

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Full CoC Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Virtual Conference Call

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

Committee Members Present:

Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center);
Vice-Chair Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham);
Secretary Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS));
Harold D. Briscoe (City of Durham Homeless Subpopulation Advocate);
Heidi Carter (Durham County Commissioner);
Jonathan T. Crooms (Durham County Veteran Services Office – *Proxy for Lois Harvin-Ravin*);
Drew Cummings, (Chief of Staff, Durham County Manager’s Office);
Ryan Fehrman (Executive Director, Families Moving Forward);
Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service);
Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham);
Jovonia Lewis (Durham Public School Board of Education)
Eliza Mathew (Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs);
Wanda Page (City of Durham City Manager’s Office);
Mayor Steve Schewel (*Proxy Amber Wade in attendance*)
Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare);
Vega Swepson (Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College);
Ebony Thomas (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison);
Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative, City of Durham/TROSA);
Renee Vaughan (Faith Community Representative);
Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)

Excused Committee Members:

Michael Best (Formerly Homeless representative);
Dr. Angeloe Burch (Durham County Homeless Subpopulation advocate);
Meredith Daye, (Development Director, Durham Housing Authority);
Janeen Gordon (Assistant Director, Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*);
Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*);
Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless);
Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation);

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Staff Present:

Community Development Director Reginald J. Johnson,
Community Development Assistant Director Karen Lado,
Community Development Manager Colin Davis,
Senior Community Development Analyst Lloyd Schmeidler,
Senior Community Development Analyst Hanaleah Hoberman,
Community Development Coordinator Ruebe Holmes.

Also Present:

Shiesha Bell (LIFE Skills Foundation);
Leah Bergman (Bergman Rentals);
Matthew Byars;
Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward);
Dr. Collins (VOA);
Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope);
Kate Gonzalez (Reinvestment Partners);
Manuel Hyman (Alliance Health);
Debbie Long (Community Empowerment Fund);
Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries of Durham);
Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson (Open Table Ministry);
Daniel Oladele (VOA);
Kristi Page (Housing for New Hope);
Drew Pridgen (TROSAs);
Laressa Witt (Alliance Health)

Subject: Call to Order and Housekeeping

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. She thanked everyone for attending, read the goals of the HSAC aloud, and reviewed housekeeping rules.

She welcomed the newest HSAC member, Michael Best, who is representing persons with lived experience in homelessness.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

There were no minutes available to approve from the December 16, 2020 meeting.

Subject: Public Comments Period

No one signed up for public comments

Chair Thompson took the opportunity to advise the committee about the System Performance Ranking for October 2018 through September 2019. Durham's ranking improved to 10% from 79% the previous year. She offered kudos to Continuum of Care and HSAC members for their exceptional work that caused this improvement in our system.

Chair Thompson also offered kudos to Urban Ministries and Housing for New Hope for their work preparing for White Flag Nights during the 2020-2021 winter season.

Subject: Presentation from Mayor Schewel

Mayor Schewel provide an overview of the efforts that have been made and those that are ongoing to support efforts to end homelessness in Durham. He began with his own history of

serving the homeless by serving on the Urban Ministries board several years ago and assisting with the annual Point in Time Count.

Mayor Schewel highlighted the several initiatives made since he was first elected to office with the City of Durham. These include the Two Pennies effort to provide funding for affordable housing, renewal of several current affordable housing complexes to keep them usable for those who need them, addition of new housing units that include a number of affordable housing units, City/County cooperation with rental assistance and eviction diversion, and increased landlord engagement.

Monies provided for COVID support, over \$12 million, have mostly been spent. These funds were used to prevent homelessness and to support eviction diversion, rapid rehousing efforts, and White Flag Nights. Approximately, \$1.8 million is left and are being used for rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, and street outreach. Possible new funding of \$8.9 million is expected and will largely be used for rental assistance. This still will not meet all of the needs.

He congratulated many agencies and people for their efforts to de-congregate shelters and keep residents safe. Among these were Urban Ministries, Families Moving Forward, Project Access, Julia Gamble, Leah Bergman, Carolina Duke Inn, Reinvestment Partners, and Alliance Health.

Mayor Schewel noted the contract with Carolina Duke Inn ends in February 2021. Currently, there are no options for housing persons who test positive for COVID. Hotels are not accepting them. He is in favor of buying a hotel to use for this purpose. Once the COVID pandemic is over, that hotel could be used for respite and other purposes.

Mayor Schewel thanked the committee and asked for questions. Chair Thompson opened the floor for members. Member Fehrman asked that Mayor Schewel and the City Council keep homeless and formerly homeless in mind with the upcoming Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act of 2020. Mayor Schewel invited Member Fehrman to provide a summary for the Council supporting his request. He noted there will only be approximately \$500,000 for this pilot. It will not go far.

CoC Member Gardner asked why the state did not support purchasing a hotel. Mayor Schewel said he came down to funding.

Vice-Chair Vick-Lewis gave thanks to the ladies of Housing for New Hope for their worked getting people into the Carolina Duke Inn during White Flag Nights. They worked in the very cold temperatures to help those that came to them for housing.

Subject: Approve State ESG-CV2 Funding Recommendations

Performance Management Committee Chair Crooms shared the results of the recent scoring for the second round of State Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID2 Funding. The Performance Management Committee is recommending acceptance of the applications from Durham Crisis Response Center, Families Moving Forward, and Housing for New Hope. Because these agencies requested less monies than was available through the grant, the committee added additional funds to those requested. See the attached memo for the details.

Motion: Ebony Thomas

2nd: Vega Swepson

Vote: Member Fehrman recused himself due to conflict of interest.

Yes – unanimous with no abstentions or nays

Subject: Performance Management Committee Quarterly Report

Performance Management Committee Chair Crooms provided an update of the activities of the Performance Management Committee. This centers around three main areas:

- Developing a scorecard for the semi-annual review of Permanent Supportive Housing
- Recommending a measure to keep performance standards at the previous year’s level of 65%
- Develop a workplan for the year to include
 - Semi-annual review of Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Revisions to the HMIS Data Standards

Subject: CoC NoFA Update

City of Durham Community Development Staff Schmeidler provided an update about the HUD process for the 2021 CoC homeless grants competition. The first step, CoC registration, is due by March 5, 2021. They anticipate the Notice of Funding Availability (NoFA) by late spring or early June 2021.

Subject: Point in Time Count

City of Durham Community Development Staff Schmeidler provided an update about this year’s PIT count. It is typically held the fourth Wednesday in January. This year, that would be 1/27/2021. They will obtain the sheltered count from HMIS data. He also noted that Volunteers of America has a new project for emergency shelter: Emergency Housing Assistance for homeless veterans.

This year they will not be using volunteers to go into the community to find persons living homeless on 1/27/2021. Instead, they will use the “By Name” list managed by Housing for New Hope Street Outreach and Entry Point Durham to identify those persons. After 1/27/2021, Street Outreach and student nurse volunteers from the Duke School of Nursing will call individuals to confirm they were unsheltered on 1/27/2021. After confirming the count in this way, the verified total will be sent to HUD as the official PIT count for Durham.

Subject: CoC Provider Presentations

Shana Carignan from Families Moving Forward provided a presentation about the work this agency is accomplishing to help families with children who are homeless. They are five years old and have had much success assisting families with housing, job training, case management and other needs. COVID has caused a decline in the number of families served but they have gained an increase of 47% in total income on exit from homelessness.

In March 2020, in response to COVID concerns, they reduced capacity to keep people safe from the virus. They were able to restore that capacity in the fall with changes to add extra safety measures. To-date there have been no COVID positive cases in their shelters.

With assistance from Durham Public Schools, Xavier Cason, Ebony Thomas, and Love and Nourish they have been able to help some children return to school and provide others with

education at the shelter. They have been able to provide meals for the children as well to ensure no one goes hungry.

Commissioner Carter thanked Ms. Carignan and Families Moving Forward for all of their efforts to keep the families safe while meeting their physical, educational, and social needs.

Subject: Announcements

Member Fehrman asked Commissioner Carter if she had any information about when COVID vaccinations would be available for frontline workers. She said she would follow-up and let him know what she discovers.

Subject: Adjourn

Chair Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Committee Member Drew Cummings
2nd: Committee Member Calleen Herbert.

With no further business, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Helen Tripp
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee