

Council to End Homelessness in Durham

January 17, 2019 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Families Moving Forward, 300 N. Queen St

Attendance: Malcolm White (Alliance Health), Valaria Brown (HNN), Tasha Melvin (FMF), Sheldon Mitchell (UMD), Harvey Hinton III (HWC), Catherine Pleil (FMF), Rikki Gardner (HNN), Ann Tropiano (FMF), Donna Carrington (CEF), Liz Brown (CEF), Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA), Lloyd Schmeidler (DCD), Carolyn Schuldt (OTM), Melody Marshall (DPS), Patricia Johnson (DTCC), Candice Helton (FMF), Randy S. Oberrath (TFAHC), Psiyina Davis (Nehemiah Day Center), Andrea Mikesell (DCRC), Arkeba Barnes (FMF intern), John "JT" Tuong (FMF intern), Joyce Hicklen (CASA), Kat Wies (Alliance Health-ILI Housing), Candace Rashada (DTCC)

Welcome – Malcolm White, Alliance Health

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am with welcome and introductions by Chairman Malcolm White.

Review of December minutes – Malcolm White, Alliance Health

Malcolm asked members to review and approve the minutes from the December 2018 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Sheldon Mitchell (UMD) and seconded by Carolyn Schuldt (OTM).

Taxes Preparation and Financial Literacy – Liz Brown & Donna Carrington, Community Empowerment Fund (CEF)

Donna Carrington shared that CEF will staff tax clinics at their office location beginning January 29th. 4-5 advocates will be available each hour. Households with a maximum income of either \$76,000 (individual) or \$81,000 (2 adult HHs) can be served. CEF uses the Benefit Bank's system for filing taxes which allows for basic tax filings. For more extensive filings, CEF is working with VITA sites and will refer households who require additional assistance. For assistance, individuals should call CEF at 919-797-9233 and advocate will discuss review required documents needed to file taxes. Appointments are required with an advocate to get taxes filed. CEF will have flyers available for sharing. Please contact Donna Carrington (donnac@communityempowermentfund.org) for flyers.

Point In Time Count (PIT) & Bull City Fresh Start (BCFS) – Lloyd Schmeidler, DCD

Lloyd Schmeidler, Durham Community Development, provided an overview of the 2019 PIT & BCFS occurring the week of January 20th. The PIT is a one day census for all persons experiencing homelessness in Durham. BCFS is an event to inform and provide onsite services and support to individuals and households who are unsheltered. PIT will take place the evening of Wednesday, January 23rd. Volunteers are still needed to canvas Durham, beginning at 9 pm. Please arrive at the DBAP at 7:30 pm. Durham PD and paramedics will be on hand for support that evening. Volunteers can register by going to <https://sites.google.com/view/bullcityfreshstart/registration>. Update: respond to Lloyd's email on 1/17/19 if you still want to volunteer and have not registered. The volunteer training will take place on Tuesday, January 22nd at the Community Development office (807 E Main Street, Building 2, Suite 200), at 3 pm and 7 pm. 2-3 volunteers are also needed to complete a count the morning of Thursday, Jan. 24th at Urban Ministries during breakfast for unsheltered individuals not counted the night before. The PIT will be rescheduled for Friday, January 25th if there is inclement weather. Psiyina Davis offered Nehemiah Day Center's intern to complete interviews on the 24th of unsheltered guests coming to the Day Center that were not counted the previous night. There are no changes in how the interviews are being conducted but a new mobile app is being used.

Bull City Fresh Start is scheduled for the following day, Thursday, January 24th from 9 am - 12:30 pm and will take place in the PNC Athletic Club Durham at the Bulls Athletic Park. This event is for unsheltered individuals/households. Carolyn Schuldt requested a way for individuals to receive bus passes to get the ballpark. Sheldon Mitchell (UMD) offered bus passes for those coming to UMD the morning of the event. For questions, please contact Lloyd (lloyd.schmeidler@durhamnc.gov/919-560-4570 x 22267).

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) versus Point In Time Count (PIT) - Lloyd provided an overview of HIC and how families and individuals are counted. A Key Terms document (from the HIC/PIT Data Collection Notice) was passed out to members (attached). Lloyd encouraged members to review the full 46 page document accessible on the HUD Exchange site or by clicking the provided link (<https://bit.ly/2HjV9Zy>). The PIT collects data on unsheltered individuals and households, the HIC collects data on individuals/household residing in permanent supportive housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and permanent housing of formerly homeless indiv/hh. Data is collected through Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) for January 23rd for the HIC. This

count is required to receive federal housing dollars (approx. 1.8 million) for the Durham community. Current projects funded by the CoC and ESG are required to assist with data collection.

Harm Reduction Training – NC Harm Reduction Coalition

9:30am -12:30pm 2/22/19 @ Williams Sq. Apts (501 E. Carver St.)

Malcolm reminded members that a harm reduction training has been scheduled for CEHD members and essential staff. NC Harm Reduction Coalition will facilitate the training. Rikki Gardner (HNN) shared that the training will allow for 20 individuals to attend, at this time only 6 seats remain. The goal of the training is to provide providers and front line staff with effective methods of offering services to active substance users and maintaining their dignity. Staff will be better able to help users limit the risk and harm involved with drug use, while ensuring that adequate services are still being provided and not denied.

Malcolm reiterated the benefit of such a training for staff working with active substance users and the benefit for both the client and the agency. Lloyd supported statement reminding members of HUDs low barrier policy and the challenge on how to keep people safe using a harm reduction approach.

Malcolm provided an update on Homeless Services Advisory Committee's (HSACs) discussion around Durham's pending encampment policy. The HSAC board voted to table the approval of the policy until Feb. pending more information to make an informed decision from Hanaleah Hoberman (DCD) and feedback from members of HSAC. During the HSAC mtg. Haneleah offered to share the draft, Malcolm will send a copy to CEHD membership through Google Groups.

Training/Presentation Suggestions – CEHD

Malcolm opened the floor for members to offer suggestions on meeting topics and workshop ideas. Ideas suggested include: Resilience showing and discussion by Catherine Pleil (FMF); Racial Equity Training by Rikki Gardner (HNN); a discussion of how CoC works with local agencies to meet benchmarks by Rikki Gardner; an agency fair for various agency board members to attend to learn about different agencies represented through CEHD and HSAC by Lloyd; Community Support Teams (CST) definitions including housing support around Medicaid update presentation suggested by Kat Wies (ABHC-ILI). Malcolm concluded the discussion stating the executive committee will meet to determine what is possible and work with members around to table to get some of these on the agenda for 2019.

Agency Announcements

-Joyce Hicklen (CASA), provided an update on Carroll St. multifamily housing development. First phase will be complete in Spring 2021. To stay current on the development of this project please check out their website

[\(https://www.casanc.org/about/under-development/\)](https://www.casanc.org/about/under-development/).

-Carolyn Schuldt (OTM), announced Brass Bonanza family benefit event supporting Open Table Ministry. Sat. Feb., 2nd at 4 pm. It will be held at Trinity UMC 215 N. Church Street, Durham. (Flyer passed around).

-Sheldon Mitchell shared announcement regarding Nehemiah Day Center's upcoming Lunch & Learn being held Tues., Jan 22nd at 12 pm. (Flyer passed around).

-Valeria Brown announced HNN's fundraiser, selling socks. Please check out their website if interested in purchasing a pair of socks: <https://www.housingfornewhope.org/hnn-socks>.

- Andrea Mikesell (DCRC), announced they are currently suspending their transitional housing program for new applicants due to the government shutdown. She also shared that a new Executive Director, Kent Wallace-Meggs, has been hired.

-Patricia Johnson (DTCC) introduced herself and announced she will serve as the liaison between DSS and DTCC as the Education Navigator. She will provide support to adults receiving food and nutrition benefits to enroll in certification or degree programs. For more information, she can be contacted at johnsonp@durhamtech.edu.

-Malcolm White shared that Alliance Behavioral Health has change the name to Alliance Health and the home office is relocating to Perimeter Park - 5200 Paramount Parkway, Morrisville. Malcolm will send out a flyer with detailed information.

Motion made by Ann Tropiano (FMF), seconded by Sheldon Mitchell to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously. Chairman Malcolm White adjourned the meeting at 11:38 am.

Minutes submitted by Tasha Melvin (FMF), Secretary *Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019*