

Council to End Homelessness in Durham
April 19, 2018 Minutes

Attendance: Olive Joyner (Housing for New Hope), Randy Oberrath (Freedom of Hope Center), Justine McNair (Families Moving Forward), Sheldon Mitchell (UMD), Tasha Melvin (FMF), Rikki Gardner (HfNH), Andrea Mikesell (Durham Crisis Response Center), Ann Tropiano (FMF), Catherine Pleil (FMF), Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA), Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools), Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health Center), Psiyina Davis (Nehemiah Day Center), Samantha Martin (Housing for New Hope), Danielle Campbell (Families Moving Forward), Alisha Williams (Families Forward Forward), Spencer Bradford (Durham Congregations in Action), Carolyn Hinton (Healing with Caare),

The meeting was called to order with welcomes and introductions by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell. Minutes from the March 2018 meeting were reviewed. Ann noted that Spencer was in attendance. Motion to approve the amended March minutes was made by Randy Oberrath, seconded by Melody Marshall and unanimously approved.

1. Psiyina Davis gave an update on the status of Nehemiah Day Center and shared that they are still averaging 25 different people weekly. NDC offers computer use, bathrooms, dining tables, charging stations, and a new printer was donated. It was further reported that from September-February NDC partnered with StepUp and other providers (CEF, HfNH, DSS, VA, Legal Aid, ABHC, CAARE, etc.) to hold Lunch & Learn sessions including information, Q & As, and sponsored lunch for visitors/clients. There were an average of about 7 participants, some duplicate clients, and really good discussions were had. It was also reported that just yesterday, someone came back by to share that they got the job after NDC intervention.

Beginning in June, Lunch & Learns will start up again on the 4th Tuesday. Partners will be contacted to participate by giving a 5 minute or so talk to share their resources and services. CEHD members were encouraged to participate and/or continue to participate. It was also shared that NDC is partnering with the Dept. of Social Work at NCCU for interns to be able to help with assessments and walking one on one with people visiting NDC. Psiyina reinforced the need for us to encourage clients while honoring their time by letting them achieve their goals or complete a task in their own time.

Olive Joyner suggested that NDC reach out to Vocational Rehabilitation at (919) 560-6810 and worker Pickett-Williams was recommended. NDC will be open on M-F from 9 AM – 5 PM except for holidays, until the library reopens. It was also stated that the City and the County want input/feedback regarding what will happen and how we will incorporate a day center when the library re-opens.

2. Chairman Mitchell led a discussion and feedback session of the City recommendations regarding housing system priorities. He also noted that meetings of the HSAC and other community meetings have been attended by partners and CEHD members and it is important to continue to do so. The Family Collaborative had Mayor Schewel visit and he asked what is on providers' mind and asked for feedback from the providers' point of view regarding recommendations and the Focus Strategies report. Sheldon affirmed that some of the feedback housing providers gave was incorporated into the revised report and again reminded members and providers to continue to show up and speak out.

Sheldon again shared that one of the priorities is for Durham to develop a Coordinated Entry system for singles and reminded folks that we already have a coordinated intake system for families that includes a successful Diversion component that is not offered for singles. He then shared that the community is experiencing high rates of success diverting families (about half of those seen for Diversion) from the shelter and that the hope is to expand services to singles.

It was noted that there is not enough permanent supportive housing and that using RRH programs as an intervention may only be a short-term fix for these folks as the money will run out and they really need permanent supportive housing. Olive Joyner stated that the idea of expanding Diversion monies in Durham came up at a recent training led by OrgCode.

Ms. Hinton suggested that maybe CEHD ought to convene a subcommittee to write out procedures for Diversion. Charita mentioned that we need to ask Opening Doors to help folks who are homeless or at imminent risk and shared that DSS has funds separate from the one time per year. Charita also raised questions about gaps in the system and again mentioned the need for

CEHD to really look at the system to find the gaps (those being released from prison, sex offenders, very ill individuals here illegally that end up at UMD long-term due to not being eligible for resources. It was noted that doing this work with the family system will increase the likelihood for success with Coordinated Entry for singles.

Melody shared that there are 64 families in hotels who are not counted in the PIT and many others bouncing from couch to couch. Olive suggested a structure family reunification program and moving folks further outside of Durham with vouchers that are portable.

Andrea Mikesell reported that Opening Doors is out of funding until July 1st. She also shared a Philadelphia resource called Pathways to housing PA that is implementing the housing first model in creative ways.

It was again pointed out that DSS staff might benefit from re-training on the family homeless and HMIS systems. A request for CEHD to pursue a stronger commitment and more engagement from DSS was made. Sheldon agreed to contact Janene, the director of the DSS unit.

Charita encouraged folks with CoC membership to join HSAC work groups and reminded everyone to attend HSAC meetings which are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 3-4:30PM.

Sheldon initiated a conversation about outreach and both Olive, Randy, and Charita shared some needs and ideas which included: bridge monies to support folks for 9 months (after the 3 months of RRH expires) in hopes that they will stabilize, connecting folks with the Lincoln clinic if they do not have insurance, better utilizing CIT officers and the community paramedic group may be an idea, Randy mentioned the need for a hub where individuals can go when they are ready to be served and supported in a way that their move to permanent housing happens in a short enough time that they stay engaged in services. Additional ideas included: bridge housing where a provider holds the lease in their name, harm reduction housing for those not wanting to stop using, hiring a city outreach staff person to help with pre-screening before sending someone to Coordinated Entry—the suggestion was made to have many doors of access (no wrong door), Charita pointed out that the big door folks are connected to is HMIS and the By Name List and raised the question on how to get all partners access to HMIS. It was pointed out that ABHC, Lincoln, and Duke are all saying, “no” to using HMIS. It was further pointed out that other states have had success getting medical homes to sign on to HMIS systems.

3. Special election for Vice Chair--- Carolyn Shuldt sent regrets about having to resign from her role as Vice Chair of CEHD. Rikki Gardner from Housing for New Hope volunteered and was elected unanimously. The entire CEHD body voiced their appreciation to Rikki for taking on this role.

4. Agency Announcements/Updates

Wednesday is upcoming take back the night at NCCU and an upcoming lunch and learn; today at lunch they are hosting is a poster making session

UMD is working to beautify the shelter with \$0 budget and request for extra plants made; any donations are welcome.

Official CEHD “shout out” to Olive, Sheldon, and Psyina who continue to be strong advocates.

Melody shared that her office has limited funds for security deposits for rent and/or utilities.

Meeting adjourned---11:27 AM

Next Meeting Date: **Thursday, June 21, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Tropiano, CEHD Secretary