

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 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: Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden (Chair), Robert “Bo” Glenn (Vice-Chair), John Bowman, Stephen Hopkins, Kaaren Johanson, Joyce Payne, Fred Stoppelkamp, Reverend Chris Tuttle, County Commissioner Pam Karriker (for County Commissioner Michael Page), City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Durham Public School Board Chair Minnie Forte-Brown and Durham Public Schools’ Homeless & At-Risk Liaison, Jackie Love.

Excused Absence: None

Absent: Committee Members Reverend Warren Herndon, Durham County Commissioner Michael Page, Dr. Deborah Bailey, Director of Academic Community Service Learning Program at North Carolina Central University, Sue Jackson, Executive Dean & Department Head of Continuing Education at Durham Technical Community College and Durham VA Medical Center Homeless Coordinator Bob Williamson.

Staff Absent: Lloyd Schmeidler, Department of Community Development

Also Present: Interim Director Reginald Johnson, Department of Community Development, Stephanie Williams, TDC, Catherine Pleil, Durham IHN, Patrice Nelson, Urban Ministries of Durham, Ryan Fehrman, Genesis Home, Jack Preiss, Citizen, Pam Ballard, Citizen, Lafayette Perry, Living Proof, Inc. and Sr. Executive Assistant Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk.

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair).

Subject: Public Comment Period

No public comments were made.

Subject: Approval of April, 2012 Minutes

Motion by Committee Member Bowman, seconded by City Manager Bonfield to approve the April 25, 2012 minutes was unanimously approved at 3:03 p.m.

Subject: Homeless Children in Durham Presentation

Committee Member Jackie Love (Homeless & At-Risk Liaison for Durham Public Schools) gave a power point presentation concerning homeless children in Durham. The presentation was entitled *Homeless Students: “An Invisible Population.”*

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Committee Member Love discussed the following subjects during her presentation:

- McKinney – Vento
- Qualifications for Services
- Steps to Enrollment
- Transportation
- Homeless Statistics for DPS
- Community Outreach
- Possible Signs of Homelessness
- Effects of Homelessness
- How Homelessness Affects Academic Performance

Committee Member Love reported that there were approximately 810 homeless students in Durham Public Schools.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked if families were found living in cars during the Point-in-Time Count. Committee Member Hopkins noted that he knew of one individual who was found living in a car.

Committee Member Love pointed out that data from the school system was submitted but was not included in the Point-In-Time Count. Committee Member Johanson explained that under the federal definition “doubled-up” does not count as homeless.

In response to Committee Member Payne’s question about whether there was a breakdown of information that would show the ages or grades of the youth, Committee Member Love stated that she didn’t have this information with her but she has a database which talks about how many kids are in each school. She added that she does not report this information yet because the numbers are not final. However, after June 15th, if anyone would like to see this information, she would get permission to share it with the Committee.

Conversation took place as to whether or not counselors were working with homeless children to ensure that their needs are met so they can perform in school. Committee Member Love responded yes and added that most of their referrals come from school counselors and school social workers.

Questions were raised about tracking the number of pregnant youth and whether there was a model youth home somewhere in North Carolina that the City could replicate.

Committee Member Love mentioned that The Haven House, located in Wake County would be a great model youth shelter. Committee Member Forte-Brown also added that there was a similar place in Portland. Committee Member Love stated that having a place for pregnant teens would be a separate issue that needs to be addressed.

Committee Member Love also shared a video with the Committee that talked about homelessness from a child’s perspective.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked how many schools had “backpack” programs. Committee Member Love stated that Durham Inter-Faith Food Shuttle was supporting at least six schools. Work is also starting with Union Baptist Church who will be supporting Fayetteville Street School. Committee Member Love explained that the “backpack” program allows children to take food home in the backpack on Fridays with enough food for the weekend. On Mondays, when the child returns the backpack to school, it is then re-stocked with food. This process is done for the entire year.

Discussion followed concerning the role HSAC could play in addressing the homeless youth issue. Suggestions included a great need for housing for teens and food vouchers.

Committee Member Hopkins recommended coordinating more with providers to see what resources are available to assist the “unaccompanied youth” [between the ages of 16 and 25 years of age] and families.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) added that the youth has to be a top priority. She thanked Committee Member Love for her presentation and the time she put into it.

Committee Member Johanson asked if Renaissance House was doing anything on housing for the youth. Committee Member Love stated that they were not doing anything because they could not get funding.

Committee Member Forte-Brown pointed out that one charge of the HSAC is to find out what the non-profits are doing with funding they receive and to make sure they are accountable. Also, see what services are being offered and make sure these services are meeting the needs of the homeless community.

Committee Member Payne suggested that the Committee should let the Durham community know what the problem is. She added that help could be solicited from other people and people may be willing to volunteer once they realize there is a need.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked Committee Member Love to appear on the City’s Cable 8 TV to discuss the homeless youth population. She asked her to contact Beverly Thompson.

Committee Member Hopkins volunteered to help on the Prevention Results Team chaired by Committee Member Love. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated that she would also help with the youth.

Committee Member Forte-Brown noted that the community action agencies around the state of North Carolina are doing a program called “Face to Face with Poverty”. She has asked that the Durham community action agency simulate that same stake model here in Durham.

Subject: Point-In-Time Count Responses to Data

Committee Member Johanson announced that the final written report of the Point-In-Time Count data would be complete within the next two weeks. She noted that as soon as the report was out HSAC members would receive a copy. Anyone else wanting to receive a copy of the report should provide their name and e-mail address to Committee Member Johanson to be added to her list.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) requested that the Point-In-Time Count presentation made at the press conference be e-mailed to Committee Members. Committee Member Johanson stated she would e-mail it out.

Interim Director Reginald Johnson directed the Committee's attention to the Point-In-Time Count numbers contained in their packet of information. He also stated that he would e-mail his presentation out to members as well.

Briefly, Committee Member Johanson summarized her presentation of the demographics and needs survey which looked specifically at individuals as opposed to the overall population. Some interesting information revealed by the report:

- Approximately 62% of the homeless respondents were African Americans as opposed to 40% in the community;
- More males than females;
- Several homeless individuals had been in institutions but recently released within last 30 days;
- Majority of respondents had a high school education or higher;
- Ages ranged from 40 – 59 years old;
- Medical care for most respondents was received within the last year at sheltered clinics and emergency rooms, as well as being in the hospital;
- Most common places for the homeless to spend the night were in emergency and transitional shelters.

Some priority areas to focus on would be job placement programs, job matching, employment educational programs, substance abuse and mental health services, transitional programs' access to on-going medical care.

RTI has volunteered to redesign the form so better data can be obtained for next year.

A suggestion was made for the Committee to have more time to discuss this information. Because of this, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated that the *Point-In-Time Count Responses to Data* agenda item would be moved to the June 27, 2012 DHSAC meeting.

Subject: CoC Check-Up Process and Action Plan

Since the CoC Check-Up Process and Action Plan are working plans, continuously open for improvements, Mr. Johnson recommended keeping this item before the Committee for further discussion.

Subject: 10 Year Plan – Vision & Mission Statement

Mr. Johnson reminded the Committee that they had agreed to review the vision and mission statements for the 10 Year Results Plan to End Homelessness in Durham and determine if they are relevant or do changes need to be made.

Vice-Chair Glenn stated that he did not feel anything needed to be added to the vision or mission statement. However, he felt there could be a potential problem concerning undocumented residence and noted that there are a number of federal programs that might benefit homeless documented residences. He feels that the Latino population is growing and some of them are homeless.

Committee Member Hopkins commented the vision was not practical because it refers to 10 years and it is now 5 years into the plan.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) stated that if there were other suggestions concerning the vision and mission statements, the Committee could discuss them when they meet in June.

Subject: ESG Lead Agency Appointment Information

Mr. Johnson noted that the Committee will look at requesting action at their next meeting concerning this item. Changes from Washington and the state level are forth-coming in the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. There will be a need for the local jurisdictions to adopt a Lead Agency for the ESG. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the document contained in Committee Members' packets was a draft that would possibly change because it is still in process at the state level. Mr. Johnson wanted the Committee to review the document and staff will be e-mailing the Committee more information as it is received in preparation for the next meeting.

Vice-Chair Glenn asked if the ESG grant was the subject of approval by the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Mr. Johnson stated that the CAC does review ESG applications. In response to Vice-Chair Glenn's question concerning whether or not reviewing ESG applications would become part of the HSAC's jurisdiction, Mr. Johnson stated that he would research and get more information, but he did not think this was the case.

Additional comments were made concerning the ESG and its process.

Committee Member Hopkins read a list of questions that he would like answered at the next HSAC meeting concerning the ESG. After reading the list he submitted it to Mr. Johnson.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's (Chair) question about the time frame for the ESG, Mr. Johnson explained that this is being done in conjunction with the state level because they are also doing an amendment related to ESG which is due in August. Therefore, Durham is in preparation of this.

In reference to the vision and mission statements, City Manager Bonfield commented that these statements should be in sync with the 2010 federal plan and not the original plan. He suggests that

staff may want to go back and review this. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) asked Mr. Johnson to take a look at the federal strategic plan [Opening Doors].

Subject: Announcements & Updates

- Committee Member Stoppelkamp wanted to know about members' reappointments to the HSAC and their terms. Since he is a County appointee he was referred to the County Clerk's office for more information.
- Vice-Chair Glen requested a report on CDBG, ESG and HOME money as well as what the HSAC's role is concerning this.
- Mr. Johnson reported that the Annual Action Plan was presented to the City Council and has been adopted and submitted to HUD.
- The "Penny for Housing" discussion has not been decided. City Manager Bonfield noted that this item would be discussed on May 30, 2012 during the City Council's budget work shop and the public hearing is scheduled for June 4, 2012. However, the information is available on the web as well as in libraries.
- Committee Member Hopkins asked that elected officials be made aware of the importance of continuity as it relates to the HSAC.
- Mr. Johnson announced that Mr. Matthew Schnars has been hired to assist with Durham Opening Doors, the HSAC and all other work related to homeless services and prevention. Mr. Schnars is from Wake County and currently works for the Raleigh City Parks & Recreation Department. He has experience working in homelessness and prior to coming to the City of Raleigh, he worked for over a decade as a program director for Haven House. During his tenure there he worked with program grants [federal and state] and dealt with youth, especially homeless youth. Mr. Schnars has served as the treasurer for the Raleigh-Wake Continuum of Care and has also served on the Raleigh-Wake 10-Year Plan Oversight Committee. He will begin work with the City of Durham on June 25th.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden (Chair) reminded Committee Members to keep the youth in the forefront of their minds. She stressed the fact that the youth have to be a priority.

Subject: Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the HSAC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 2012 in the 2nd floor Committee Room of City Hall at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock
Office of the City Clerk