

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 18, 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);
Jovonia Lewis (Durham Public School Board of Education)
Eliza Mathew (Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs);
Wanda Page (Interim City Manager, City of Durham);
Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare);
Vega Swepson (Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College);
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*);
Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham);
Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless);
Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation);
Mayor Steve Schewel (*Proxy Amber Wade in attendance*)
Ebony Thomas (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison);

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);
Allie Card (VOA Carolinas);
Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward);
Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope);
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 (TROSA);
Hira Shah (Duke)
Jasmin Young-Bradshaw (Durham Crisis Response Center)

Subject: Call to Order and Housekeeping

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

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

Minutes for the October 28, 2020 meeting were not available for review.

Subject: Public Comments Period

No public comments

Chair Thompson shared the work of the Executive Committee to map out goals for the current year. She encouraged HSAC members and community agencies to continue helping with the HSAC mission. She recognized the great work already accomplished by this board and asked its members to continue pressing forward through the current pandemic with all the leadership skills and passion they possess for helping others.

At the request of Dr. Burch, Chair Thompson addressed his question about a cluster of COVID-19 at the VA and what the response is to address it. This includes options for increasing communication, transportation, housing, and more.

Subject: Executive Committee Quarterly Report

There was no report available.

Subject: 2019-2020 Gaps Analysis Presentation

For information only, the 2019-2020 report was not available.

Policy and Planning Gaps Analysis Subcommittee Chair, Calleen Herbert discussed work being done on the 2020-2021 Gaps Analysis. This report will focus on youth and mental health needs and will be completed by August 2021. They will be using the services of an intern and others who have expertise in these areas.

Subject: ESG-CV funds update

For information only, Community Development staff, Colin Davis, updated the current status of the discussions for allocating the second wave of ESG-CV funding and additional funding from the state after the first of the year 2021. There is approximately a 378% increase in City and State ESG funding that must be spent within 18 months. Conversations continue with community stakeholders to determine the best uses for these additional funds.

HSAC Board Member Commissioner Carter asked if there is more that elected officials should be doing. She especially addressed about the plan to manage cold nights. Davis asked Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries of Durham) to discuss plans to address White Flag nights. He discussed the funding currently available and plans across the community to handle this. Potential sites include Trinity United Methodist Church and Carolina Duke Inn.

Commissioner Carter also asked about a COVID positive congregant shelter. Davis discussed that there are limited options available because of needed staffing and locations are not comfortable housing persons who are COVID positive.

Subject: COVID Update

For information only, Community Development staff, Colin Davis, provided an update on COVID testing and future planning for congregant and non-congregant shelter.

Available shelter for COVID positive persons was recently used for an outbreak at Urban Ministries of Durham. The outbreak was managed well and there have been no new cases identified through testing.

White Flag nights will be managed differently due to COVID. Plans are still in process.

The Point in Time Count will change for 2021 to limit face-to-face interactions as much as possible. Details are still being developed.

An RFP is coming up to expand COVID positive housing capacity. The date has not yet been identified.

Subject: Announcements

Staff member Holmes explained how anyone who is not a CoC organizational member or HSAC member can get on the email list to receive CoC updates about HSAC meetings and meeting details. Go to <https://www.durhamcoc.org/> and complete the pop-up to sign up.

Staff member Schmeidler discussed the Homeless Memorial Day observance on December 21, 2020. It is a memorial for people who were homeless and have died in the past year. Details are pending on whether the observance this year will be virtual or a socially distanced gathering.

Subject: Adjourn

Chair Thompson invited Terry Allebaugh to speak before the meeting adjourned. He shared his thanks at the work everyone is doing to help those in our community who are struggling to have a place to sleep and/or with COVID.

Motion to adjourn by Committee Member Jonathan Crooms, seconded by Committee Member Calleen Herbert.

With no further business, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Tripp
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee