good information was gathered. The compiled results will be shared at 3 PM on March 28th at the Human Services complex in a 2nd floor conference room. An estimated number was not available to be shared.

5. Agency Announcements –

-Chefs for Change- Families Moving Forward is hosting the first of its 2018 fundraiser dinners on March 12th.

- Lloyd shared flyer for Toastmasters club for communication and leadership skills. He shared that the group meets at 12 noon at City Hall, that dues are \$100/year plus a one-time \$20 membership fee, and that attendance can be as often as one can make it. Lloyd also affirmed that the more one participates, the more one improves.

- Lloyd shared that a key conclusion from the 2017 Focus Strategies work after, “What if?” was asked, was that homelessness in Durham could be significantly impacted if Durham invested in Rapid Rehousing and Diversion.

-Lloyd shared that DCD expects to soon post for the position vacated by Matt Schnars.

-Volunteers of America serves female veterans with or without dependents and males with dependents. Flyers were handed out.

-UMD is hosting its Empty Bowls fundraiser on March 1st at the Marriott. 15 different restaurants with good soups and 1100 people are expected to attend. There are different levels of tickets available.

-Melody Marshall shared that the Department of Public Instruction selected Durham Public Schools' McKinney-Vento Coordinator and five other state coordinators to present at an upcoming institute on March 26 and 27th. They were chosen based on the success of their programs.

-Sheldon shared that Catherine Pleil and Ryan Fehrman from Families Moving Forward, Sheldon Mitchell from Urban Ministries and Laura Benson from Durham's Partnership for Children had the opportunity to present at a national conference in NYC. They were able to meet Melody Marshall's boss at the state level who spoke highly of Melody and Durham.

Please bring a friend or another stakeholder to our next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018