

Council to End Homelessness in Durham
March 15, 2018 Minutes

Attendance: Joyce Caesar (WakeUpReachUp), Olive Joyner (Housing for New Hope), Randy Oberrath (Freedom of Hope Center), Kevin Atkins (Fostering Wellness), Daniel Oladole (VoA-Maple Court), Justine McNair (Families Moving Forward), Valerie Haywood (Urban Ministries of Durham), Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham), Sheldon Mitchell (UMD), Tasha Melvin (FMF), Casey Stanton (Durham CAN), Rikki Gardner (HfNH), Andrea Mikesell (Durham Crisis Response Center), Ann Tropiano (FMF), Catherine Pleil (FMF), Syretta Hill (Step Up Durham), Catherine Cooper (Volunteers of America), Erica Wilkerson (Durham VA), Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools), Charita McCollers (Lincoln Community Health Center), Genna Cohen (LCHC), Darci Hinnant (CAARE)

The meeting was called to order with welcomes and introductions by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell. Minutes from the February 2018 meeting were reviewed. Lloyd noted a spelling correction for Joyce Hicklen's last name. Motion to approve the amended February minutes was made by Lloyd Schmeidler, seconded by Olive Joyner and unanimously approved.

1. Olive Joyner gave an update on the status of City Funding and shared that while the focus strategy outcomes and recommendations made by the consultants led to the original RFP, after challenges to that RFP and with the support of the Mayor and council members, that there will be an amendment allowing the City Department of Community Development to issue an RFP for \$100,000 for case management. It was iterated that this was not going to be for (shelter) Operations. Additionally, Catherine Pleil shared that the Mayor and Council asked for the specifics of how the city will be reducing the numbers of homeless persons. Chairman Mitchell also affirmed that the Mayor and Council are supportive of providing adequate resources to providers and gave a directive to (City) staff to make this happen.
2. Casey Stanton gave an update on downtown affordable housing projects and reminded those present that the DFI (Development Finance Initiative) public input sessions were held over the last month and that Durham Can and stakeholders met this past Tuesday to come up with "non-negotiables" for these downtown projects. She further shared that Anthony Scott from DHA was there to share needed information about DHA's plans for redevelopment of DHA properties. Casey further shared that while all parties desire affordable housing units, there are still no concrete plans for project-based vouchers or where relocated households will go.

Additionally, Casey stated that it is important to remember that not only are we focusing on the near future, but that we always need to be future generation focused. She shared that the focus is more about where downtown will be in 10 years. Casey observed that in listening sessions she has heard from poor, black women that, "downtown is no longer for us." She stressed that part of CAN's job is to tell the other side of the story (advocacy for Durhamites needing affordable housing) as developers consistently tell theirs. Casey stated that CAN hopes to share a written document of the non-negotiables and desires and further reported that while the City has a goal of 15% affordable housing along the transit corridor, that there currently is not a mechanism to assure that this happens. Casey reiterated that the focus is on housing and parking. She shared that in addition to some private sector support; First Presbyterian Church, St. Philips Episcopal Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, and Nehemiah Christian Center provide strong support to these efforts. Casey put out a call to CEHD members to attend meetings and share their perspectives, write letters to county commissioners and to ask county commissioners to reaffirm their commitment to having 60% affordable housing at the second site. Casey offered to work with individual agencies to help determine role in this and Catherine shared FMF's involvement in the organizing effort. CEHD as a group can also be part of the action.

Olive reminded us to remember to focus on the larger geographical area in addition to downtown Durham. CEHD members also agreed that economic just work dovetails with the affordable housing and transit work. Chairman Mitchell passed around a printout showing the lots with an architect's drawing.

CEHD secretary will email Casey's email and CAN's proposal, which may be in two separate emails, out to the group.

3. Catherine Pleil shared general information about Home Share Durham, which is a volunteer-led initiative which DCIA has taken on as their latest major project. It is intended to be one part of the multi-faceted answer to the affordable housing crisis. Home Share is an evidenced-based program that matches people with space in their homes with people who need housing. It is

targeting single or very small families of home seekers who are on the verge of homelessness or coming out of homelessness and who are at 30% of AMI. The rent amounts would likely be between \$250-\$350/month (30-40% of their income). All parties will complete the same basic questionnaire and engage in a formal match process. Criminal background checks would be run on all potential participants. Catherine further shared that the goal is ultimately to match 50 people/households each year. The written agreement will likely be month-to-month or for an agreed upon amount of time (not a long-term contract). A generous donor has pledged a \$5,000 match if the first \$5,000 can be raised by April 1, 2018 and about half has been raised. Catherine encouraged anyone interested to make a donation of any size. With \$10,000 in hand, a part-time case manager will be hired, hopefully in April.

4. Syretta Hill shared information and answered questions about Step-Up Durham, located at ReCity. Step-Up Durham started in September 2015 and has the goal of increasing participants' income. She said that their free high accountability employment training and placement program consists of 32 hours of soft-skills training and coaching. Statistics shared about participants: 60% are justice involved, 30% have housing instability and 32% are coming out of addiction. Eligibility Requirements include: 18 years of age and older, 90 days clean, 90 days free of DV, not on sex offender registry, and no pending criminal charges. Ms. Hill shared that the other component of StepUp is employer recruitment/job placement and that after graduation from the week long session, graduates are matched with an employment counselor.

There is an employment training session every three weeks and dates are posted on the website. For participant safety, locations are not.

Ms. Hill described Step 2 as being a 16 week curriculum focusing on personal development, financial education and career pathways. In addition, it was shared that StepUp continues to work on formalizing their underemployment workshop which is a 1:1 intervention based on client needs. Step 2 is open for clients of partner agencies and individuals do not have to complete Step 1 to sign up and participate in Step 2. Syretta also shared some statistics demonstrating StepUp Durham's success.

5. Agency Announcements/Updates
 - a. Lloyd- handed out a page outlining upcoming Coordinated Entry System Trainings. They will be both morning and afternoon sessions on April 5th and 6th in the Solid Waste Auditorium at the Community Development office building.
 - b. Lloyd shared that a pre-application workshop for the CoC 2018 homeless grants competition has been scheduled for April 9th at 2:00 PM at Community Development. An email announcement, from Lloyd, is forthcoming.
 - c. FMF's Chefs for Change dinner with Chef Charlie Deal has been rescheduled for March 26th and there are now a few tickets available.
 - d. The Durham CAN meeting is tonight on the second floor at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church from 6:30 – 8PM. The focus will be a mid-point check in regarding the listening sessions.
 - e. The End Hunger CROP Walk is scheduled for March 25th at 2:30 PM. Meet up at Duke Chapel
 - f. The Bread for Work Convention in Durham is on April 7th and Michael Becketts is the keynote speaker. spiritualpolitics.eventbrite.com for more information.

Meeting adjourned---10:15 AM

Next Meeting Date: **Thursday, April 19, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Tropicano, CEHD Secretary