

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

3:00 p.m.

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

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

Committee Members Present: Chair Angela Holmes Former Homeless Representative for Durham County; Vice-Chair Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for Homeless: Secretary Ellecia M. Thompson (Durham VA Medical Center); City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield; Reverend Dr. B. Angelo Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative For Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); Jonathan Crooms, Durham County Veteran Services (*Proxy for Lois Harvin-Ravin*); Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff, Durham County Manager's Office; Alma Davis, (Durham Crisis Response Center, *Proxy*); Meredith Daye (Development Director Durham Housing Authority); Janeen Gordon, (Durham County Social Services and *Proxy for Commissioner Ellen Reckhow*); Captain Stan Harris Durham County Sheriff's Department); Reverend Dr. Warren Herndon (Faith Community Representative for City of Durham/Greater Joy International Ministries); Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly); Emanuel Kearney (Former Homeless Representative, City of Durham); Melody Marshall, Homeless Liaison (Durham Public Schools; Council Member Mark Anthony Middleton (*Proxy for Mayor Steve Schewel*); Vega Swepson (Resource Specialist Durham Technical Community College); Chris Toenes, Non-Profit Representative (City of Durham); Tony Tosh (Corporate Private Sector Representative for City of Durham/Prosperity Recovery Services); Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)).

Excused Committee Members: Mayor Steve Schewel.

Committee Members Absent: Calleen Herbert, (NCCU Office of Community Engagement and Service); Jennifer Jones (OEWD); Alex Protzman, LIFE Skills Foundation; Durham County Commissioner Ellen W. Reckhow; Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Fred Stoppelkamp (Non-Profit Representative for Durham County/Urban Ministries of Durham) and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

Staff Present: Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler and Matthew Walker; Community Development Director Reginald Johnson; Assistant Director of Strategy Karen Lado (Department of Community Development); Administrative Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development) and Senior Administrative Assistant Macio Carlton (County Clerk to the Board's Office)

Also Present: Kevin Atkins (Families Together); Nigel Brown (Housing for New Hope); Valaria Brown (Housing for New Hope); Joyce Caesar (WakeUpReachUp, Inc.); Cheryl Davis-Duley (Housing for New Hope); Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward); Julia Gamble (Duke Health); Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope); Carolyn E. Hinton (Healing with CAARE); Angela Vick Lewis; Samantha Martin (Housing of New Hope); Rita McDaniel (Durham Community Land Trustees); Denise Neunaber (North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness); Ahmed Larry Parker (Former Homeless); Nicole Purdy (North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness); Sally Wilson (Project Access of Durham County) and Malcolm White (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare).

Subject: Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. She thanked everyone for attending and read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

May 23, 2018 HSAC Meeting – **Motion** by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Committee Member Birch to approve the minutes with an amendment on page eight, paragraph four to change Katherine Pliel to Julia Gamble. The motion was approved unanimously at 3:14 p.m.

Subject: Public Comment Period

Thomas J. Bonfield, City of Durham Manager, shared that the HSAC received presentations and recommendations from the Focus Strategies Consultants about the Homeless Services System for intake, transition and various individuals working on the eviction diversion program. He added that the Durham City Council and the Board of County Commissioners received recommendations from the Department of Community Development about needed funding amounts for both programs. Mr. Bonfield explained the approved funding from the City Council and County Commissioners was less than the recommended funding amounts.

Mr. Bonfield discussed the best practices associated with how the City and County should respond to homeless camps on public rights-of-way. He added staff distributed a Best Practices Guide that Committee Member Cummings found. Mr. Bonfield added that there was a homeless camp on Highway NC 147 and West Chapel Hill Street along with many more throughout the City, and explained that the City and County was asked to respond to the homeless camps. He added that the adoption of the homeless camps best response practices would be very helpful and provide guidance. Mr. Bonfield mentioned that the HSAC should be involved and he would like the item to be placed on an upcoming agenda for discussion.

Drew Cummings, Durham County Chief of Staff, explained that the Best Practices Guide was circulated in the past to HSAC members. He added that the City and County worked with Open Table Ministries and Housing for New Hope to reach out to citizens in the homeless camps to inform them of all resources available in Durham. Committee Member Cummings mentioned

that some citizens in the homeless camps preferred to remain in the camps regardless of any available resources.

Committee Member Herndon suggested having a private meeting or initiative with community leaders and about 15 citizens who were staying at the homeless camp to talk about why they are not taking advantage of the available resources.

Vice-Chair Charita McCollers stated some providers were familiar with the citizens in the homeless camp and aware most had issues, challenges and barriers with a right to choose to stay in the camp. She added that the State should be informed and included on what to do with the citizens in the homeless camps.

Committee Member Karriker made a motion to bring the item to a future agenda for longer discussion.

Subject: Continuum of Care Competition Evaluation Criteria and Update

Lloyd Schmeidler, City Project Manager, informed the Committee on the Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency seeking the HSAC for approval of the evaluation criteria. He added that this would be used to evaluate and rank renewal and new project applications in the 2018 CoC Homeless Grant Competition.

Committee Member Cummings asked how the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made the conclusion recommendation for using the CoC's funding for permanent support housing. Mr. Schmeidler responded that the CoC interim rule described how the funds were used and HUD recognized chronic homeless people have significant disabilities and need long term support to maintain housing. He added that HUD encouraged the funding be used for permanent housing intervention and rapid re-housing.

Committee Member Herndon asked for an explanation of section three score summary about budget, leverage and match. Mr. Schmeidler answered that HUD had not required leverage but did require matching funds of 25 percent from the applying organization. He added that the CoC did allow to fund renewal projects if they are satisfied with the organization performance. Mr. Schmeidler added new projects and applications were being added to the pool for funding, but HUD was not making a lot of new funding available. Committee Member Herndon asked if the funding was the same, less or more. Mr. Schmeidler replied that no answer would be available until after the evaluation criteria was approved.

Motion – by Council Member Mark Anthony Middleton, seconded by Committee Member Burch to approve accepting scorecards and renewal CoC project applications was approved unanimously at 3:36 p.m.

Mr. Schmeidler informed the Committee about the 2018 Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) update released on June 20, 2018. He added that 13 pre-applications were approved to apply for \$1,468,000 of CoC funding and two applicants had contingencies to be addressed by August 31, 2018 to meet final approval. Mr. Schmeidler added that the estimated annual renewal amount of

\$1,247,410 would fund the ten existing projects. He added that funding was largely flat except for a permanent supportive housing bonus and survivors of domestic violence bonus. Mr. Schmeidler stated that the funding was uncertain and would depend on the wellness of the collaborative application score.

Committee Member Herndon asked if a HUD representative had visited Durham recently to tour and see all the great happenings. He added invite Ben Carson to visit Durham to build partnerships and networks with leaders in the community. Director Reginald Johnson responded that staff from HUD visited Durham frequently and added Durham may be one of the hosting sites for the Federal Grantees Annual Meeting for North Carolina and South Carolina.

Committee Member Burch asked if the funds were from Durham only or from other Regions. Mr. Schmeidler responded Continuum of Care was only funded by Durham.

Subject: CoC and ESG Standards for Assistance

Mr. Schmeidler explained that the CoC Lead Agency recommended all the following standards be adopted by the CoC Board on an interim basis in anticipation of the upcoming CoC and State Emergency (ESG) competitions:

- Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing
- Emergency Shelter
- Permanent Supportive Housing

Vice-Chair McCollers stated that she was not opposed to the standards, but wanted to create some space for those providing the services to provide feedback.

Motion – by Vice-Chair McCollers, seconded by Committee Member Herndon to approve accepting CoC and ESG Standards for Assistance was approved unanimously at 3:43 p.m.

Chair Angela Holmes introduced new committee member Angela Vick-Lewis to the HSAC Board as the City Former Homeless Person.

Chair Holmes also mentioned this would be Committee Member Herndon’s last meeting. She added he would be recognized at the August 29, 2018 HSAC meeting.

Subject: HMIS Governance Charter

Denise Neunaber, Executive Director, North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH), shared a presentation on the titled “*Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)@NCCEH Background and System*” discussing the following:

- NCCEH Data Center Values
- HMIS@NCCEH in 81 Counties and 3 CoCs.
- Governance Task and Timeline

- HMIS@NCCEH will have a Stream Lined Structure with More Opportunities for Users to Shape How We Use HMIS
- System Configuration Task and Timeline
- Soon NC will have 2 HMIS Implantation
- Mediware is Creating Our New Site
- Process for Creating Demo Site
- Demo Site Process
- When the Script Runs Successfully with No Errors
- System Launch Timeline and Task
- Business as Usual for Users
- What to Expect

Vice-Chair McCollers asked when the transition happens, how would providers be able to serve clients from other counties with the two separate databases. Ms. Neunaber replied that if no information shows up in the databases, it would search all 81 counties, then setup as a new client. Vice-Chair McCollers mentioned that make it easier to provide services and correct information with the creation and development of the new system. Committee Member Cummings stated data should be used to create change and push ahead using better data in HMIS system.

Committee Member Birch asked about the protocol of how the representatives are chosen for the Governance of the CoC in Durham versus Chapel Hill. Ms. Neunaber responded that she wanted to make sure every CoC was represented by the main seats of the two representatives. She added additional input could come from other seats on the board and subcommittees.

Committee member Herndon asked about the proposal cost in the first year and a time frame for the community to recover the cost. Ms. Neunaber responded that implementing the statewide system Durham would incur three costs: NCCEH, Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) and software. She added if the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness cost was removed, then Durham could save around \$1 million dollars over five years. Ms. Neunaber stated that she did not bring the budget and could not give full detail on cost and recovery.

Lloyd Schmeidler, City Project Manager, stated that the CoC cost was \$55,000 and the cost was covered by the MCAH implantation. He added that the cost was expected to increase to \$81,000 and the City of Durham was covering the additional cost in the 2018-2019 City budget.

Motion – by Committee Member Cummings, seconded by Vice-Chair McCollers to approve accepting HMIS Governance Charter was approved at 4:20 p.m.

Committee Member Burch did not approve.

Subject: 2017 CoC Program Debriefing

Lloyd Schmeidler, City Project Manager informed the Committee on the summary HUD provided for the 2017 CoC Program Competition application. He added that no CoC would receive a full explanation of the scoring and Durham received approximately 75 percent of total CoC application scores.

Thomas J. Bonfield, City of Durham Manger asked about the zero scores received. Mr. Schmeidler responded most were performance measures driven by data in HMIS and he worked with providers to be able to provide rapid rehousing, eviction diversion and homeless diversion. Committee Member Cummings expressed concern with zero scores and no feedback. Mr. Schmeidler mentioned asking for technical assistance from HUD with the zero scores.

Subject: Responses to HSAC Recommendations in Fiscal Year 18-19 City and County Budgets

Community Development Director Reginald Johnson stated the application showed challenges in the system. He asked what the City and County could do to help improve the system to increase numbers in the application and how citizens were served. He added that the City budgeted \$70,000 for the coordinated entry system, \$290,000 for homelessness diversion, \$90,000 for housing navigation and \$200,000 for eviction diversion for a total of \$650,000.

Ryan Furman asked when the request for the proposal would be available. Director Johnson responded that he would engage with providers to do research and decide what would be best before making funds available.

Janeen Gordon, Durham County Social Services, gave a brief update on the County's approved budget. She mentioned centralized intake unit, permanent support housing and Opening Doors Program was not completely funded. Ms. Gordon stated that once funding was available, screening would start and they planned to have the intake unit up and running by September.

Subject: Announcements

Chair Holmes asked if there were any announcements. Hearing none, she proceeded with the agenda.

Subject: Reminders

Chair Holmes reminded everyone of the next HSAC meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the Durham County Human Services Building, 414 E. Main Street in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Holmes adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Macio Carlton

Senior Administrative Assistant
County Clerk to the Board's Office