

## DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

3:00 p.m.

**Durham County Human Services Building  
414 E. Main Street – 2nd Floor Conference Room**

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

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless); Vice-Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center); Secretary 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); Heidi Carter, Durham County Commissioner; 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*); Meredith Daye, Development Director (Durham Housing Authority); Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service); Angela Holmes (Former Homeless Representative for Durham County); Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham); Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation); Mayor Steve Schewel; Fred Stoppelkamp (Non-Profit Representative for Durham County); Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative, City of Durham/TROSA); Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)); and Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham).

**Excused Committee Members:** Janeen Gordon (Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*) and Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly).

**Committee Members Absent:** Captain Stan Harris (Durham County Sheriff’s Department); Lois Harvin-Ravin (Durham County Veteran Services); Kathy Hodges (Durham Crisis Response Center); Melody Marshall, Homeless Liaison (Durham Public Schools); Mark-Anthony Middleton (Durham City Council – *proxy for Mayor Steve Schewel*); Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Ve’ga Swepson, Resource Specialist (Durham Technical Community College); Tony Tosh (Prosperity Recovery Services/Private Sector, City of Durham) and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

**Staff Present:** Director Reginald Johnson, Assistant Director of Strategy Karen Lado, Project Manager II Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II Lloyd Schmeidler, Matt Walker, Senior Project Manager (Department of Community Development) and Senior Administrative Assistant Macio Carlton (County Clerk to the Board Office).

**Also Present:** Valaria Brown, Chip Dudney, Rikki Gardner, Samantha Martin (Housing for New Hope); Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward); Carolyn E. Hinton, Harvey Hinton III (Healing with CAARE); A. Larry Partee’ (Former Homeless); Malcolm White (Alliance Health);

Joyce Caesar WakeUpReachUp); Don Bradley (Duke School of Medicine); Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry); Odie Roberson (Healthcare for the Homeless); Joyce Hicklen (CASA); Robin Henry (Volunteers of America Carolinas); Zamir Brown (Vision Beyond The Eyes).

**Subject: Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair McCollers called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. She thanked everyone for attending and read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

**Subject: Minutes Review and Approval**

December 19, 2018 HSAC Meeting – **Motion** by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member Davis to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously at 3:14 p.m.

**Subject: Public Comment Period**

Ryan Fehrman, Families Moving Forward (FMF), stated working with the homeless forced people to look at their values and see if they were living up to their values. He added after his comments at the December meeting, he talked with some people that said he was out of line. Mr. Fehrman apologized for being inappropriate to Reginald Johnson, Matt Walker and Karen Lado for stepping over the line, getting personal and being disrespectful. He stated to the group FMF was an agency worthy of support by a letter and the agency had met outcomes, participation in the Continuum of Care (CoC) and they were trying to end homeless. He stated Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided funding for housing and FMF did not want to lose the funding however HUD did not want to pay for services. Mr. Fehrman mentioned FMF was still in the appeal process with the State Emergency Solutions Grant Program. He expressed concern with the reduced funding for FMF and Healing with CAARE not being awarded any funding.

Chair McCollers thanked Mr. Fehrman for his kind words.

**Subject: Response to 12-19-18 Public Comments by Ryan Fehrman of Families Moving Forward**

Chair McCollers read aloud the “*Homeless Services Advisory Committee Executive Committee Response to 12-19-18 Public Comment by Ryan Fehrman of Families Moving Forward.*”

Committee Member Cummings stated the housing first and low bearing shelter ideas required the shelters to allow active users. He added kind of mismatched to why allowing active users would be problematic when many of the people in the shelters may be active users or in recovery. Committee Member Cummings stated if an application that is out of compliance or standard, the HSAC should think about how to deal with the situation.

Mayor Schewel asked was anything in the HSAC guidelines different than the State. Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II, responded the State and HUD guidelines stated shelters could not deny access due to active usage. She added a presentation on the agenda would help understand best practices for safe shelters. Chair McCollers added the powers above had the ability to dictate

what the board could do and made it a challenge. She added the HSAC needed to figure out a better way to provide as a CoC and stay in compliance. Committee Member Cummings stated since no shelter in Durham operated as a true low barrier shelter, the HSAC may need to try to change the standard or engage with shelter providers to find out what was needed.

Committee Member Burch stated Reginald Johnson and staff handled decisions that were not popular and had to present to the HSAC. He requested to see changes made and some things may need to go to the State Legislatures and other officials. Committee Member Burch mentioned many of the people who made the changes did not know or understand homelessness.

Committee Member Toenes mentioned how the high levels of addiction were affecting families and from a system standpoint housing first may not be the first need for some people.

### **Subject: Harm Reduction**

Jesse Bennett, Statewide Overdose Prevention Coordinator, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, provided a presentation entitled “*Nice People Use Drugs.*” The presentation reviewed the following topics: Substances, Opioid Rate by Counties, Fentanyl, Unintentional Opioid Overdoses, Positive for Heroin, Emergency Department Opioid Overdoses Visits and EMS Naloxone Administration, Increase in Acute Hepatitis C Cases, Endocarditis and Sepsis Among People Likely Using Drugs, Number and Rate of Hospitalized, What is Harm Reduction, Seeks to Maximize, Dutch Versus American Drug Policies, Dutch Model, Harm Reduction Central Assumption, Harm Reduction Overview, Continuum of Excess, Moderation and Abstinence, Harm Reduction Methods, Harm Reduction Behavior Change, How can we Address Drug Use, Harm Reduction as We Know It, What Harm Reduction is Not, What Harm Reduction Is, Harm Reduction Initiatives, Principles of Harm Reduction, Harm Reduction Practice Tips, Key Points, Why do People use Drugs, Continuum of Use, Notes About the Continuum of Use, The Stages of Change.

City Manager Thomas Bonfield asked what counties in North Carolina followed Harm Reduction Strategies. Mr. Bennett responded no specific county was a perfect model to follow and urban areas were dealing better than rural. Commissioner Carter questioned other states. Mr. Bennett replied California, Washington State and Colorado.

Committee Member Burch asked about fentanyl test strips being used on the streets for drug users. Mr. Bennett responded using fentanyl test strips to reduce overdosing and educating drug users was an important tool for drug reduction. He added the strips would not tell you the amount of fentanyl in the drugs tested.

Mayor Schewel asked Mr. Bennett on advice to help with the shelters not getting full funding due to not allowing active users. Mr. Bennett replied Healing Transitions was a good example due to having a detox center at the shelter with staff to facilitate the process. He added active users should not be denied a bed if not ready to stop using and should be linked with services to provide help.

### **Subject: Program Monitoring, Evaluation, and Ranking Policy and Tool**

Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Manager II, thanked Committee Member Cummings for his comments on the CoC Ranking Policy Draft and explained the changes to the document. Mr. Schmeidler shared a presentation “*Durham CoC Monitoring, Ranking and Evaluation Polices.*” The presentation highlighted the following: Background, Key Procedures, 2019 (Year 0), 2020 (Year 1) 2021 (Year 2) 2022 (Year 3), Voluntary Reallocation, Comparison of 2018 and 2019 Performance Evaluation Tool, Housing First Implementation Evaluation.

Commissioner Carter asked if the 65 percent was the satisfactory number in the Ranking Procedures section. Mr. Schmeidler responded yes, he would update the document to make the 65 percent or more satisfactory in the first year clear. Commissioner Carter referenced the flow chart, asking what happened if a project was close to 30 percent but did not meet criteria in the first year, yet improves the second year and met the threshold. Mr. Schmeidler responded project would be on probation and have a performance improvement plan.

Committee Member Cummings mentioned a friendly amendment if after a year of probation, the CoC Board have the right to reallocate the funding. Mr. Schmeidler responded all the language in the policies and procedures were final. Committee Member Cummings mentioned the right to reallocate and start a new project caused confusion. Mr. Schmeidler responded language could be changed from “may” to “will” and moved year three to year two.

Chair McCollers agreed with the change, adding it allowed the organization one opportunity to improve and for an organization that did not improve, the option to reallocate. Mr. Schmeidler mentioned none of the changes were guaranteed. Committee Member Burch asked for Committee Member Cummings to write out changes to make them clear. Chair McCollers asked for the changes to be worked on by staff and presented to the Board at next meeting.

**Motion** by City Manager Bonfield, seconded by Committee Member Burch for staff to make changes to Monitoring, Evaluation, and Ranking Policy for CoC Funding Request. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Schmeidler asked for confirmation on reducing probation from three years to two years. Committee Member Cummings responded yes, one year of probation would trigger talks. Ms. Lado asked for new projects or existing. Committee Member Cummings responded more concentration on new projects but include both.

**Subject: Encampments Response Policy**

Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II, presented a presentation entitled “*Encampments on Public Property Proposed Response Policy.*” The presentation reviewed the following topics: Background, Qualifying Encampments, Responsible Parties, Guiding Principles, Encampment Response Approach, Prevention, Response, Mitigation, Modifications – Encampment, Obstruction, Response Timeline, Personal Property.

Mayor Schewel understood the 60 day response time frame but asked about the maximum amount of time for resolution. Ms. Hoberman responded it may not have resolution options for

some; so they did not set a maximum amount of time. Mayor Schewel asked with the recent encampment on the Durham Freeway 147 and West Chapel Hill Street, was there anyone that did not have a proper housing option. Ms. Hoberman replied the housing option provided was for dry use only and some of the people were active users in the encampment. Mayor Schewel asked if Durham County had the option to provide for active users. Ms. Hoberman replied the current active user options were limited and the County had planned to have a viable option soon.

Committee Member Cummings stated the responsible parties to provide services on public land should be the Sheriff or the Department of Transportation instead of the County's General Services. He asked should 30-60 days for holding on the belongs be added to the policy. Ms. Hoberman responded the changes could be made to the policy.

Committee Member Burch asked where the belongings would be kept. City Manager Bonfield responded at the City and County General Service Departments.

Chair McCollers asked what would happen if no viable housing option were available. Ms. Hoberman responded find something that worked for all and it could be a shelter until something more permanent comes available. Chair McCollers asked who defined threat to self, quality of life and set standards. Ms. Hoberman responded that was left for specific departments to assign and would have to be rewritten. Chair McCollers asked if the information could be reported back to the HSAC about progress with the encampments. Ms. Hoberman responded progress reports could be provided.

Committee Member Burch asked for the approval timeline. Chair McCollers replied hoped to vote today. City Manager Bonfield mentioned asked members to try and address concerns prior to meeting dates. Ms. Hoberman asked members to email final comments at least two weeks before February meeting to prepare the final version.

**Motion** by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to vote on Encampments Response Policy at February meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Schewel stated the policy was close to being correct and would like to have the meeting focus more on homeless and less on policies. Ms. Hoberman responded the HSAC was dealing with a lot of policy work around homeless in Durham and should be finalized by December 2019. She added may need to change meetings to two hours or allow subcommittees to address changes. Chair McCollers added the policies provided support and education. Mayor Schewel stated he was willing to trust Executive Committee to make decisions on the policies and bring to the HSAC with strong recommendations to be reviewed and approved. Committee Member Stoppelkamp recommended others to be on the Executive Committee. Ms. Hoberman responded staff to present proposal on how decisions would be made and it would be a lot to put on the Executive Committee.

**Subject: Announcements**

Chair McCollers reminded everyone about the 2019 Bull City Fresh Start Save-The-Dates. She added Bull City COUNTS on January 23, 2019 from 9 p.m. – 12 a.m.; Bull City CONNECTS on January 24, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Subject: Adjourn**

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

With no further business to come before the body, Chair McCollers adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Macio Carlton  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
County Clerk to the Board Office