

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Full CoC Meeting
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Virtual Conference Call

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

Committee Members Present:

Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center);
Vice-Chair Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham);
Secretary Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS));
Shiesha Bell (LIFE Skills Foundation);
Dr. Angeloe Burch (Durham County Homeless Subpopulation advocate);
Jonathan T. Crooms (Durham County Veteran Services Office – *Proxy for Lois Harvin-Ravin*);
Drew Cummings, (Chief of Staff, Durham County Manager’s Office);
Ryan Fehrman (Executive Director, Families Moving Forward);
Janeen Gordon (Assistant Director, Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*);
Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service);
Jovonia Lewis (Durham Public School Board of Education)
Eliza Mathew (Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs);
Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless);
Wanda Page (City of Durham City Manager’s Office);
Mayor Steve Schewel (*Proxy Amber Wade in attendance*)
Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare);
Vega Swepson (Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College);
Ebony Thomas (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison);
Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative, City of Durham/TROSA);
Renee Vaughan (Faith Community Representative);
Jasmin Young-Bradshaw (Durham Crisis Response Center)

Excused Committee Members:

Michael Best (Formerly Homeless representative);
Heidi Carter (Durham County Commissioner);
Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*);
Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham);
Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Staff Present:

Reginald Johnson, Community Development Director
Karen Lado, Community Development Assistant Director
Colin Davis, Community Development Manager
Lloyd Schmeidler, Senior Community Development Analyst
Hanaleah Hoberman, Senior Community Development Analyst
Ruebe Holmes, Community Development Coordinator

Also Present:

Terry Allebaugh (Durham);
Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward);
Donna Carrington (Community Empowerment Fund);
Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope);
Angela Holmes (former HSAC member);
Manuel Hyman (Alliance Health);
Richard Jones;
Debbie Long (Community Empowerment Fund);
Ashley McKenna (NC DHHS);
Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries of Durham);
Daniel Oladele (VOA Carolinas);
Kristi Page (Housing for New Hope);
Russell Pierce (Housing for New Hope);
Drew Pridgen (TROSAs);
Kate Gonzalez Redding (Reinvestment Partners);
Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry);
Hira Shah;
Karmisha Wallace (City of Durham);
Malcolm White (Alliance Health);
Sally Wilson (Project Access Durham);
Laressa Witt (Alliance Health);

Subject: Call to Order and Housekeeping

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. She thanked everyone for attending, read the goals of the HSAC aloud, and reviewed housekeeping rules.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

The minutes for February 24, 2021 meeting was reviewed. There were no corrections or additions.

Motion: Ebony Thomas

2nd: Drew Cummings

The motion passed with no nays or abstentions.

Subject: Public Comments Period

Ms. Angela Holmes, former HSAC member and past chair, spoke during the Public Comments period. She thanked the City of Durham and Open Table Ministry for supporting shelter for homeless during the winter months. She noted there were some “hiccups”, but it was an opportunity to learn and do better next time. She thanked Carolyn Schuldt for allowing her to work there and providing a space for fellow homeless citizens.

Subject: Welcome New Manager for City of Durham

Reginald Johnson introduced Wanda Page, the new City Manager for the City of Durham. In her role as City Manager, she is a permanent member of the HSAC and will be attending all future meetings. Ms. Page thanked Mr. Johnson for the introduction and said she was glad to be a part of the committee.

Subject: COVID Vaccine Discussion

Chair Thompson discussed that vaccines are in the community. We are working as a community to get vaccine information out to the public, our leaders, and our CoC as a whole. What needs do you see within your groups? We want to provide vaccines adequately and proficiently to the homeless persons in our community and the providers that work with them.

Colin Davis talked about plans for on-site COVID vaccines clinics at Holton Community Center, Carolina Duke Inn, and Williams Square over the next few days. The goal is to meet people where they are as much as possible.

Chair Thompson noted the VA is talking about “returning to normal”, “opening back up” and what that would look like. What do you believe is advantageous for our veterans and those we serve? How are you and your agencies encouraging vaccines? Do you have adequate information?

Shiesha Bell said Life Skills Foundation is working to debunk myths. All staff are in process or have completed getting their vaccinations. They are sharing their experiences. Will be transitioning back to being “in person”.

Richard Jones asked how we are getting to the homeless that are scattered around Durham, sleeping in the woods and things like that. Colin Davis said we are working with Street Outreach to work out the best way to manage this and how many are interested. Mr. Jones introduced himself as a formerly homeless veteran. He has started a ministry to help homeless with tents and supplies. He is aware of several locations/camps.

Chair Thompson said we would be glad to meet with him to discuss his concerns. She asked everyone to let us know their needs and how we can help encourage vaccines. Do we need to invite speakers to present data? Do we need people to provide their testimonies about their vaccine experiences? Let the Executive board or Community Development know your needs.

Subject: Policy/Planning Committee Quarterly Report

Charita McCollers presented the quarterly update for the Policy and Planning Committee. They have been working on

- Coordinated Entry Annual Report – March 15, 2021
- White Flag plan
 - Housing for New Hope and Urban Table Ministries supported housing at Carolina Duke Inn
 - Open Table Ministry provided space from January through March 31, 2021
- ESG-CV2 Funding

- Written standards per HUD requirements
 - To define changes needed for COVID response
 - Will be available for approval in an upcoming HSAC meeting
- Prioritization for the RFP
- RFP for eviction prevention and homeless prevention to assist the Department of Social Services with their work on that effort
- Rapid Rehousing system
 - Not focusing only on the most difficult but
 - Also working with lower barrier clients to help maximize the use of funds
- Formed a new subcommittee –
 - Coordinated Entry subcommittee
 - Starts meeting in April

Subject: Back @ Home Program Discussion

- Back @ Home requires coordinating housing through 211 rather than Durham’s coordinated entry process, Entry Point Durham.
- The state is holding approximately \$400,000 in funding from Housing for New Hope until they and the CoC are in compliance with using 211.
- If the CoC withdraws from Back @ Home, Housing for New Hope will receive the funding currently being held. Withdrawing from that program does not remove the funding that has already been approved.
- Voting is required for the CoC to withdraw from the Back @ Home program
 - Motion: Ryan Fehrman
 - 2nd: Charita McCollers
 - The motion passed with no nays or abstentions.

Subject: ERAP Presentation

Janeen Gordon, Asst. Director for Aging and Adult Services with the Durham Department of Social Services (DSS), presented information about the eviction crisis in Durham. She discussed the work DSS has done to address evictions and provide rental assistance before COVID and how additional funding after COVID has helped increase the available services.

The slide presentation is available on Durham Opening Doors and is included with these minutes. <https://www.durhamcoc.org/board-meetings.html>

Subject: ESG-CV2 Update

Colin Davis discussed the work supporting the ESG-CV2 RFP. People interested in applying for targeted homeless prevention following the ESG program should let him know of their interest.

The landlord engagement RFP that was originally funded by the City will be shifted to the ESG-CV2 funds for the next 12-18 months. Sixty percent of funds must be spent quickly by the end of March 2022. One hundred percent must be spent by September 2022.

Subject: HSAC Training and Technical Assistance

Chair Thompson announced this would be postponed until the next meeting in April. In the meantime, she encouraged HSAC and CoC members to consider any training needs they may have.

Subject: Announcements

Chair Thompson did not entertain announcements in the interest of time.

Subject: Adjourn

Chair Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Renee Vaughn

2nd: Charita McCollers

With no further business, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HT' with a stylized flourish.

Helen Tripp
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee