

## **DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, August 27, 2014**  
**Durham County Human Services Building**  
**414 E. Main Street - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**3:00 p.m.**

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

**Committee Members Present:** Chair John Bowman, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, City Manager Tom J. Bonfield, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Michael Becketts, Director, Department of Social Services (DSS) and Proxy for County Commissioner Michael Page, Minnie Forte-Brown, Durham Public Schools Board (DPS), Janice Harper, North Carolina Central University, Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer, Reverend Warren Herndon, Shannon McLean, Chief Development Operations Officer, Durham Housing Authority, Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Fred Stoppelkamp, Durham Economic & Resource Center (DERC), Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian, Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University, Stephanie Williams, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare and Latasha Williams, (Serving American Veterans Everywhere (SAVE)).

**Committee Members with Excused Absences:** Sue Jackson, Executive Dean/Department Head, Continuing Education at Durham Technical Community College, Jackie Love, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison for Durham Public Schools and Pam Karriker.

**Committee Members Absent:** Edward Abdullah, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department, Pearlie Williams, Durham NAMI and Jason Wimmer, OEWD.

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

**Also Present:** Mike Robinson, Tina Perry (Rob's Home); Burwell Stark (Triangle Apartment Association); Cynthia Mebane-Watts (Project Homeless Connect Steering Committee); Ryan Fehrman, Director (Genesis Home); Anne Yeung, Janet Xias (Community Empowerment Fund (CEF)); Le Tuckett, Delores Moore, Sabrina Ivey, Donnie Moore, Anthony Ivey, Cameron Robert, Tommy Perkins, Jr., Patrice Nelson, Alexander Herring, Maruka Rivers (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)); Catherine Pleil (Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)); Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum (CAARE); Eric Breit, Joi Stepney, C. Harris, Nigel Brown (Housing for New Hope (HNH)); Serena Wilson (Healthcare for the Homeless); Delvena Jones, Assistant Director (USA Veterans Help).

**Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Bowman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and after reading the group's four goals, asked that members continue to make this their focus.

**Subject: New Member Introduction/Welcome**

Chair Bowman recognized the following new members of the HSAC:

- Michael Becketts, Director, Durham DSS (proxy for Commissioner Michael Page)
- Latasha Wilson, Director, Serving American Veterans Everywhere (SAVE) (Business Representative for the City)
- Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly (Faith Representative for the County)

Members returning for a second term include: Stephanie Williams (Homeless Housing Provider Representative), Charita McCollers (Mental Health Provider Representative) and Chris Tuttle (Non-Profit Representative for the City)

Dr. Janice Harper will be serving on the HSAC as the interim North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Representative since Dr. Deborah Bailey is no longer with NCCU. Harper will be serving until a permanent representative is chosen.

**Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – June 19, 2014**

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, seconded by Committee Member Herndon to approve the minutes of June 19, 2014 was approved with the following amendments:

- On page 3 in the third line under the Subject: Durham CoC Membership the word “formerly” should be “formally”.
- The third paragraph on page 3 under the Subject: HSAC & CEHD Subcommittees should be moved to the top of page 5.
- The fifth paragraph on page 3 under Subject: HSAC & CEHD Subcommittees should read “According to Mr. Stoppelkamp” instead of “According to Mr. Fehrman”

**Subject: Public Comment Period**

City Manager Tom J. Bonfield was contacted by Dr. Tommy Sowers, a professor at Duke University who is under one of Duke’s executive leadership programs. During a meeting Dr. Sowers indicated that there are students who are working throughout the community on certain leadership projects. One of the projects the students have expressed an interest in would involve studying issues of homeless Veterans in the community.

City Manager Bonfield stated that he shared the 2015 goals of the HSAC with Dr. Sowers and he has put him in touch with City staff. The project will probably be a semester project but they anticipate maybe four to six Duke University students under Dr. Sowers’ program would be assigned to study the issues of homeless veterans and report to the Committee their findings. City Manager Bonfield pointed out that a unique aspect of this effort is that Dr. Sowers was an Assistant Secretary at the Department of Veterans Affairs for approximately the past three or four years so he has an incredible amount of knowledge about Veterans’ issues.

Cynthia Mebane-Watts, Project Homeless Connect Steering Committee, asked for the HSAC's support on a new service offered this year at Project Homeless Connect that involves housing for homeless Veterans. The Steering Committee desires to provide security deposit, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> month rent and security deposits for utilities for homeless veterans.

Ms. Mebane-Watts pointed out that a new campaign to help homeless Veterans find housing has been initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama. The First Lady and the President have asked Mayors across the county to sign in for this initiative and per Ms. Mebane-Watts; Mayor Bell has signed on for this plan. The Steering Committee plans to seek sponsors from the Durham Community, and ask Triangle Community Foundation to act as the fiscal agent and CAARE to become the clearing house. CAARE has had great success in working with Veterans and other individuals and have a great rapport with property owners and rental agents who waive criminal and credit background checks for homeless individuals. Ms. Mebane-Watts is asking that HSAC partner with Project Homeless Connect as they seek financial support to assist homeless Veterans.

Discussion followed regarding the amount of money needed by Project Homeless Connect. Ms. Mebane-Watts commented that last year she raised \$8,000 in a week's time and this year they would like to increase this amount to either \$10,000 or \$12,000 so they could help more homeless Veterans.

Committee Member McLean commented the DHA is currently going through their annual and five-year planning process. The plan will be presented to the board in September and DHA has added preferences on the public housing side that will now include a certain number of public housing units that will be designated to homeless persons.

Ryan Fehrman, Director (Genesis Home), noted there is increasing pressure to move money away from shelter activities to other interventions that are less expensive such as Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. Mr. Fehrman feels that shelter is an intricate part of the system and there has always been a need for it. It is crucial that when individuals or families become homeless in the community, they have a place to go where they can access services that move them into permanent housing. The services provided at Genesis Home makes a huge difference for families to get their lives back together, secure jobs and continue moving forward. He commented that shelter should not be an end point but rather a step on the way back to getting into permanent housing. Other interventions he feels are becoming more and more tested such as rapid rehousing. Mr. Fehrman explained that most of the families that come into family shelter systems are coming from a "double-up" situation. Those families are not eligible for Rapid Rehousing. He added they almost have to come into a shelter environment or from the street to even be eligible. These people need a place to go, from a system perspective.

Mr. Fehrman asked that HSAC members think as they make funding decisions that there is tremendous pressure to cut but there needs to be a certain amount of money to keep the doors open at a safe welcoming place for families to grow and move into permanent housing.

Secondly, Mr. Fehrman noted that there is a recommendation before the HSAC that comes from the Department of Community Development about rapid re-housing for families being the highest priority in their CoC process for this current year. Mr. Fehrman endorses this recommendation. He

commented that it would be idea to have some money for Rapid Rehousing. He pointed out that currently there is not a CoC funded Rapid Rehousing project. He added this would be a huge asset to the system that would help families get out of IHN, Genesis Home, Urban Ministries of Durham and he recommends the HSAC give serious consideration to this.

Donnie Moore representing the Morehead Housing and Community Development Corporation, a non-profit, faith-based organization, explained that the Corporation is in the process of being formed in Durham under the direction and mentorship of Reverend David Moore (Metropolitan Housing & Community Development, Inc.). Mr. Moore provided some background information on the corporation and he encouraged anyone wanting more details on what will be taking place in Durham to go to the Secretary of State's website, key in Metropolitan Housing CDC and review the re-statement of purpose.

In the interest of time, Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum waived making any comments. However, she stated that she supports the speakers who made comments at this meeting.

**Subject: HSAC Officer Elections**

Per the Interlocal Agreement for the HSAC concerning the annual election and installation of new officers, Vice-Chair Bowman has transitioned into the Chair position for the HSAC.

Due to the departure of Committee Member Dr. Deborah Bailey, Vice-Chair elect, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe to consider being the new Vice-Chair.

**Motion** made and properly seconded that Committee Member Mayme Webb-Bledsoe become the new Vice-Chair of the HSAC was unanimously approved.

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, seconded by Committee Member McLean that Committee Member Stephanie Williams become HSAC's new Secretary was unanimously approved.

**Subject: 2014-15 HSAC Meeting Schedule & Annual Action Item Schedule**

**Motion** by Committee Member Stoppelkamp, seconded by Committee Member McCollers to adopt the 2014 – 2015 HSAC meeting schedule was unanimously approved.

**Subject: 2014-15 Priorities for ESG & CoC Funding**

Matt Schnars, Project Manager (Department of Community Development) reported that for the 2014-15 priorities for ESG and CoC, staff recommends that Rapid Rehousing for families be the top priority for any new or re-allocated funding that might come into the system throughout the year and that the second priority is Permanent Supportive Housing.

A discussion followed concerning the scoring process including prioritization.

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler (Department of Community Development) explained that in reference to last year's CoC process, HUD indicated that they would only fund new projects that were for Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless people. In the 2014 cycle HUD's communicated that they will fund Rapid Rehousing for homeless families or Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless for new projects under the CoC program. Mr. Schmeidler added that all of the renewal projects are eligible to apply for renewal funding.

Mr. Schnars noted that a workshop was held on August 8, 2014 where the community as well as providers, were in attendance. Information provided at this workshop included HUD's framework for priorities and regulations governing ESG and CoC dollars were explained.

Further discussion was held regarding the scoring process.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden wanted to know how much emphasis on services to Veterans was being placed by the HSAC. She added that she had received a call from a HUD official who expressed concern and wanted to know the number of Veterans that are being served and how many are on the street. She feels that this issue should be prioritized and information needs to be readily accessible.

**Motion** by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe that the HSAC adopt staff's recommendations for Rapid Rehousing for families as the first priority for any new or reallocated Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and/or Continuum of Care (CoC) funding for the 2014-15 funding period; and

The second priority for any new or reallocated ESG or CoC funding is Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons was unanimously approved.

On behalf of the HSAC, Chair Bowman thanked Minnie Forte-Brown for her wonderful leadership, passion and spirit in serving as Chair of the HSAC. A plaque was presented to her in recognition of her service.

**Subject: State ESG Application Submission**

Mr. Schmeidler noted that after a review of the applications and based on priorities from the staff that were approved by the HSAC, the Department of Community Development recommends the following State ESG funding amounts:

<b><u>Emergency Response (Shelter)</u></b>		<b><u>Housing Stabilization (Rapid Rehousing)</u></b>	
Durham Inter Faith Hospitality Network	\$10,190	Housing for New Hope	\$21,000
Urban Ministries of Durham	\$30,000	Healing with CAARE	\$68,142
Genesis Home	\$11,993		
Housing for New Hope	\$21,000		

Mr. Schmeidler added that the Durham Crisis Response Center did not apply in the 2013 cycle but they did in the 2014 cycle. However, their application scored low compared to the others. He informed Aurelia Sand-Bells that the Department of Community Development is very willing to

assist the Durham Crisis Response Center in correcting some deficiencies with their application. Hopefully, this will help them to score higher in the years to come.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked if technical assistance was provided and was help offered at any time prior to the applications, specifically to the Durham Crisis Response Center. She expressed her concern over the application and the score and added that the Crisis Response Center has one of the greatest needs in this community.

Mr. Schmeidler responded no specific technical assistance was provided to the local project applicants regarding completing the application. However, according to Mr. Schmeidler, there were opportunities for all of the applicants to seek technical assistance from the State Health & Human Services Department.

Mr. Schnars pointed out that the process is driven by the state and that technical assistance is provided by the state. Also, a webinar is supposed to be done by the state as well as any questions answered by them.

Discussion and comments were made regarding the funding amounts allocated by the state; the process staff used to arrive at the recommended funding amounts based on what the organization requested versus staff's recommendations; and the scoring process of the applications.

Mr. Schnars noted that another piece of the process involved looking at the performance which was included in the scoring and the funding recommendations as well.

**Motion** by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe to approve submission of the State of NC Emergency Solutions Grant Application was unanimously approved at 4:20 p.m.

Committee Member Herndon wanted to know how many families or individuals will this funding represent. Mr. Schmeidler stated that he will get this information to the Committee.

**Subject: HMIS System Administration**

Mr. Schnars gave some background information on the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) also known as CHIN. He reported that HSAC staff representing Durham's CoC and others across the state of North Carolina have been re-evaluating the HMIS Lead Agency.

After an RFP process, staff is recommending that Michigan Coalition against the Homeless become the new HMIS Administrator. A review of this recommendation by the HSAC is needed and a vote at the September 24, 2014 meeting would be required by the HSAC to adopt the recommendation.

Committee Member Forte-Brown asked that Mr. Schnars prepare a one-page document for members indicating the advantages and disadvantages of this recommendation. This information will help the Committee make an advised decision at the September meeting. Mr. Schnars agreed to do this.

Chair Bowman asked if a workshop prior to the September 2014 meeting, could be held and providers invited as well as members of the HSAC to make sure the process is understood.

Mr. Schnars stated that staff has been in conversation with the providers throughout the entire process.

**Subject: Reminders & Announcements**

- Project Homeless Connect - Friday, October 10, 2014, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Durham Bulls Athletic Park
- Veterans Stand Down – September 19, 2014, National Guard Armory, Stadium Drive
- Additional Rapid Rehousing money is available through the Department of Community Development
- Next HSAC Meeting: Wednesday, September 24, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Durham County Health & Human Services Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Subject: Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Bowman adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock  
Office of the City Clerk