

## DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Durham County Human Services Building  
414 E. Main Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

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*); Durham City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield; Reverend Dr. B. Angelo Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); County Commissioner Heidi Carter; Xavier Cason (Durham Public School Board); Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff (Durham County Manager’s Office); Alma Davis (Durham Crisis Response Center – *Proxy for Kathy Hodges*); Ryan Fehrman (Non-Profit Representative, Durham County/Families Moving Forward); Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly); 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); Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Vega Swepson, Resource Specialist (Durham Technical Community College); Ebony Thompson (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison); Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative, City of Durham/TROSA); Tosh (Prosperity Recovery Services/Private Sector, City of Durham); Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)).

**Excused Committee Members:** Secretary Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham); Janeen Gordon (Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*); Angela Holmes (Former Homeless Representative for Durham County); Mayor Steve Schewel; Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)

**Committee Members Absent:** Vice-Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center); Meredith Daye, Development Director (Durham Housing Authority); Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*); Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service); Kathy Hodges, Durham Crisis Response Center (*Proxy Alma Davis in attendance*); Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

**Staff Present:** Community Development Manager Colin Davis, Project Manager II Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II Lloyd Schmeidler, Community Development Coordinator Ruebe Holmes, Assistant City Clerk Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk) and Deputy Clerk Macio Carlton (County Clerk to the Board Office).

**Also Present:** Spencer Bradford (Durham Congregations In Action), Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward), Donna Carrington (Community Empowerment Fund), Rikki Gardner (Housing For New Hope), Harvey Hinton (Healing with CAARE), Valerie Haywood (Urban Ministries),

Matthew Lanza (Duke University), Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries Durham), Larry Partee` (Healing with CAARE), and Ross 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**

November 20, 2019 HSAC Meeting Minutes – **Motion** by Committee Member Birch, seconded by Committee Member Fehrman to approve the minutes with the correction of the statement “Committee Member Fehrman pointed out last year FMF did not receive the full allotment that was allocated to the community” to change *FMF* to *Durham CoC*. The motion was approved unanimously at 3:11 p.m.

**Subject: Public Comments Period**

There were no public comments.

**Subject: DHA Administrative Plan Changes related to Homelessness**

Ashanti Brown, Director of Strategic Management, Durham Housing Authority was unable to attend the meeting due to a work emergency. The item was moved to the January 22, 2020 HSAC Meeting Agenda.

**Subject: Performance Management Committee Quarterly Update**

Xavier Cason, Performance Management Committee Member gave a quarterly update on the Performance Management Committee. He shared a presentation on the recent highlights of the committee which included:

- Establish Performance Targets and Monitor Performance
- Evaluate Implementation of Continuum of Care Written Standard
- Evaluate Outcomes of Homeless Housing Projects
- Ensure (HMIS) Participation
- Approve Project Amendments
- Recommend CoC and (ESG) Funding Decisions

Committee Member Cummings asked when the best time was to complete a score card for agencies and have the score card feed the evaluation of recommended funding for the next cycle. Committee Member Cason responded the committee was focusing on the timeline and evaluation of score cards to determine the best time for completion. Committee Member Cummings asked if the program sites were being visited. Committee Member Cason responded the committee was scheduled to visit program sites. Committee Member Tosh asked which sites were being visited in

the community. Chair Crooms responded all the programs sites that applied for CoC funding were being visited.

**Subject: Plan for Unsheltered Coordinating Agency**

Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II shared a presentation entitled “*Unsheltered Coordinating Agency.*” The presentation discussed the following: Background, 2019 Homeless County by Living Situation, Unsheltered Homelessness at the Front Door, Street Outreach as Critical Homeless Services Infrastructure, Best Practices in Serving Unsheltered, Key Findings from Literature Review, Overview of RFP, RFP Timeline, Funding, Key Areas of Project Scope, Pre-Case Management, Case Management, Encampment Lead Agency and Coordination of Community Unsheltered Response.

Committee Member Stone-Dino asked for the demographic information regarding the unsheltered children. Ms. Hoberman replied she did not have any demographic information about the unsheltered children; however she would gather the information and provide a report. Committee Member Cummings expressed concern with the high number of 194 unsheltered people in Durham. Ms. Hoberman responded the exact number of unsheltered people in Durham was hard to analyze due to many factors.

Committee Member Fehrman asked if all unsheltered people in Durham would be entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Ms. Hoberman replied the plan was to work with coordinated entry to have all the unsheltered people entered in HMIS including the people who do not receive or accept service. Committee Member Birch asked how HMIS handled duplicated entries. Ms. Hoberman responded HMIS would be used to report estimated numbers and could include duplicated entries.

Committee Member Karriker asked if the coordinated entry points were being publicized to increase efforts and referrals. Ms. Hoberman replied yes, asking committee members to contact Ehren Dohler (North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH)) to inform him of specific areas that had gaps or not being publicized.

Spencer Bradford, Executive Director of Durham Congregations in Action stated some of the ministries in Durham inquired about the new entry system for sheltering people in homelessness. He added a Social Ministry Forum was planned for February 21, 2020 at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph’s AME Church in Durham and he wanted a representative to speak at the forum about the new HMIS. Ms. Hoberman responded Mr. Dohler would be the representative to speak and answer question about the new HMIS at the forum.

Committee Member Cummings asked if it cost 1.27 times more for unsheltered people compared to the standard model cost. Ms. Hoberman confirmed and added the cost of unsheltered people ranked from \$30,000 to \$134,000 annually. City Manager Bonfield inquired about 1.27 multiplied by what percent of overall cases. Ms. Hoberman stated she would review the data and add more information to the report. Chair Crooms asked how the cost was incurred on unsheltered people. Ms. Hoberman replied the cost was incurred on emergency room visits, police, first responders and the justice system.

Committee Member Cumming asked if Street Outreach workers who were released due to loss of funding, would be rehired. Ms. Hoberman responded after the approval of the funding and proposal, previous workers with required skill sets would be contacted. Committee Member Fehrman asked if the agencies were contacted to provide input with the request for proposal (RFP). Ms. Hoberman confirmed agencies were contacted and provided input with the RFP.

### **Subject: Point In Time Count Update**

Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Manager II explained the 2020 Point In Time Count would be on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 from 9 p.m. until 12 midnight and would meet at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park. He added to register or for more information please visit the website: <https://www.durhamcoc.org/2020-durham-point-in-time-count.html>. Mr. Schmeidler stated he was hoping the 2019 volunteers would return in 2020 to help make the count complete, accurate and comprehensive. He discussed the CoC was working with coordinated entry to keep the information updated and a new Counting Us mobile application funded by the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness would be used the night of the count.

Committee Member Fehrman asked if the Counting Us application would ask questions specific to Durham. Mr. Schmeidler responded the application would ask specific unsheltered questions; although preparation did not start early enough and additional cost prevented customized questions for Durham. Committee Member McCollers expressed concern about achieving an accurate count of unsheltered people in Durham due to the loss of Street Outreach workers, less police available to help canvas, abandoned homes now being rented or sold and the Department of Transportation installment of covers under bridges.

Committee Member Cummings stated the Point In Time Count was expensive and asked why it occurred after investment in other methods to attain the count of unsheltered people in Durham. Mr. Schmeidler responded the Point In Time Count was a federal requirement and impacted the CoC's funding. Ms. Hoberman added The Point in Time Count was conducted by Street Outreach workers in robust communities. Mr. Schmeidler explained the Housing and Urban Department (HUD) reviewed and compared the unsheltered count to see if the numbers had increased or decreased.

Committee Member Tosh stated 35 estimated unsheltered people were located on Linwood Avenue in Durham and the location would need to be added to the list of areas to canvas.

### **Subject: Bull City Fresh Start Update**

Ruebe Holmes, Community Development Coordinator explained the next Bull City Fresh Start Event would be in collaboration with the Veterans Stand Down Event. She added the event was scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2020 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Durham Bull Athletic Park. Ms. Holmes stated for volunteer, vendor, service providers, donor and sponsor portals please visit the website: <https://www.durhamcoc.org> or for more information please email: [durhamopeningdoors@durhamnc.gov](mailto:durhamopeningdoors@durhamnc.gov). She specified if a group of people wanted to volunteer, each person would be required to sign up to participate.

**Subject: Announcements**

Chair Crooms announced the City and County Clerk's office would no longer be taking the HSAC minutes. He thanked Assistant City Clerk Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk) and Deputy Clerk Macio Carlton (County Clerk to the Board Office) for attending the meeting and recording the HSAC minutes

Spencer Bradford, Executive Director, Durham Congregations In Action announced the 2019 Durham Memorial Vigil For Homeless Neighbors flyer was the last page in the agenda packet. He added the event was at 6 p.m., Saturday, December 21, 2019 at the Downtown Durham Farmers Market Pavilion.

Commissioner Carter announced elected officials received emails from citizens addressing the need to stop evictions by Durham Housing Authority. Ms. Hoberman stated Ashanti Brown, Director of Strategic Management, Durham Housing Authority could answer any questions at the January 22, 2020 meeting. She added have the Eviction Diversion Program could be present at a meeting.

**Subject: Adjourn**

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

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Crooms adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Macio Carlton, Deputy Clerk  
County Clerk to the Board Office