

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM – 2ND FLOOR – CITY HALL

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on the above date and time with the following members present: John A. Bowman, Robert “Bo” Glenn (Vice-Chair), Stephen Hopkins, Kaaren Johanson, Joyce Payne, Fred Stoppelkamp, Reverend Chris Tuttle, Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden (Chair), City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield, Durham County Commissioner Michael Page, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Director of Academic Community Service Learning Program at North Carolina Central University, Dr. Deborah Bailey, Durham Public School Board Chair, Minnie Forte-Brown, Director of Duke Chapel Community & Campus Development, Reverend M. Keith Daniel, Executive Dean & Department Head Continuing Education, Durham Technical Community College, Sue Jackson, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison Jackie Love, and Homeless Coordinator, Durham VA Medical Center, Bob Williamson.

Absent: Committee Member Reverend Warren Herndon and Committee Member Lou Washington, County Veterans Services

Also Present: Interim Director Reginald Johnson and Lloyd Schmeidler (Department of Community Development); Citizens Lanea Foster, Lafayette Perry, Sr. and George Spaulding, Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home); Alma Davis (DCRC); Joyce Stancil-Williams (CASA); Stephanie L. Williams (TDC); Catherine Pleil and Leah Wilkerson (Durham IHN); Patrick Sharpless (Second Chance); Rory Wooten (New Life New Hope); Adam Skinner and Carolyn Schuldt (Open Table Ministry); City Attorney Patrick Baker, Assistant City Attorney Arnetta Herring, Terry Allebaugh (Housing for New Hope); Gwyn Silver (Department of Neighborhood Improvement Services); Terry Munn (Try Angle Empowerment Center); Council Member Mike Woodard and Sr. Executive Assistant Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk.

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Before calling the meeting to order, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked for a moment of silent meditation, noting that the City and County governments had just finished honoring the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through their annual joint celebration.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair), called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., welcomed everyone and thanked Committee Members for their work. She also took this time to recognize and thank City Council Member Mike Woodard for attending the meeting.

Subject: Public Comment Period

Ryan Fehrman, Director of Genesis Home, reported that a subcommittee formed by The Council to End Homelessness in Durham (CEHD) met to review the two Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) draft inter-local proposals. Mr. Fehrman distributed to the HSAC members a handout entitled “Letter of Support” in which the CEHD subcommittee unanimously agreed that the proposal submitted by Robert “Bo” Glenn should be recommended. Mr. Fehrman asked that the HSAC consider the recommendations contained in the letter of support before they take a vote on the two proposals.

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George Spaulding, speaking as a private citizen, noted that he has worked with homeless people for thirty years. He extended an invitation to the Committee to visit the commercial dormitory on Fayetteville Street that he is responsible for to see how it is operated. He shared his concern about the Committee not being able to agree on a better solution for the homeless and stated that he was willing to share his thoughts with the Committee. He ended by saying they need to move on towards real solutions for the homeless problem.

Committee Member Hopkins provided a handout entitled "*Report to the Homeless Services Advisory Committee on Community Input Session on January 7, 2012.*" He gave a brief summary of the report which included comments and concerns from the community. During his presentation, Committee Member Hopkins explained that a survey was given at the Community Input Session concerning the voting process. Out of the 19 surveys turned in, 17 indicated that a decision, concerning the two proposed inter-local agreements, should be delayed. He added that the City Council Member that attended the meeting echoed this thought about the decision and that the community really wanted more information about the process.

At this time, Council Member Mike Woodard stated that while at the Community Input Session, he did not express an opinion on whether the Committee should delay their action or not.

~~During Committee Member~~ Joyce Payne gave a presentation, where she shared experiences she encountered while living as a former homeless person at the Durham Rescue Mission, Urban Ministries and Dove House at Housing for New Hope.

She pointed out that those who are homeless should not lose their rights as a citizen such as freedom of speech, religion, relationship, voting or other liberties.

Committee Member Payne distributed the following handouts to the Committee:

1. List of restrictions enforced on the women residents of the Durham Rescue Mission; and
2. Letter ~~written by Committee Member Payne~~, she addressed to Terry Allebaugh, Executive Director of Housing for New Hope while she lived as a resident of the Dove House.

After sharing her concerns about these programs for the homeless, she concluded that through her observation, the stability of the program is more valued ~~valuable~~ than the people in the programs and this should never be the case. She felt that the programs are only as good as its service to the people and they should never promote long-term homelessness or poverty. She added that the programs should serve the homeless in getting them off the program and not preserve the program to be detrimental to the homeless. She stated that more emphasis should be put on the success ratio of the program, not just provide funding for housing.

Committee Member Payne commented she hopes the Committee will seriously take an opportunity to alleviate the community of homeless~~ness~~ people and not just use the funding carelessly; but take into consideration their needs.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked Committee Member Payne to provide her, as well as the Clerk's Office with a copy of her remarks for the record. She mentioned that she had planned, at some point, to introduce to the Committee each entity that receives money through the CoC.

Committee Member Johanson passed out a newspaper article that appeared in the News & Observer entitled "*Demand for Section 8 housing surges in Triangle.*" She also distributed a document that contained a list of "red flags" that she felt were brought out by the article. After briefly summarizing the article concerning a young woman who had been homeless 5 times in a year and whose children had been left alone in a shelter while she slept on the streets in Durham, Committee Member Johanson commented that the City's CoC and other CoCs were failing this woman. She felt that the HSAC should be looking at ways to address such issues.

After her presentation, Committee Member Johanson offered the following recommendations:

1. Request a written statement from the Department of Community Development explaining how they monitor programs; and
2. Request that the Hackett case (woman in the newspaper article) be investigated to make sure the details about the case are accurate. If they are, the HSAC needs to address this matter.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked Committee Member Cummings to follow up on the newspaper article. Mr. Cummings stated that he would find out if there was any interaction with the Department of Social Services.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) announced that she attended the Point in Time Count Committee meeting in January for which a report would be received later on at this meeting. She also was invited to a meeting concerning centralized intake and reported that someone from that committee would be coming before the HSAC in February to share information concerning the subject of centralized intake. She pointed out that it's important that the Committee understand the importance of documenting everything that is being done.

Subject: Approval of December Minutes – December 14, 2011

Motion by Committee Member Cummings, seconded by Committee Member Jackson to approve the minutes of December 14, 2011 was unanimously approved at 3:36 p.m.

Subject: Inter-Local Agreement Proposals

Vice-Chair Glenn explained that both inter-local agreement proposals (Glenn and Hopkins) were a result of work that took place during the Subcommittee meetings. He stated that whichever agreement the Committee decided to choose, more work would need to be done to it. He also suggested that the Committee needed to agree on a structure and move forward with it.

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Vice-Chair Glenn further commented that the structure he proposed was adopted by the City Manager, submitted to both the City Council and County Commissioners and approved by them.

Committee Member Hopkins pointed out that the Subcommittee was charged with coming up with a structure proposal, however the Subcommittee was not allowed to vote on either of the proposals. He noted that there were several concerns with the Manager's proposal that still have not been addressed. Committee Member Hopkins stated that Mr. Allebaugh was the original writer of the proposal. He added that Vice-Chair Glen's proposal is an agreement between the City and the County and that the HSAC does not have the authority to put a proposal together - this is something that the City and County Attorneys should do.

Some concerns highlighted by Committee Member Hopkins included the need for more community input, knowing what the needs are for the homeless, monitoring and accountability.

Further comments were made by Committee Member Hopkins regarding the proposals.

Committee Member Hopkins also provided an impromptu power point presentation to illustrate what he felt was the structure of Vice-Chair Glenn's proposal.

Vice-Chair Glenn disagreed with Committee Member Hopkins' interpretation. He explained that under HUD's guidelines the HSAC is the primary decision making body. They have the authority to appoint the lead agency, have on-going responsibilities to HUD and also serve as the advisory committee to the City Council and County Commissioners. He further added that the job of the HSAC is to bring together the entire community which encompasses the homeless, service providers, advocates and educators and to include the input of people who deal with the issue of homelessness as well as serve as an advisory committee to the Department of Community Development, Durham Centre and the Department of Social Services. All of this is done in an effort of working together to provide an overall broad base support for the homeless.

According to Vice-Chair Glenn, his concern with Committee Member Hopkins' proposal was it puts in place a non-profit, 501(c) 3 corporation with its own board of directors, funding from the City and County and has no accountability. The proposal that's in place now provides oversight by the City and County and by the elected officials.

Committee Member Johanson noted that she would have to disagree that they are talking about a change versus what was in place. She pointed out even though it's not exactly the same; the general structure was still the same.

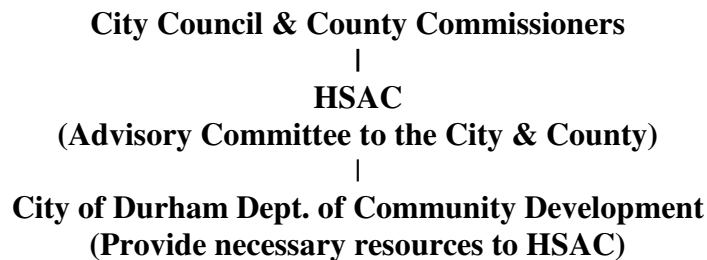
She was also concerned about the conflict of interest that arises by having staff work for an agency that has applied to be the lead agency and is currently the lead agency for the City of Durham – specifically the Department of Community Development.

Further discussion and comments by the Committee followed concerning structure and procedures.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated that the City Council and County Commissioners are involved in the whole process. She feels the County Managers understand that the HSAC will be a decision making body. She also feels that everybody should understand that at the top of everything is HSAC and that staff should make sure the resources are in place so the Committee can do the work they need to in accordance with the agreement in place with the County.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair), Assistant City Attorney Arnetta Herring briefly summarized the purpose of the inter-local agreement. She explained that the inter-local agreement should set forth provisions for the City and County as to how they would like to address homelessness in the city and in the county. Ms. Herring pointed out the agreement should also address administration, funding, structure and should comply with HUD's regulations, standards and guidelines.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated that she sees the structure as being:



She noted that decisions on how homelessness is handled within the City and County will be made by HSAC and not by Community Development.

Commissioner Page added that the HSAC was appointed by the bodies to hear from the community. He stated that this body works with the community in terms of being its voice.

City Manager Bonfield pointed out that the role of the HSAC was included in Vice-Chair Glenn's draft inter-local agreement.

Additional comments and discussion took place concerning the HSAC's role and responsibilities.

Interim Director of the Department of Community Development Reginald Johnson explained that some of the expectations of the HSAC as it relates to HUD include reviewing proposals that are submitted for CoC funding and making recommendations. Mr. Johnson also stressed the importance of making sure everything is in proper standing with HUD.

Mr. Johnson stated that the CoC Check-Up is a survey by HUD of the Continuum. He added that on the local level, up to 20 names can be submitted such as lead agencies, providers and formerly homeless persons, to participate in the survey to check the status of the CoC.

Committee Member Hopkins asked how will monitoring be done and can the Committee be assured that the City's evaluation process of itself and the providers of the CoC are accurate.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated there would be built-in accountability for people receiving money from the body. She mentioned that a goal of the City of Durham is to become a high performing CoC.

Committee Member Hopkins again voiced his concern about making sure the community had input in the process.

Regarding the ranking process of proposals, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated the top-ranking proposal came from DHA and nothing was rejected. Mr. Johnson noted that they ranked consistent with the funding.

However, Committee Member Hopkins commented that the wording in the HUD document indicates that funding was recommended for two programs but funding for a third program was rejected.

Mr. Johnson stated he did not remember submitting a rejection of a program. He emphasized the fact that they can only submit programs consistent with the amount of funding that's authorized by HUD.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked specifically who the Committee ranked as #1 and was that organization submitted as #1 as they said it should be. Mr. Johnson responded yes, and added the organization was Durham Housing Authority.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) and other Committee Members asked to see the application. Mr. Johnson pulled the information up on the City's website for the Committee to look at.

Subject: Point in Time Count Preparations and needs

Committee Member Johanson reported that the Point in Time Count Committee was making a lot of progress. She noted that there are several components of the Point in Time Count such as a shelter count, demographics and needs survey, the Carolinas Homeless Information Network (CHIN) is used, and an unsheltered count is done as well as focus is placed on the youth that may be homeless. Committee Member Johanson has met with Durham Public School Board Chair Minnie Forte-Brown and Homeless Liaison for Durham Public Schools Jackie Love, who were very adamant about making sure that homeless youth are included in the count. Special teams have been put together to seek out these youth. The teams will be going out into the malls and other areas to reach these individuals. Also, this year Ms. Johanson commented that a Spanish version of the survey will be available. She added there are opportunities for people to volunteer and assist in the Point in Time Count. Information can be accessed at www.surveymonkey/s/pit2012.com.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) noted that everyone on HSAC should volunteer.

Committee Member Johanson also reported that there will be a team that will review what is turned in by the agencies to ensure they are using the same definitions as HUD.

Additional comments were made concerning volunteer efforts for the Point in Time Count.

Committee Member Johanson thanked Measurement Incorporated for designing the forms along with RTI who will help with analysis and presentation of the report. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated she would like to send a letter of appreciation from the HSAC to these companies.

Committee Member Forte-Brown reported that Ms. Love has, as of October, 470 students that are homeless. She noted the biggest challenge with the Point in Time Count is finding the parents to do the survey because the survey has to be done by a parent.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked Ms. Love to contact the City's Youth Services Coordinator Evelyn Scott to see how the Youth Commission can assist.

Committee Member Williamson asked if the youth that are currently in detention centers being tracked as well. Committee Member Johanson explained that they have not been tracked in the past because by HUD's definition they are not homeless.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) pointed out that they need to get with the judicial system and look at discharge planning.

Committee Member Johanson asked that any other suggestions be submitted to her by e-mail.

Subject: HSAC Staffing

In regards to staffing, Mr. Johnson stated that he would be the main person the Committee would see along with Lloyd Schmeidler who will be assisting mostly with data. Also, Mr. Johnson announced that by the end of the month he will be advertising for a staff position that would help with the work of the HSAC. The Committee will be receiving a copy of the ad for the position. In addition, an individual who works with the CoC in Winston Salem will be advising as well as making sure what is submitted to HUD is in compliance.

Subject: CoC Check-Up Process

Members of the Continuum of Care will be asked to complete a survey which will be used to find out about the health of the CoC. Up to 20 names from various categories can be recommended for the survey. Mr. Johnson provided the following participants and categories:

CATEGORY	PARTICIPANT
CoC Lead Agency	Reginald Johnson
HMIS Lead	Sonya Eastnat, CHIN Coordinator
Local HPRP ESG Grantees Representative	Wilmur Conyers
(4) Providers	Patrice Nelson, Terry Allebaugh, Stephanie Williams, Ryan Fehrman
(3) Consumers	Joyce Payne, Steve Hopkins, Lafayette Perry
(10) Stakeholders	Cora Cole-McFadden, Lanea Foster, Robert “Bo” Glenn, Lloyd Schmeidler, Michael Page, Drew Cummings, Tom Bonfield, Ernie Mills, Bo Williamson, Kaaren Johanson

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked Mr. Johnson to also consider Healing with CAARE as one of the participants.

Subject: Appointment of “Performance Measurement & Improvement Subcommittee”

Per Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair), the Performance Measurement & Improvement Subcommittee appointment will be made at a later date in addition to other committees that are needed.

Mr. Johnson resumed his conversation regarding the ranking process. After accessing the city’s website and explaining what information was contained on the applications, he stated that he would send out the legend so that Committee Members would know the definition of the codes that were used for the ranking process.

Committee Member Stoppelkamp wanted to make sure the Committee would take a vote on the two structure proposals.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) recommended that she, County Commissioner Page, City Manager Bonfield, County Manager Ruffin and the City and County Attorneys meet and put together a structure in writing showing how the decision making process will take place.

She assured the Committee that the structure would be one where staff would not dictate to the HSAC. She and the afore-mentioned individuals will look at Vice-Chair Glenn’s proposal and Committee Member Hopkins’ proposal and bring back a document that would show that the HSAC is in control of the process.

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There was a motion made by Committee Member Hopkins to approve Vice-Chair Glenn's recommendation but no second was made therefore it failed.

Substitute Motion by Committee Member Hopkins seconded by Committee Member Bailey to have Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair), County Commissioner Page, City Manager Bonfield, County Manager Ruffin and the City and County Attorneys meet and bring back a proposal to the Committee failed.

Committee Member Forte-Brown strongly expressed her concern about the Committee not being able to make a decision concerning the two proposals.

After much discussion, the majority of the HSAC members present voted in favor of the proposal submitted by Vice-Chair Glenn.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, (Chair) stated that the Committee would move forward with Vice-Chair Glenn's proposal with the understanding that she along with the City and County Administration, Commissioner Page and both City and County Attorneys will be involved in the process.

Committee Member Payne asked if the Committee would have an opportunity to review the proposal before the next meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden responded that she hoped so.

Subject: Announcements & Updates
***Preliminary Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) information**
***Meeting Schedule**

The Preliminary Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) information was not discussed at this meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated that the meeting schedule item would be revisited at a later date.

Committee Member Hopkins announced that there would be a community meeting on February 11, 2012. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden wanted the record to show that Committee Member Hopkins was acting outside of the HSAC.

Subject: Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock
Office of the City Clerk