

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Full CoC Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
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));
Reverend Dr. B. Angeloe Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble);
Heidi Carter (Durham County Commissioner);
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);
Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service);
Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham);
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);
Mayor Steve Schewel (*City of Durham*)
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);
Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)

Excused Committee Members:

Meredith Daye, (Development Director, Durham Housing Authority);
Janeen Gordon (Assistant Director, Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*);
Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*);
Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation);

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Staff Present:

Community Development Director Reginald J. Johnson,
Community Development Assistant Director Karen Lado,

Community Development Manager Colin Davis,
Senior Community Development Analyst Lloyd Schmeidler,
Community Development Coordinator Ruebe Holmes.

Also Present:

Terry Allebaugh (Durham);
Shiesha Bell (LIFE Skills Foundation);
Leah Bergman (Bergman Rentals);
Harold Briscoe (Six:Eight Church)
Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward);
Donna Carrington (Community Empowerment Fund);
Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope);
Kate Gonzalez Redding (Reinvestment Partners);
Joyce Hicklen (CASA, Inc.);
Manuel Hyman (Alliance Health);
Debbie Long (Community Empowerment Fund);
Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries of Durham);
Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson (Open Table Ministry);
Russell Pierce (Housing for New Hope);
Drew Pridgen (TROSAs);
Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry);
Karmisha Wallace (City of Durham);
Malcolm White (Alliance Health);
Jason Williams (WAR4Life, We Are Ready for Life);
Sally Wilson (Project Access Durham);
Laressa Witt (Alliance Health)

Subject: Call to Order and Housekeeping

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. She thanked everyone for attending, read the goals of the HSAC aloud, and reviewed housekeeping rules.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

- Minutes for the October 28, 2020 meeting
 - Motion: Heidi Carter
 - 2nd: Ebony Thomas
 - No vote taken

- Minutes for the November 18, 2020 meeting
 - Motion: Jonathan Crooms
 - 2nd: Eliza Mathews
 - No vote taken

Subject: Performance Standards

The Performance Management Committee is recommending the satisfactory performance standard for CoC-funded permanent housing projects remain at the 65% level on the Performance Evaluation Tool. This recommendation is based on the challenges to housing faced during the current COVID crisis and will apply to fiscal year 2021 projects. Approval by the full CoC is required.

Motion: Committee member Dr. Angeloe Burch moved to keep the satisfactory performance standard for CoC-funded permanent housing projects at 65%.

Second: Committee member Calleen Herbert

Ayes – 19

Nays – 0

Abstentions – 0

The motion carried.

Subject: Public Comments Period

Leah Bergman, housing provider, spoke to the HSAC and CoC about the progress made in the community over the last four years. She thanked everyone for the work they have been doing and encouraged them to continue. Ms. Bergman expressed the need for data to support the work that is being done in the community to support housing and homeless services. She strongly urged continued funding for case management for supportive services as a way to keep persons housed and reduce the return to homelessness. Ms. Bergman also offered the services of her staff to provide wellness checks for residents when needed.

Staff member, Lloyd Schmeidler responded that the data requested should be available by 2nd quarter 2021 through the Longitudinal System Analysis the Community Development department is preparing for HUD.

Committee member Jonathan Crooms thanked Ms. Bergman for her comments and willingness to provide wellness checks.

Chair Thompson recognized City of Durham Mayor Steve Schewel and invited him to speak. He expressed his gratitude for all the work being done throughout the pandemic. He especially noted the eviction moratorium needs to continue. Chair Thompson invited him to discuss his plans for the upcoming year at the next HSAC meeting in January 2021. He agreed to attend.

Subject: White Flag Presentation

Russell Pierce, Housing for New Hope (HNH), presented information about current plans for White Flag nights.

Because of COVID, Urban Ministry is not able to accommodate overflow beds. Churches that had previously helped are not available. Durham Rescue Mission also has limited space.

Housing for New Hope Street Outreach is working to connect people to Carolina Duke Inn (CDI) on White Flag nights. There were seven nights in December as of this meeting. Durham Rescue Mission has been able to resume housing extra beds for White Flag. We are now able to accommodate 50 to 55 people per night.

Staff member Colin Davis noted Urban Ministries funding is paying for the rooms at CDI through state funding through the end of December. In January we will use ESG COVID White Flag funding to stand up a 90-day shelter from January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021 at Open Table Ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church. This will accommodate 20 people. On White Flag nights, an additional 20 people can be housed overnight at CDI.

Sheldon Mitchell, Urban Ministries of Durham, thanked Housing for New Hope and Community Development for the work that will provide rooms on White Flag nights. Commissioner Carter also expressed her thanks on behalf of the Durham County Commissioners for the hard work that went into making this work. She especially recognized Housing for New Hope for their work in this process.

Committee member Ryan Fehrman suggested providing funding for White Flag nights be added as a budget item to the City and County agendas next year. COVID funding will likely not be available for this purpose.

Subject: Policy and Planning Committee Quarterly Report: 2019-2020 Gaps Analysis Presentation

Committee members Calleen Herbert and Charita McCollers presented the 2019-2020 Gaps Analysis report to the CoC. Along with data from the City of Durham Community Development department, they used reports from Matthew Lanza, “Using Human-Centered Design to Improve Durham’s Homeless Services” and Ethan Rex, “Evaluating Permanent Supportive Housing in Durham”. This research is located on the CoC website at <https://www.durhamcoc.org/research.html>. The presentation will also be available on the website.

Significant findings include:

- A need for a consumer voice in developing system needs
- Common resource hubs and usage
- Challenges: access, literacy, technological savviness, theft
- Most persons homeless are black, single males
- Evictions are high among justice-involved persons and those with substance use problems
- Caseloads are large
- A need for a better “move-on” strategy

Implications for future research addressed each of these findings.

- Increased investment for supportive services
- Move-on strategy
- Mixed-use developments to include Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units
- Increase overall supply of PSH
- Staff training/communication and messaging
- Landlord engagement/Mediation-eviction prevention

Action Plan Items for 2021

- Involving consumer voice in system evaluation and recommendations into homeless plans
- Using a racial equity lens in the evaluation process
- Looking at highlighted sub-populations
 - Persons experiencing mental illness
 - Transition-aged youth

Discussion: Committee member Fehrman asked about the ideal caseload and noted the need for funding for supportive services. McCollers stated there is currently limited availability

and agreed there is a need for more services. There is limited support for people without insurance.

Staff member Lloyd Schmeidler provided the link for data from HUD about ideal case management ratios. <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Case-Management-Ratios.pdf>

Russell Pierce and Charita McCollers made other comments about definitions of PSH and case management. McCollers described the role of case managers in response to questions in the chat.

Terry Allebaugh suggested forming a focus group with two or three persons with lived experience to get the information needed to build a better human-centered design for Durham. McCollers advised they are working on including people from all ends of the homeless continuum to be sure they have a full understanding of the needs.

Subject: CoC Provider Presentations

Healthcare for the Homeless – Charita McCollers

- Started in 1989 at Urban Ministries of Durham
- Open Monday-Friday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Only Lincoln Community Health Center clinic (LCHC) with a reduced copay.
 - \$1.00 if they can verify homelessness
 - Do not decline care if they do not have the copay
 - Can access all LCHC services
- Can obtain medications more easily
- Case management is available as well as therapy and substance use counseling
- Weekly COVID testing
 - Wednesday, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- SOAR services available – assist with securing disability benefits
- Persons remain patients until they are stably housed for one year
 - 900 patients for one case manager (McCollers)
- Assist with obtaining food stamps, Medicaid
- Provide eviction mediation
- Serve as a liaison to help navigate community services
 - Assist with riding buses
 - Chaperone for medical services (e.g. colonoscopies, etc.)
- Will provide a flyer

Subject: Announcements

Ryan Fehrman asked about DHHS information about providing COVID vaccinations for guests and staff at emergency shelters. What should essential staff expect for timing or the process? Colin Davis said he has requested a meeting to determine the plans for handling this. McCollers said she will follow-up with LCHC as well.

Russell Pierce, HNH, received funding to buy furniture at cost for move-in supplies. He needs storage ideas. Email russ@housingfornewhope.org

Chair Thompson announced the 2020 Homeless Memorial Vigil online, Monday, December 21, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 6:20 pm. McCollers added this is the 30th anniversary of the National Homeless Person's Memorial Day. The national virtual event will be at 4:00 pm on December 21, 2020.

Committee member Jonathan Crooms announced an outreach event sponsored by the Winston-Salem VA Regional office on Monday, December 21, 2020 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. It will focus on benefits available to homeless veterans. He will email the flyer to Durham Opening Doors for those that are interested in joining this virtual event.

Committee member Calleen Herbert announced NC Central University wants to support organizations during the Martin Luther King "Week of Service". Please contact communityengagement@ncu.edu if you would like the campus to support a project.

Subject: Adjourn

Chair Thompson wished everyone a happy and safe holiday with loved ones, friends, and families. We will reconvene in January and Mayor Schewel will be joining us.

Motion to adjourn by Committee Member Charita McCollers, seconded by Committee Member Jonathan Crooms.

With no further business, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Tripp
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee