

## **Council to End Homelessness in Durham**

February 21, 2019 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Families Moving Forward, 300 N. Queen St

**Attendance:** Jwisha Langley (DCDSS), Tanya Sutton (UMD), Malcolm White (Alliance Health), Rikki Gardner (HNH), Mike Linton (Duke PD), Lloyd Schmeidler (DCD), Sheldon Mitchell (UMD), Ann Tropiano (FMF), Psiyina Davis (Nehemiah Day Center), Randy Oberrath (Freedom & Hope Center), Donna Carrington (CEF), Valaria Brown (HNH), Charita McCollers (LCHC), Joyce Hicklen (CASA), Kat Wies (Alliance Health), Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA), Tasha Melvin (FMF)

### **Welcome – Malcolm White, Alliance Health**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am with welcome and introductions by Chairman Malcolm White.

### **Review of January minutes – Malcolm White, Alliance Health**

The Chair asked members to review and approve the minutes from January 2019's meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Sheldon Mitchell (UMD) and seconded by Rikki Gardner (HNH)

### **Durham County Social Services: CIP & LIEAP – Jwisha Langley ([jlangley@dconc.gov](mailto:jlangley@dconc.gov))**

Jwisha Langley with Durham County DSS's Crisis Unit presented information to the membership regarding two energy assistance programs. Brochures for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and Crisis Intervention Prevention Program (CIP) were distributed.

#### **LIEAP Overview**

Durham County residents can apply for assistance towards energy bills (Duke Energy or Progress Energy) by applying at Durham Social Services. This income based program provides assistance for heating and cooling. This is a walk-in only service, DSS does not offer appointments. Eligibility includes: Head of Household has energy bill in his/her/their name, household is not facing disconnection, US citizen, and meet income requirements. To apply, applicants must have valid photo ID, verification of social security, date of birth and verification of income (at least one month's worth of paystubs if employed). Applicants may qualify for financial assistance of \$200 to \$400 depending on household size and income. Durham DSS will submit payment directly to the company, crediting the applicant's account. Clients will be approved at the time of their visit to DSS. This program runs through March 31st.

#### **CIP Program - Crisis Intervention Program Overview**

This program helps Durham residents facing disconnections with energy bills. To receive services, residents should make an appointment, can also do walk-in appointments as well between 7:45 am -3:45 pm. Residents may call 919-560-8000 to schedule appointments. Eligibility includes: Head of Household has energy bill in his/her/their name, household is currently facing disconnection, US citizen, and meets income requirements. To apply, applicants must have valid photo ID, verification of social security, date of birth and utility bill showing how much is owed to avoid disconnection. Residents are allowed up to \$600.00 per fiscal year of assistance. Assistance for heating starts in November and runs through April, cooling assistance starts in April and runs through September.

### **NextGen Employment Program– Crystal Taylor**

The presenter had a conflict in schedule and will reschedule to present at a later date.

### **Bull City Fresh Start Recap – Lloyd Schmeidler, DCD**

Lloyd provided an overview of Bull City Fresh Start 2019's purpose and goals. For more information please click link: (<https://sites.google.com/view/bullcityfreshstart/home>). A recap of this year's event followed. Between 15-16 teams canvassed downtown Durham and other known areas where unsheltered individuals are known to be. Despite best efforts, many surveys were not completed using the mobile app the night of the count. Final numbers are still being counted for unsheltered and sheltered individuals the night of Wednesday, January 23rd. This year's Connect Event was scheduled for Thursday, January 24th, at the PNC Triangle Club at Durham Bulls Athletic Park. Highlights from this year's event include: there were at least 110 participants (39 women, 71 men), 29 identified themselves as unsheltered, 14 of the unsheltered indicated they were interviewed the previous night, at least 8 veterans were served. An onsite mobile shower was available for participants this year. Other onsite services include: massage therapists, employment and shelter assistance, legal aid, vision screenings, HIV testing, dental care, and more.

Rikki Gardner shared that canvassing went really well, they encountered 5 people who were unsheltered and they had been reached out to previously. It was also shared that during the actual count they had trouble using the mobile app. She stated that she would appreciate having a recap meeting where those who participated could give feedback to make sure the app is better or the tutorial and a testing phase is allowed.

Lloyd urged all RRH projects to attend the event to help ensure all individuals are screened. Rikki and Valaria Brown stated there were several RRH programs in attendance, however they are limited in what they can do due to limited staff and the inability to fully verify someone. A recommendation was made by Charita McCollers that unsheltered individuals should have the ability to be assigned to a project or service to expedite the process. It was also mentioned that she would like to know how someone that received legal services that day can find out about the status of their case. Members encouraged her to reach out to the District Attorney or judge that provided service that day. Lloyd stated that he will share the results of the Point-in-Time count with HSAC and CoC board at March 27th mtg. He will also let everyone one know when a meeting has been scheduled to review this year's event.

### **UMD's Rapid Re-Housing Project - Tonya McCoy-Sutton, Clinical Case Manager for Fresh Start RRH**

Tonya McCoy-Sutton provided an update on Fresh Start RRH, a program operating out of Urban Ministries of Durham. This federal program supports chronically homeless individuals, providing support with rental deposits, rent, and utilities. In 2018, Fresh Start helped to house 22 people; there were 19 singles and 3 house mate matches. The average rental assistance provided was \$1600.00 with an average monthly rent payment of \$625.00. To date, 95% of those served are still housed. Some of the challenges include: trying to establish relationships with landlords and keeping those relationships secure, existing evictions preventing someone from securing housing, little to no income, poor credit and criminal records. Tonya stated that she has been successful due to the relationships she establishes with landlords, housemate matching, and aftercare follow-up for at least one year. She currently has a waitlist and uses the prioritization list to receive referrals. For more information she can be reached at 919-682-0538 ext. 247 or [tmsutton@umdurham.org](mailto:tmsutton@umdurham.org).

### **Agency Announcements**

- Joyce Hicklen- CASA just completed renovations of MapleWood for 38 units, pre-leased but still encourage people to get clients to apply so they are on the waitlist. all units are one bedroom. Lloyd mentioned that 2 of the units at Maple Wood are reserved for formerly chronically homeless individuals
- Lloyd shared that Durham's CoC funding awards were announced, there is one new project awarded plus all renewal projects have been funded as well. RRH projects for survivors of domestic violence is the new project and DCRC will implement project \$154K
  - DCD 2019 the local process for 2019 funding a schedule will be similar to last year starting with pre-application process in April or May, new awards will have slightly larger amount this year
- Sheldon Mitchell announced that on March 7th Urban Ministries of Durham's 13th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser will take place from 6-8p. ([www.umdurham.org](http://www.umdurham.org)).
- At Malcolm's request, Lloyd mentioned Healthy Opportunities Pilot covering 4 areas: non medical, housing food transport, and interpersonal violence. Emily Carmody (NC Coalition to End Homelessness) is leading the effort on this project. A webinar is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 22nd. For more information please check out the link (<https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/SDOH-HealthyOpptys-FactSheet-FINAL-20181114.pdf>). The Request for Information deadline regarding submission cost of tenancy supports to NC DHHS is Friday, 3/15.
- Rikki reminded members of the upcoming Harm Reduction Training (501 E. Carver St.) on Feb. 22nd. There are only 2 seats available. To sign up, contact Rikki at [rikki@housingfornewhope.org](mailto:rikki@housingfornewhope.org).

Motion made by Ann Tropiano (FMF), seconded by Valaria Brown (HNH) to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously. Chairman Malcolm White adjourned the meeting at 11:29 am.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2019