

Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee
October 26, 2022 – 3:00 pm
Video Conference Call

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee met on the above date and time.

Committee Members Present:

Chair Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services)
Vice Chair Shae Kinard (City Corporate and Private Sector Representative)
Secretary Russell Pierce (County Nonprofit Sector Representative; Housing for New Hope)
Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/ Health Care for the Homeless)
Jonathan Crooms (Durham County Veterans Services)
Commissioner Heidi Carter (Durham County Commissioners Representative)
Natalie Beyer (School Board Representative: Durham Public Schools)
Calleen Herbert (North Carolina Central University Representative)
Tracy Stone-Dino (Mental Health/Substance Abuse Representative; Alliance Health)
Ebony Ross (McKinney-Vento Coordinator: Durham Public Schools)
Chris Toenes (City Nonprofit Representative; TROSA)
Vega Swepson (Community College System Representative: Durham Technical Community College)
Ellecia Thompson (Durham VA Medical Center)

Excused Committee Members:

Committee Members Absent:

Wanda Page (City Manager)
Janeen Gordon (Durham County Department of Social Services)
Shiesha Bell, (Youth Homelessness Representative: LifeSkills Foundation)
Angela Vick-Lewis (City Lived Experience Representative)
Mayor Pro Tem Mark-Anthony Middleton (City Council Representative)
Jenise Washington (City Faith Community Representative)
Renee Vaughan (County Faith Community Representative)

Staff Present:

Reginald Johnson, Director of Community Development
Colin Davis, Community Development Manager
Lloyd Schmeidler, Senior Community Development Analyst
Ruebe Holmes, Community Development Analyst
Melissa Hernandez, Homeless System Coordinator

COC Members Present:

Ryan Fehrman (NCCEH)
Danielle Butler (Triangle Apartment Assoc.)
Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope)
Tammy Laurence (Families Moving Forward)
Donna Carrington (Community Empowerment Fund)
Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministries)
Jerome Stevens (JTS Inc)
Drew Woten (Open Table Ministries)
Malcolm White (Alliance Health Plan)
Sally Wilson (Project Access)

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Also Present:

Julia Gamble
Princess Smith
Ryan Fehrman
Melva Henry
Joyce Caesar
Jason Williams
Star Dorsett
MaKayla Booker
Jesse Battle
Tim Wollin
Shanta Addison
Monique Hyman

Item 1: Call to Order and Housekeeping

- Chair Cpt. Helen Tripp called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Quorum was established
- Chair read the goals of the HSAC, and reviewed housekeeping rules. Chair also noted that minutes from prior meetings are still being prepared.

Item 2: Public Comments Period

- Julia Gamble asked that the HSAC to remember and honor June Onkundi, the nurse practitioner killed on-the-job at Freedom House Recovery Center earlier in the month. She noted the same individual also attacked a social worker at Duke Family Practice in 2019. Ms. Gamble noted that in both cases colleagues rushed to the aid of their colleagues in attempts to save their lives. It was noted the impact on other patients there at the time, especially as the center has temporarily closed to recover from the event. The HSAC was asked to write a letter honoring those working at Freedom House as well as the memory of Ms. Onkundi.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

Presented by Chair, Cpt. Helen Tripp

- Minutes for June 2022 and August 2022 were distributed in advance of the meeting.
- **Ellecia Thompson moved approval of the minutes with Shae Kinard seconding the motion. Motion was approved with one abstention: Jonathon Crooms**

Item 4: Executive Committee Quarterly Report

Presented by Chair, Cpt. Helen Tripp

- Creates an agenda each month
- Works to provide information so HSAC members can make informed decisions
- Works to identify partners who can contribute to the knowledge of HSAC members
- Works to complete the officers' slate

Item 5: CoC NOFO and NC ESG Funding Update

Presented by Lloyd Schmeidler, Staff

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- CoC Lead Agency submitted consolidated application for the annual CoC Homeless Grants competition on 9/29/22.
- CoC Lead Agency also submitted Regional Application for the State of North Carolina's Emergency Solutions Grants competition on 9/29/22.
- Staff provided an overview of what was applied for in each competition.

Item 6: CoC Special FOFO Funding Update

Presented by Lloyd Schmeidler, Staff

- CoC Lead Agency submitted Consolidated Application for HUD's Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness on 10/19/22.
- Staff provided an overview of the application and local leveraging support.

Item 7: Call for New Standing Committee Members & CoC Liaisons

Presented by Chair, Cpt. Helen Tripp

- HSAC Members are invited to join either of our two committees. We especially need one more person on Policy and Planning.
- We are in need of one more CoC member to serve on Performance Management Committee.

Item 8: White Flag Update

Presented by Colin Davis, Staff

- We are transitioning to pre-pandemic levels of funding and pre-pandemic supports for white flag events.
- We will not be running a congregate shelter this year. We only be doing non-congregate white flag nights when the temperature is below 32 degrees.
- Open Table Ministries will be providing 15 rooms: 12 for singles with two people per room and three rooms for families. Families Moving Forward will supplement with space for three families when white flag is called.
- Notification for a white flag event will be sent by the CoC lead agency 48 hours in advance of the weather change.
- There will be a referral form with instructions that is submitted to Open Table Ministries.
- There was extensive discussion, prompted by concerns about having enough capacity to meet need. The result was a decision to gather a team to explore options for the future. It will relate to the Policy and Planning Committee.

Item 9: Solicitation of HSAC Discussion Topics

Presented by Chair, Cpt. Helen Tripp

- HSAC and COC Members were invited to help prioritize future discussion topics for the full HSAC meetings.
- Results included (in rank order of highest priority to lowest priority):
 - Gaps analysis and strategic planning
 - Role of CoC, Lead Agency, and Providers
 - Types of housing interventions/compare/contrast-how to use them
 - Low barrier shelter/best practices for projects, review/updates of written policies
 - HCVs/housing subsidies and what supportive services are available for each type
 - Harm reduction and trauma informed care and chronically homeless
 - Mobile clinic and community safety department
 - Review/updates of written policies

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- Mobile clinic and community safety department
- New drugs/substances
- Unsheltered info from the Special NOFO
- Additional topics were suggested including: reporting on impact and progress of the 2019 Affordable Housing Bond; homeless unaccompanied youth in Durham; and McKinney-Vento and homelessness in Durham Public Schools.
- The Executive Committee will work with the feedback and integrate in future HSAC meetings.

Announcements were called for by the Chair

With no further business, Ebony Ross made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charita McCollers. The motion passed and the meeting closed at 4:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Russell Pierce

Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee