

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

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 Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Vice-Chair Stephanie Williams, Secretary Fred Stoppelkamp, Meredith Daye, Durham Housing Authority (DHA), Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department, Interim Director Calleen Herbert, Department of Academic Community Services Learning Program at North Carolina Central University, Dr. Warren Herndon, Angela Holmes, Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly, Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Tony Tosh, Active Construction Company and Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Excused Committee Members: Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, City Manager Tom Bonfield, John Bowman, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer, Jennifer Jones, Office of Economic and Workforce Development and Vega Swepson, Durham Technical Community College.

Committee Members Absent: County Commissioner Michael Page, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Director Michael Becketts, Durham County Social Services (proxy for Commissioner Michael Page), Minnie Forte-Brown, Durham Public Schools Board, Emanuel Kearney and Durham Public Schools Homeless and At-Risk Liaison Jackie Love.

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Managers Matthew Schnars, Lloyd Schmeidler, Administrative Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development) and Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk).

Also Present: Nigel Brown, Cynthia Harris, Olive Joyner (Housing for New Hope); Gary Beasley, Reverend Rob Tart (Durham Rescue Mission) and Bryan Gilmer (Urban Ministries of Durham).

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Webb-Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. She read the HSAC goals aloud and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Subject: Public Comment Period

Secretary Stoppelkamp recognized Committee Member Tony Tosh with Active Construction Company for his role in providing construction training and employment to four of Secretary Stoppelkamp's clients from the Workforce Development Program. In addition, Mr. Tosh has housed two of the clients in Supportive Housing.

Mr. Tosh was not in attendance at this time; however he will be presented a certificate for his contribution.

Patrice Nelson, Executive Director, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), announced this would be her last meeting with the HSAC as Executive Director of Urban Ministries. She expressed her excitement to

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see how far they have come over the past years in creating a combined policy board and an organized way of working together to attack homelessness issues in Durham.

Ms. Nelson introduced Shelton Mitchell, the new Executive Director of UMD. Mr. Mitchell stated he is looking forward to serving UMD and working with the HSAC as a collaborative partner in addressing homelessness issues.

Committee Member Herndon provided statistics regarding income levels from an article he read that stated approximately 42 million people in America are making under \$10,000 a year. He also noted that because he does a lot of work through the faith and non-profit community other information he has received indicates numbers are somewhere between \$8,500 and \$14,000 a year for individuals in low F communities. Referencing a memo, Committee Member Herndon stated the average homeless person in Durham, NC is making approximately \$4,126 per year. He feels that even though the group is doing great work and he applauds all of the organizations and government agencies that are working, these numbers represent that there is still a lot of work to be done. In closing, Committee Member Herndon commented that he meets on the Mel Williams initiative to end homelessness and he thinks the number indicates there are between 25% and 30% of individuals living in poverty in Durham. He encourages everyone to continue to work. He added if there are people who disagree with the numbers, he invites them to prove him wrong because he would like to be wrong about the figures.

Subject: Highlights from 2016 Homeless Street Count

Project Manager Matt Schnars, Department of Community Development, provided some highlights of the 2016 Homeless Street Count that took place on January 28, 2016. Presentation included preliminary numbers, process and the community wide volunteer participation.

Mr. Schnars noted that current and former City Council members participated in the Count along with police officers, law enforcement from the County, volunteers and Community Development staff. Mr. Schnars stated that the head of the Durham Veterans Administration (VA) actually signed up to be a volunteer to assist with the count.

Mr. Schnars shared that the team he volunteered with during the night of the Point in Time (PIT) count was able to find 7 people out of the total count of 32 and he reported a grand total of 36 people were counted. This number included 32 people found outside and 4 inside overflow shelters. This information can be accessed on the website and Mr. Schnars stated that he would forward it to everyone as well.

In responding to Committee Member Herndon when asked where the individuals were found, Mr. Schnars stated most people were located in the downtown area, 9th Street and 15-501.

Mr. Schnars also commented that the Police Department is conducting unofficial ad hoc outreach efforts in locating the homeless. They are notifying staff when they locate homeless individuals.

Ms. Nelson pointed out in the past the PIT count had been used for the total homeless count but now it seems as if they are only talking about the total unsheltered count. She asked if this meant the total count will not be used anymore. Mr. Schnars stated there is another aspect to the count which is the sheltered count. However, staff does not have that finalized yet. They want to make sure the information is correct in HMIS.

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Chair Webb-Bledsoe asked how the numbers compare to last year's numbers. Mr. Schnars stated this year's numbers are lower compared to last year. The number last year was 44 compared to this year's 32. Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler commented this is the lowest street count since 2005.

Subject: HSAC Subcommittee Updates

HSAC Performance Management Team – HMIS User License Allocation & Use Policies

Committee Member Holmes gave an introduction, background and purpose on the HMIS License Policy. The Performance Management Team is recommending that the policy be approved.

Mr. Schnars noted that the policy was drafted in the fall at the October meeting and they are seeking approval by the HSAC.

There being no quorum, Committee Members were not able to vote at this time on the HMIS User License Allocation & Use Policies.

HSAC Structure Subcommittee – 2016-2017 ESG Funding Recommendations

In the absence of Committee Member Karriker, Committee Member Tuttle presented an update on the ESG Funding Recommendations. He directed Committee Members' attention to handouts which included a memo from Director Reginald Johnson, Department of Community Development and a 2016-2017 ESG Funding chart.

Because there was not a quorum at this time, Mr. Schnars stated that staff would need to receive an electronic vote on this item because the City needs to move forward in the process. He add the vote needs to happen before the next HSAC meeting.

HSAC Housing Results Team

Secretary Stoppelkamp provided an update on the Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) process. He reminded members due to inclement weather in February 2016 which caused the HSAC meeting to be cancelled, a vote was taken via e-mail and it was passed that the Housing Results Team would manage the referrals for the CoC. These referrals would come through the CoC, go to the Housing Results Team for a review to determine if it is a strong application and then be passed on to Durham Housing Authority (DHA).

HSAC Youth Subcommittee

Mr. Schnars reported there is not a HSAC member who serves as Chair for the Youth Subcommittee. Currently the Subcommittee is being chaired by Alex Protzman, Carolina Outreach. There have been efforts on creating a youth drop-in or outreach center. Resources would be steered toward the issue of youth homelessness. The Structure Subcommittee will be addressing the issue of subcommittee chairs not being HSAC members. There is nothing in the Inter-Local Agreement or Governance Charter that says whether this is allowed or not allowed. The Structure Subcommittee will be looking at this issue and bringing back recommendations to the HSAC.

HSAC Income Subcommittee

Mr. Schmeidler announced that the Income Subcommittee does not have a chair for its group. They have been without one since former HSAC Member Jason Wimmer left. Committee Member Jennifer Jones replaced Mr. Wimmer as OEWD's representative; however she is still transitioning into OEWD.

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The Income Subcommittee is looking at ways to provide support to the homeless housing providers to develop more capacity through employment services to persons coming through their programs. They are trying to create more partnerships around employment issues in Supportive Housing.

Committee Member Herndon asked about the progress of the “Familiar Faces” study that was done some time ago.

Committee Member McCollers stated some of the things that came out of the “Familiar Faces” study included the new clinic that is part of the Duke Outpatient Clinic. She added that the Healthcare for the Homeless Clinic received a grant which makes it possible for them to serve those individuals who are not being served through the Duke Outpatient Clinic. Their needs are being assessed and they are being connected to the services that they need in the community.

Vice-Chair Williams pointed out that Alliance also worked with this project. They have implemented a staff member at Duke Ed so they can monitor who is coming in and out. If someone is coming through the ED on multiple occasions they are assigned a care coordinator. In turn the individual is monitored to ensure they receive access to services including behavioral and physical health.

Since Committee Member Tosh had arrived at this point in the meeting, Chair Webb-Bledsoe asked Secretary Stoppelkamp to again recognize him for his work in providing construction training, employment and housing to participants in the Workforce Development Program.

Subject: HSAC Policy – PIT & HIC

On August 26, 2015 the HSAC adopted the Annual Homeless Point-In-Time Count Methodology Policy. Reverend Rob Tart, Chief Operating Officer with the Durham Rescue Mission (DRM) made comments concerning the policy and shared DRM’s concern that their data will no longer be considered valid in the Point-In-Time Count.

Chair Webb-Bledsoe thanked Reverend Tart for his presentation and for expressing his views. She asked him to leave the letter that was attached to his agenda. Chair Webb-Bledsoe stated they always like to encourage collaboration ensuring that everyone is part of the solution. She asked Reverend Tart to consider becoming part of a HSAC Subcommittee because that is how the work gets done.

Committee Member Tuttle stated that he feels as a body the group should proceed this year with the policies they have approved. He also hopes that they can find a way for collaborative conversation to continue.

Additional comments were made regarding the DRM discussion.

In response to Committee Member Tosh’s question whether DRM teaches their residents a trade, Reverend Tart stated that they have an employment agency and a medical center. He added that they obtained jobs for 251 people last year and DRM also has a training center on S. Alston Avenue in Durham that trains individuals in retail skills. Reverend Tart commented that the Rescue Mission has several training programs including the Victory Program.

Olive Joyner, Housing for New Hope (HNH) shared her concerns to Reverend Tart about it being difficult to determine what number is considered homeless and what number is considered a part of DRM’s other programs. She pointed out unfortunately, DRM does not provide opportunity for women or men the ability to be empowered quickly and come out of the system. Often times they have to give

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up what progress they have made simply to cover their heads. She feels this is an issue that needs to be addressed. She concluded there is a need to quickly empower women without some of the restraints that exist.

Ms. Nelson stated that she feels it is important to continue the conversation without being judgmental about what one provider is doing versus the other. She commented the DRM and UMD have good programs but they are very different programs. Many of the homeless providers that participate in HMIS are adhering by rules and goals that follow the national homeless polices of the HUD. She provided additional comments in reference to DRM.

Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – January 20, 2016; HMIS User License Allocation and Use Policies; 2016-2017 ESG Funding Recommendations

There now being a quorum at this point in the meeting, HSAC members took the following action:

Motion by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Committee Member McCollers to approve the January 20, 2016 HSAC minutes was approved unanimously at 4:21 p.m.

Motion by Committee Member Holmes, seconded by Committee Member Herndon to approve the HMIS User License Allocation and Use Policies was approved unanimously at 4:22 p.m.

Motion by Committee Member Holmes, seconded by Committee Member Karriker to approve the 2016-2017 ESF Funding Recommendations was approved unanimously at 4:24 p.m.

Subject: Highlights of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

Mr. Schmeidler provided a power point presentation as an overview of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). He distributed a quiz to everyone concerning the extent of homelessness in Durham. Information contained in the quiz was based on data from the Homeless Management Information System.

Additional comments were made by Committee Members Tuttle and McCollers concerning the DRM discussion held earlier in the meeting.

Subject: Reminders/Announcement

The next HSAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Durham County Human Services Complex, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 414 E. Main Street.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Webb-Bledsoe adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock
Office of the City Clerk