

**DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2013
Department of Community Development
807 E. Main Street, Golden Belt Building
3:00 p.m.**

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) held a special meeting on the above date and time.

Committee Members present: Chair Robert “Bo” Glenn, Jr., John Bowman, Dr. Deborah Bailey, Director of Academic Services Learning Program/NCCU, Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer (arrived at 3:41 p.m.), Reverend Warren Herndon, Stephen Hopkins (left at 4:20 p.m.), Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Reverend Chris Tuttle, Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University (left at 3:40 p.m.) and Stephanie Williams, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare.

Excused Absence: Committee Members Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Jackie Love, Durham Public Schools, Shannon McClean, Durham Housing Authority, Fred Stoppelkamp Durham Economic Resource Center (DERC) and Jason Wimmer, OEWD.

Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chair Minnie Forte-Brown, Durham Public School Board, Deputy Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff’s Department, Sue Jackson, Durham Technical Community College, Kimberly Monroe, County Commissioner Michael Page and Bob Williamson, Durham VA Medical Center.

Also Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler, Matthew Schnars (Department of Community Development), Terry Allebaugh, Nigel Brown, Joi Stepney (Housing for New Hope), Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home), Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum (Healing With CAARE, Inc.), Catherine Pliel (Durham Inter-Faith Hospitality Network (IHN), Patrice Nelson (arrived at 3:56 p.m.) and Alexander Herring (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), Pam Karriker (Citizen), and Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk).

Subject: Call to Order and Review of Conflict of Interest Policy

Chair Glenn called the meeting to order at 3:21 p.m. He announced that there was no quorum and then stated the intention of the meeting was to make a decision regarding the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding recommendations by staff. He briefly reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy and pointed out if a member had a conflict of interest then they should make it known because they would not be able to take part in the discussion or vote regarding funding recommendations.

Project Manager Matthew Schnars (Department of Community Development) provided some background information on ESG funding.

Subject: Applicant Brief Proposal Summary

Mr. Schnars reported that Durham Crisis Response Center did not apply for funding.

Brief proposal summaries were received from the following applicants:

Catherine Piel, Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

- IHN has a reputation for excellent case management.
- Historically IHN had only been able to provide shelter to 3 families at a time.
- In 2010 case management services were provided for Durham County for up to a year for any family that needed IHN with or without housing.
- In 2013 IHN had 50% more capacity than 2012. They are expecting to serve 40 families.
- The organization is very results driven and high performing goals have been set.
- **Requested ESG Funding Amount: \$15,000**

Ryan Fehrman, Genesis Home

- Genesis Home provides housing and supportive services to homeless families with children.
- Because the program is transitional shelter, people can stay up to two years. However, in response to HUD, Genesis Home is trying to cut the length of stay with an objective set to get 75% of their families exited within six months.
- In reference to coordinated intake, Genesis Home is the designated referral source for families with high to moderate barriers to housing.
- **Requested ESG Funding Amount: \$30,000**

In response to Committee Member Bailey's question concerning funds having to be returned by Genesis Home, Mr. Fehrman, explained that the HUD grant for Turning Point has been a challenge because they have had trouble getting eligible families for the permanent supportive housing program. Also, changes with Hearth regarding rental assistance versus leasing have made it difficult to administer the Turning Point program. Therefore, Genesis Home will not be applying for renewal funding for Turning Point in the next funding cycle.

Challenges for Genesis Home included:

- 60% of the heads of households have a diagnosed mental condition;
- Substance abuse affects 1/3 of the heads of households;
- Approximately 40% of the single moms are identified as having experienced some form of domestic violence; and
- Lack of educational obtainment. Many of the individuals do not have a GED.

Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Healing With CAARE, Inc.

- In January training began on Rapid Re-Housing and by February Healing With CAARE was ready to house people based on the eligibility requirements. However, there were not many people who were eligible.

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Out of the 410 people that were going through the classes, only 25 were eligible in the end. The first client was housed in March and from March to July twenty-five individuals were housed.

- Healing with CAARE is working with an additional 5 clients for August.
- An extension was granted by the state through December for unspent funds, therefore no money will be returned.
- A typical person could be male or female, unemployed, receiving some disability income, actively seeking employment, poor credit history, have a criminal background and be from 20 to 50 years old.
- **Requested ESG Funding Amount: \$100,650**

Committee Member Bailey wanted to know if the increase in funds for this year requested by Dr. Elliott-Bynum had anything to do with Healing with CAARE's special relationship with the veterans. She responded yes and explained that currently, they have a transitional veterans housing program and they have relationships with other veterans' houses as well. Because of this relationship with the Veterans Administration, towards the end they were able to get veterans in the rapid re-housing program.

Terry Allebaugh, Housing for New Hope

- Mr. Allebaugh presented some history from 1992 on the first three residents of the Phoenix Transitional Housing Program for Men. Some 21 years later the program is still enriching lives of the almost 450 men that have come through the program. Many of these men have also enriched the lives of Durham.
- Men with addictions can live in a structure living program at Phoenix House for a year. During their stay they learn how to reclaim their lives through obtaining employment, upon moving out they are reunited with their families and they become involved in community projects.
- The goal of Phoenix House is that when the men leave the program they not only have recovery time but they also move into permanent housing. Phoenix House has been able to maintain numbers between 65 – 75% of men who leave and go into permanent housing.
- Phoenix House can accommodate 8 men at time and on the average it serves 20 to 25 men a year.
- **Requested ESG Funding Amount: \$7,111**

In response to Chair Glenn's questions concerning the percentage of men that come with addictions, Mr. Allebaugh answered 98%.

Patrice Nelson, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)

- UMD is working hard to be part of a coordinated system. Out of the requested \$49,000 amount of ESG funding, \$28,000 is to fund a full-time staff person who has been hired to only manage CHIN.
- Urban Ministries of Durham is the only agency within the CoC that reports on emergency shelter for single adults. Last year 999 people stayed in the UMD shelter and each individual was entered into CHIN. UMD now works with CHIN on a regular basis to make sure more data is added. Basic data accuracy regarding application information is 96% and over 90%

accuracy for all other data entered in CHIN including exit data. However, exit information for single adults who are not in the Journey Program falls short. Mostly due to when people leave in the morning UMD does not know if they will return at night.

- \$21,000 of the requested funding is to fund UMD's Family Case Manager.
- 914 adults were housed last year and out of this number, 209 exited to permanent housing.
- 72% of adults that exited the Journey Program moved to permanent housing and 13% of the weekly clients moved to permanent housing as well.
- Funds have been raised this year to hire a licensed Clinical Social Worker. A partnership has been developed with UNC, Shaw University and NCCU to have eight to ten interns that will be participating in a joint program with UMD. Five interns will be assigned to the weekly programs, four to the Journey Programs and one for families.
- UMD is working closely with the Veterans Administration (VA) to determine how to expand their veterans program. 68 veterans are in the Journey Program with 140 being housed last year.
- Sprinklers are needed in the shelters.
- UMD would like to move forward with the VA program, partnership with the schools and the families.
- Demographics were similar for individuals in both the Weekly Program and the Journey Program.
- **Requested ESG Funding Amount: \$49,000**

In response to Committee Member Hopkins' question concerning whether jobs and the types of jobs were a big factor for men who come through the Journey Program, Ms. Nelson responded yes and stated that jobs are a big factor for everyone in the shelter. She added that this year UMD created a closer partnership with Durham Economic Resource Center (DERC), IHN, Genesis Home, Workforce Investment and Durham Technical Community College to begin a job program.

Committee Member Herndon wanted to know if transportation was a challenge for the 72% of the men in the Journey Program that moved to permanent housing. Alexander Herring (UMD) explained that the transportation issue would be related more to employment. Ms. Nelson noted that a big piece of their money is spent on bus passes, approximately \$5,000 a year.

Chair Glenn as well as Committee Member Herndon thanked all the providers for coming out and presenting. Committee Member Herndon also commented that 51% of all children in this country live in poverty - Durham has 28% and that they all have to continue to work together. He told the providers to keep up the good work.

Committee Member Hopkins applauded the Continuum because he noted that it has changed and there are more players participating now. He also applauded the work that is being done.

Subject: HSAC Discussion and Funding Recommendations

Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Manager, Department of Community Development, commented that the agencies have applied for a total of \$201,000 however there is \$130,000 to distribute. A power point

presentation given by Mr. Schmeidler entitled “2013 North Carolina Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Regional Application Overview” summarized the following subjects:

- Introduction-Purposes of ESG
- Intro-State ESG Application
- ESG Regional Application
- The “Meat” of the Application I
- The “Meat” of the Application II
- Concluding Sections
- Supporting Documentation

The “2013 State ESG Recommended Funding Levels” document was distributed to HSAC members. Mr. Schmeidler stated that the department recommends, as they did in 2012, that the \$130,935 amount of ESG funding be divided equally between emergency services and housing stabilization. He then reviewed the funding recommendations with HSAC members and explained that staff came to their decision after having extensive discussion regarding the priorities the state has. The state is allowing communities some flexibility; however, it continues to want communities to prioritize rapid re-housing for housing stabilization. Per Mr. Schmeidler, staff believes that based on their experience with the 2012 application it does not make sense to invest \$100,000 in starting a rapid re-housing program with Healing with CAARE and then during the second year pull it back to \$30,000. It is reflective of the desire to continue to say to the provider community that Durham wants to continue to invest resources in rapid re-housing and invite the other providers to participate.

Additional discussion and comments took place concerning the priority of rapid re-housing, housing stabilization, the “NC ESG Application Form: Regional Application” and the 50/50 split of the ESG funds.

Reginald Johnson, Director, Department of Community Development stated that they don’t want to estimate the risk of the 50/50 split. He noted that staff thinks that they will be ok with the 50/50 for this year, but they will not go 50/50 next year.

Committee Member Herndon noted that he supports staff’s recommendation. He asked what types of conversations they were having with their elected officials and can these conversations start with private foundations.

Committee Members Bowman, Williams and Harvin-Ravin also supported staff’s recommendation. Committee Member Williams recommended having conversations with providers now to prepare them for funds to be decreased for next year.

After some discussion about what defines permanent housing and what is transitional housing, Mr. Schmeidler explained that the difference between a permanent housing program and transitional housing is that the transitional housing program could be no longer than 24 months.

At the request of Committee Member Bailey, Mr. Johnson talked a little about the risks of a 50/50 split. She also asked what would be the options to which Mr. Johnson responded – reduce funding.

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HSAC members present at this time (Bailey, Bowman, Glenn, Harvin-Ravin, Herndon, McCollers, Tuttle, Williams) were all in support of staff's recommendation. A motion was made by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Committee Member Bowman to approve the distribution of ESG funds as recommended by staff. However, since there was no quorum, an official vote could not be taken.

Chair Glenn stated that the recommendation would be put in an e-mail and sent to HSAC members who were not present informing them that members who were present, unanimously support the recommendation. If there are no objections from non-present members, then the Committee will go with staff's recommendation.

Mr. Johnson noted that staff has a time frame they have to meet and as he communicated a couple of years ago when this process started they would not get in a jam on deadlines because of a lack of a quorum.

Subject: Regional Application Review

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Glenn adjourned the meeting at 5: 10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk