

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 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 Jonathan T. Crooms (Durham County Veteran Services Office – *Proxy for Lois Harvin-Ravin*); Vice-Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center); Secretary Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham); Thomas J. Bonfield (Durham City Manager); Reverend Dr. B. Angeloe Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); Heidi Carter (Durham County Commissioner); Xavier Cason (Durham Public Schools Board of Education); Drew Cummings, (Chief of Staff, Durham County Manager’s Office); Ryan Fehrman (Non-Profit Representative, Durham County/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); Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham); Eliza Mathew (Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs); Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless); Steve Schewel (Durham Mayor); 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); Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)); Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)

Excused Committee Members: Meredith Daye, (Development Director, Durham Housing Authority); Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation); Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*);

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 Hanaleah Hoberman, Senior Community Development Analyst Lloyd Schmeidler, Community Development Coordinator Ruebe Holmes.

Others Present: Shiesha Bell (Lifeskills Foundation); KC Buchanan (LGBTQ Center of Durham) Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward); Emily Carmody (North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness); Donna Carrington (Community Empowerment Fund); Taylor Davis (Durham Emergency Management); Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope); Valerie Haywood (Urban Ministries of Durham); Jovonia Lewis (Durham Public School Board of Education); Debbie Long (Community Empowerment Fund); Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries

of Durham); Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson (Open Table Ministry); Kristi Page (Housing for New Hope); Russell Pierce (Housing for New Hope).

Subject: Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Crooms called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending and read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

April and May HSAC Meeting Minutes – **Motion** by Committee Member Cummings, seconded by Committee Member Vick-Lewis to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subject: Public Comments Period

There were no public comments.

Subject: Acknowledgement of New & Leaving HSAC Members

Chair Crooms acknowledged new HSAC members Jovonia Lewis and Renee Vaughn. Committee Member Chris Toenes was reappointed to another term. He also acknowledged outgoing HSAC members Pam Karriker, Tony Tosh, Alma Davis, Angela Holmes, City Manager Tom Bonfield and Xavier Cason.

Subject: Executive Committee Quarterly Report

Chair Crooms announced that there would be an officer change and elections would be held in September for Secretary and Vice Chair. There are also several vacancies on Performance Management and a new chair for Performance Management was needed.

Subject: Impact of Covid-19 on Homelessness

Community Development Senior Analyst Hanaleah Hoberman gave a presentation on the impacts of Covid-19 on the Homeless system in Durham. Data showed a drastic uptick in the number of people experiencing homelessness. There was a 15% increase in persons served, 10% increase in singles served, and 25% increase in families served.

Findings-Exits

- The rate of permanent exits of people served went up slightly during Covid
- This finding holds across the system and includes singles and families
- The rate of exit for families went up the most
- While the improvement is small, it is particularly notable given the large increase in people served overall in the homeless system

Changes-Exits

- A new transparent and interactive By-Name-List was created
- The CoC began holding weekly rather than monthly By-Name-List meetings

- For the first time singles and families were discussed together in by-name-list meetings
- Non-veteran singles that were not chronically homeless or veterans were discussed in By-Name-List meetings for the first time

Specific Efforts

- Entry Point began referring directly to Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing
- The community came together to work to exit clients from the Marriott before the County's contract ended
- Rapid Impact Funds from NCCEH were deployed to overcome housing barriers
- Street Outreach capacity was returned to 2019 levels
- Non-congregate shelter was made available to singles and households without children

Subject: Covid-19 Response and Funding

Community Development Manager Colin Davis gave a presentation on the response to Covid-19 and the Funding made available to Durham.

Emergency Shelter Capacity

- Urban Ministries has returned to a physically/socially distanced shelter at their Liberty Street location
- 32 beds for single men (80 beds pre-COVID)
- 15 beds for single women (32 beds pre-COVID)
- 9 rooms for families (9 rooms pre-COVID)
- Carolina Duke Inn has 40 rooms available for medically vulnerable single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness – staffed by Urban Ministries/Project Access.
- Families Moving Forward will return to full capacity, 21 rooms for families, referrals will begin next week.

Isolation Duplexes/Hotel

- Two duplexes are available for up to 14 people experiencing homelessness who test positive for COVID-19 and need a place to recover.
- To date, hotel community not willing to rent rooms on an as needed basis for people who test positive for COVID-19 and are experiencing homelessness.
- City/County team still working on identifying a hotel based on potential funding from the state.

Moving Forward

- City ESG-COVID (City Entitlement Funds)
 - \$524,089 - Housing for New Hope for Rapid Re-Housing
 - \$78,294 - Project Access for emergency shelter support of medically vulnerable
- State ESG-COVID
 - \$329,655 - Emergency Shelter Operations to operate a second location and address increased costs
 - \$248,654 - Housing for New Hope for Rapid Re-Housing and part of Back@Home state wide initiative.
- Community Development's Homeless Team is currently working through the implementation of these projects.

Additional Capacity

- County is preparing to enter into a contract with Reinvestment Partners for 16 rooms at Carolina Duke Inn.
- Potential hotel for COVID + isolation.

- Potential additional funds for Eviction Prevention.

City ESG-COVID (Entitlement Funds) *Round 2*

- \$2,044,310 - How these funds and when these funds will be used have not been determined (hope to have long term lasting impact)

State ESG-COVID *Round 2*

- Amount unknown, timing for release is unknown
- Homeless Task Force is working with Emergency Management to maximize FEMA and HUD funds to help the most number of people in the most cost effective manner.

Subject: Performance Management Member Appointment

Chair Crooms announced that with the loss of several HSAC members due to term limits and resignations there were several vacancies on the Performance Management Standing Committee. New members are needed to be ready for the State ESG funding applications that will be looked at in September and need enough members to score the applications. There were several CoC Liaisons on the Committee and their voices were valuable to the work of the committee. Committee Member Xavier Cason is stepping down from HSAC and a new Chair would be needed. The new HSAC year would start in September. Chair Crooms offered to chair the Committee in the interim.

Motion by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member Tripp to add Committee Members Janeen Gordon, Charita McCollers and Chris Toenes to the Performance Management Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subject: CE Admin Role

Community Development Manager Colin Davis announced that North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness would no longer be the Coordinated Entry Administrator. They planned to end their role as CE Admin at the end of September and the duties would shift to Community Development. Emily Carmody of North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness stated that NCCEH would continue to serve as HMIS lead and they are helping to design field implementation and training for Back @ Home at the state level. Hanaleah Hoberman stated that since HSAC voted to make NCCEH the CE Admin there would need to be a vote to have the Community Development Department become the CE Admin.

Subject: Announcements

CoC Staff noted that the September HSAC meeting needed to be rescheduled to the fifth Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Motion by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member McCollers to move the September HSAC meeting to September 30, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subject: Adjourn

Motion by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member McCollers to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Crooms adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruebe Holmes
Community Development Coordinator
City of Durham, Community Development

Angela Vick-Lewis
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee