

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 25, 2013
Council Chambers – 1st Floor – City Hall- 3:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members present: Chair Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice-Chair John Bowman, Edward Abdullah, Dr. Deborah Bailey, Director of Academic Services Learning Program at NCCU, Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden (left at 4:27 p.m.), Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Robert “Bo” Glenn, Jr., Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sherriff’s Department, Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer, Sue Jackson (left at 4:15 p.m.), Executive Dean/Department Head Continuing Education at Durham Technical Community College, Shannon McLean, Chief Development Operations Officer, Durham Housing Authority, Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center, Kimberly Monroe, Fred Stoppelkamp, Reverend Chris Tuttle, Pearlie Williams (left at 4:36 p.m.), Stephanie Williams (left at 4:15 p.m.), Alliance Behavioral Healthcare.

Excused Absence: Committee Members Jackie Love, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison for Durham Public Schools, Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University and Jason Wimmer, OEWD.

Absent: City Manager Tom Bonfield, Reverend Warren Herndon, 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), Ryan Fehrman (Genesis Home), Terry Allebaugh, Nigel Brown, Cynthia Harris, Joi Stepney (Housing for New Hope (HNH), Catherine Pliel, Maryanne Henderson (Durham Inter-Faith Hospitality Network (IHN), Michelle Hartman, Donna Biederman (Duke School of Nursing), Phil Wiggins (Summit Church), Rebecca Calderara, Julia Gamble, Jen Robinson, Brenda Solomon (Lincoln Community Health Center Clinic for the Homeless), Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum (Healing with CAARE, Inc.), Pam Karriker (Citizen), Reverend Ernie Mills (Durham Rescue Mission (DRM), Patrice Nelson (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), Jack Preiss (HSAC Housing Results Team), Dolores Baginski, Kathy Brisbane, Brigitte Y. Green (Citizens) and Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk).

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Forte-Brown opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m. and called for a moment of silence focusing on the work needed to end homelessness. She also directed the Committee’s attention to the four (4) goals listed on the top of their meeting agenda concerning ending homelessness and noted that these goals will appear on the agenda each time so that members will keep them at the forefront of every decision that the Committee makes.

Subject: Minutes Review/Approval (Minutes of August 14, 2013 Special Meeting & August 21, 2013 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, seconded by Committee Member Stoppelkamp to approve minutes of the August 14, 2013 special meeting and the August 21, 2013 regular meeting was unanimously approved at 3:10 p.m.

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Subject: Public Comment Period

Chair Forte-Brown opened the floor to receive public comments and hearing none, the public comment period was closed.

Subject: Project Homeless Connect

Matt Schnars, Project Manager, Department of Community Development, directed the Committee's attention to a document in their packets which gave a timeline for Project Homeless Connect. He extended an invitation for HSAC members who have not already registered, to attend the event. Mr. Schnars announced that due to major renovations taking place at the Durham Bulls Stadium, this year's event will be held at the Durham Armory located at 220 Foster Street on October 3, 2013.

Subject: Triangle United Way Efforts & CEO Sleep Out

Committee Member Bailey noted that Vice-Chair Bowman participated in Triangle United Way's 2nd annual "CEO Sleep Out" event. She stated that when efforts such as the Sleep Out are going on in the City and the region, a commendation should be sent to the organization to commend those efforts and to say thank you. She recommended that the Committee send a formal commendation to the Triangle United Way for their efforts.

Vice-Chair Bowman spoke briefly about his participation with the CEO Sleep Out. He ended by saying the experience was a good reminder for them all and he was glad that he took part in the event.

Mr. Schnars commented that he and Mr. Schmeidler have been collaborating with the United Way in Wake County regarding coordinated intake. There is a need for additional resources dedicated to coordinated intake and the United Way has adopted this issue to try to raise funds for the expansion of coordinated intake.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, seconded by Committee Member Tuttle to send a formal commendation to the Triangle United Way and participants of the CEO Sleep Out event was unanimously approved at 3:15 p.m.

Subject: HSAC Annual Report

Committee Members reviewed and discussed key points from the HSAC Annual Report presented by Mr. Schnars.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, seconded by Committee Member McCollers to accept the HSAC Annual Report was unanimously approved at 3:35 p.m.

Subject: 2013-14 CoC & ESG Priorities

Framework for the process of establishing priorities was provided by Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler and Matt Schnars, Department of Community Development.

Mr. Schmeidler noted that the key recommendation from CEHD that is being adopted by the Department of Community Development is that permanent supportive housing projects for chronically homeless single adults will be the priority under Tier 2.

Other recommendations include:

- \$108,127.00 will be made available for reallocation because Turning Point will not be renewed and the Phoenix /Dove House project at Housing for New Hope has agreed to partially renew their grant. Therefore, this money will be freed up for potential new projects.
- If the twelve remaining projects that are renewing do not fit under the Tier 1 funding level, with the exception of Phoenix/Dove House, then they would be reduced proportionally. HUD states that a larger cut should be anticipated this year than last year. Last year's cut was 3.5 percent however; staff is anticipating a cut between 5 and 8 percent this year.
- Project administrative costs for all new and renewing projects must be limited to 7 percent of the project budget.

Discussion followed concerning medical respite care funding and an explanation of the difference between Tier 1 and Tier 2.

Committee Member Pearlie Williams made comments about inmates coming out of jail and needing assistance. She shared her own personal experiences with the Committee. She noted that even though Durham was home for her she was not able to receive help when she needed it.

Committee Member Stephanie Williams stated that last year Durham Housing Authority, Alliance and Housing for New Hope partnered and applied for HUD funding for "Breaking Barriers" which is the program to help those individuals coming out of the jail system but unfortunately it was not funded. This year Alliance and Housing for New Hope have started a pilot project for those coming out of Durham Detention Center to try and make sure those individuals are housed.

Committee Member Stoppelkamp pointed out that in reference to criminal background checks, the City of Durham has adopted the "ban the box" initiative for their job applications so that people don't have to check this. He pointed out that the City can lead by example but they can't do it alone; the private sector should also take on the mind set of giving people a second chance. Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden noted that the County has also banned the box concerning criminal background checks from their job applications.

Motion by Committee Member Stoppelkamp, seconded by Committee Member Glenn to accept the 2013-2014 CoC & ESG Priorities recommendations was unanimously approved at 4:00 p.m.

Subject: CoC Policy & Procedures

Mr. Schnars and Mr. Schmeidler provided some background on HUD requirements for CoC policy and procedures. Committee Members reviewed a document contained in their information packet entitled “Durham Continuum of Care Policy & Procedure: Policy & Procedure Development”. Discussion followed concerning potential requirements for reviewing policy and procedures.

In reference to Procedure #2, Committee Member Bailey wanted clarity on exactly who would draft new policies and amendments to existing policies. Mr. Schnars stated that the Department of Community Development, being the CoC Lead Agency, would be drafting new policies and amendments. Also, Committee Member Bailey stated that she needed to be clear on what the “full CoC membership” referred to as it is used in Procedure #4. Chair Forte-Brown pointed out that the Performance Management Committee had also talked about who was a part of the CoC. She added there has to be a criteria to being a member of the CoC.

The Performance Subcommittee and the Structure Subcommittee will work together to provide staff with more input on the policy and procedures guidelines.

In response to Committee Member Stoppelkamp’s question about how to get information presented to the City Council, Reginald Johnson, Director of the Department of Community Development explained the different tools used in communicating with the City Council.

Subject: Structure Subcommittee

Committee Member Tuttle gave an update of the work accomplished by the Structure Subcommittee.

The Structure Subcommittee recommends holding two meetings per year of the full CoC (HSAC & CEHD) as required by HUD. The meetings would be held in the fall and the spring of the year and would be coordinated jointly.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden wanted to know who would be taking the lead on the agenda for the joint meeting. Committee Member Tuttle stated that HSAC would take the lead on the agenda and that the agenda would be prepared and brought back to HSAC’s October meeting for their review.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden seconded by Committee Member Bailey to have the November 20, 2013 regularly scheduled meeting of the HSAC be made into a meeting of the entire Durham Continuum of Care, that a public invitation to the meeting be issued and that the leadership of the HSAC coordinate the development of an appropriate agenda with the leadership of the Council to End Homelessness in Durham was unanimously approved at 4:25 p.m.

Subject: Subcommittee Updates

Access to Services Results Team (Drew Cummings, Chair)

- Committee Member Cummings provided an executive summary regarding the “Hospital to Home for the Homeless Medical Respite Pilot Proposal”.
- The pilot program will serve up to 20 medically-vulnerable single, homeless adults needing short-term care following hospitalization or for medical stabilization prior to or following out-patient procedures and surgeries.
- The program will offer free specialty medical care for homeless and uninsured people.

Motion by Committee Member Glenn seconded by Vice-Chair Bowman that the HSAC endorse the Medical Respite Pilot Proposal including but not limited to the payment of \$20,000 to fund the proposal equally from the City and County was unanimously approved at 4:39 p.m.

Housing Results Team (Fred Stoppelkamp, Chair)

- The Rapid Re-housing Program assists with deposit of utilities and rental assistance for a short time as well as some case management.
- The Rapid Re-housing fund is approximately 6 months old.
- Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Healing with CAARE, Inc. reported that they have provided training for over 410 participants from January 24, 2013 – July 31, 2013. Trainings are also scheduled for September through December.
- Dr. Bynum stated there is a great need for case management.
- Challenges include the limited disability income received by clients and the limited amount of housing available to clients.
- Healing with CAARE, Inc. housed 27 individuals out of a goal of 32.
- Joi Stepney, Housing for New Hope, reported that their goal was to provide re-housing assistance to 80 households (45 for families, 35 for individuals). As of August 31, 2013 they have housed 31 households and recently have housed 8 more with about 3 pending for a total of 42 being housed. The overall total of individuals being housed is 83.
- Some challenges include some landlords do not accept people with felonies, and people who have past due rent at other properties.
- Housing for New Hope offers A “Ready to Rent” workshop that teaches individuals how to budget. They also partner with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and Greenshares who furnishes the apartments as well as other community organizations.

Committee Member Stoppelkamp summarized by adding that the Rapid-Rehousing funding was important and that it is working and it should continue to be funded.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Forte-Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the HSAC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the 1st floor of City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted
Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk