

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Durham County Administrative Building II
201 E. Main Street – Conference Room 466

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

Committee Members Present: Chair Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless); Vice-Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center); Secretary Jonathan T. Crooms (Durham County Veteran Services Office – *Proxy for Lois Harvin-Ravin*); Durham City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield; Reverend Dr. B. Angelo Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); County Commissioner Heidi Carter; Xavier Cason (Durham Public School Board); Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff (Durham County Manager’s Office); Meredith Daye, Development Director (Durham Housing Authority); Ryan Fehrman (Non-Profit Representative, Durham County/Families Moving Forward); Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service); Angela Holmes (Former Homeless Representative for Durham County); Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly); Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham); Melody Marshall, Homeless Liaison (Durham Public Schools); Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Vega Swepson, Resource Specialist (Durham Technical Community College); Ebony Thompson (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison); Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative, City of Durham/TROSA); Tosh (Prosperity Recovery Services/Private Sector, City of Durham); Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)); Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham) and Amber Wade, Assistant to the Mayor (Proxy for Mayor Schewell)

Excused Committee Members: Alma Davis (Durham Crisis Response Center – *Proxy for Kathy Hodges*); Janeen Gordon (Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*); Durham County Commissioner; Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation).

Committee Members Absent: Captain Stan Harris (Durham County Sheriff’s Department) and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Manager II Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development) and Senior Administrative Assistant Macio Carlton (County Clerk to the Board Office).

Also Present: Valaria Brown (Housing for New Hope); Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward); Chiquita Joseph (Volunteers of America); Julia Gamble (Project Access of Durham); Rikki Gardner (Housing For New Hope); Valerie Haywood (Urban Ministries); Jeremy Hiles (Volunteers of America); Harvey Hinton III (Healing with CAARE); Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries); Ann Oshel (Alliance); Larry Partee (Durham Crisis Response Center); Ross Pierz

(Housing for New Hope); Sasha Schontten (Volunteers of America); Mohit Tamta (Urban Ministries) Kathryn Whane (LHC) and Malcolm White (Alliance Health).

Subject: Call to Order and Welcome

Chair McCollers called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. She thanked everyone for attending and read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

June 3, 2019 Full CoC Special Meeting Minutes, June 6, 2019 Full CoC Special Meeting Minutes, July 31, 2019 HSAC Special Meeting – **Motion** by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously at 3:06 p.m.

Subject: Public Comments Period

Larry Coleman, Durham citizen, stated he has been a resident of Durham since 2002 and was involved with The Durham Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post. He discussed exploring the option of using the seven acres and the 10,000 square foot facility as a Veterans Community Outreach Center and small home housing. He explained he met with City Council Members and Wendy Jacobs, Chair of Durham Board of Commissioner about the development and both were pleased with the plan and would do follow-up with interested partners. He expressed he was not asking for funding; funding would come from other partners and non-profits.

Subject: 2019-2020 HSAC Schedule Review and Approval

Chair McCollers stated the 2019-2020 HSAC Schedule was given to the committee members in the agenda packet and the members received an email recently.

Motion by Committee Member County Commissioner Carter, seconded by Committee Member Burch to approve the 2019-2020 HSAC Schedule. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subject: HSAC Officer Transition and Election of Secretary:

Chair McCollers stated Ellecia Thomas, HSAC Vice-Chair was the Chair elect. She added Vice-Chair Thompson was unable to accept the incoming Chair position and asked for a motion to elect Vice-Chair Thomas as the HSAC Secretary. Committee Member King asked could a proxy become a Chair. Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II responded yes, according to the Interlocal Agreement. Committee Member Burch asked why Vice-Chair Thompson was not ready to accept the incoming Chair position. Chair McCollers responded Vice-Chair Thompson was employed at the Durham Veterans Administration Medical Center and her current position required her to fill-in for three other positions. She added the fill-in was expected to be temporary, but no replacements were hired for the three other positions. Chair McCollers stated the HSAC was trying to figure out a suitable plan to accommodate Vice-Chair Thompson. Committee Member Birch expressed if Vice-Chair Thompson was unable to accept the incoming Chair

position, then she should not be able to fill the secretary position and recommended someone else fulfilling the secretary position.

Committee Member Fehrman asked if a report of the attendance of the proposed elected officials was available. Ms. Hoberman responded yes, an attendance report would be provided to the members and a new attendance policy would be coming soon.

Chair McCollers asked Vice-Chair Thompson to make a statement to the members upon her arrival to the meeting. Vice-Chair Thompson gave a verbal agreement to fulfill the secretary position to the best of her ability and asked if the Board had any questions. Committee Member Birch made a motion for the HSAC to supply a new slate of officers. Chair McCollers responded Secretary Crooms would become incoming Chair and the Vice-Chair and Secretary position would become open. Committee Member Cummings stated the HSAC could make additional nominations and vote for officials at the September 2019 meeting. Ms. Hoberman responded the Board could vote for officers but would have to follow the Interlocal Agreement. Committee Member Birch rescinded his motion.

First Motion:

Motion by Committee Member Cummings, seconded by Committee Member Burch to delay the election of officers until the September 2019 HSAC meeting and allow the Executive Committee to make recommendations on Interlocal Agreement for officers and HSAC members to make nominations.

Chair McCollers asked for a discussion on the motion. Ms. Hoberman stated per the Interlocal Agreement the Chair could not be directly elected. Chair McCollers expressed the Executive Committee recommends transition of the Chair elect Thompson to the secretary position and Secretary Crooms to the Vice-Chair position. She added at the September 2019 HSAC meeting Vice-Chair Crooms would become Chair and Committee Member Thompson would become secretary. Committee Member Cumming rescinded motion.

Second Motion:

Motion by Committee Member Holmes, seconded by Committee Member Tripp to accept the Executive Committee recommendation to transition Chair elect Thompson to the Secretary position and Secretary Crooms transition to the Vice-Chair position. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Committee Members County Commissioner Carter, Secretary Crooms, Cummins, Daye, Fehrman, Holmes, Karriker, Stone-Dino, Swepson, Thomas, Vice-Chair Thompson, Tosh, Tripp and Vick-Lewis.

Noes: Committee Members Burch and King.

Chair McCollers abstained from voting. Committee Members Cason, Hubert and Toenes arrived late to the meeting and were not present for the vote.

Vice Chair Thompson thanked the Board and apologized to the Department of Community Development.

Subject: Approval of Complaint and Grievance Policy

Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II shared a brief overview of the Complaint and Grievance Policy and stated new language was in blue and any removed was marked through. Committee Member Fehrman asked if the changes to the Housing for New Hope Grievances and Appeals Policy were compliant in all regards for the Draft CoC Complaint and Grievance Policy. Ms. Hoberman responded yes, although there were some requirements listed that did not belong in the policy. Committee Member Fehrman inquired about page three of the document which stated “*starts with staff*” and wanted to know if the staff was referring to CoC staff. Ms. Hoberman replied the staff would be primarily dedicated staff of the CoC lead agency or CoC staff.

Motion by Committee Member County Commissioner Burch, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to approve the Complaint and Grievance Policy. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subject: Discussion of Proposed Restructure of CoC and CoC Governance

Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II stated the proposed Restructure of CoC and CoC Governance was presented to the Board at the July 2019 meeting but was not discussed.

Committee Member Fehrman stated the Board should be directly electing all officers annually and inquired about cutting positions and asked how the restructure would enhance capacity. Ms. Hoberman responded proposed research of the CoC Governance Charter were in the agenda pack and the Interlocal Agreement made the Board different than most. She added most CoC Boards had 15 member or less where the Durham CoC had more. Ms. Hoberman explained a board with more members sometimes hindered discussion and decisions. Committee Member Karriker asked if the City and County would be giving up some positions on the Board. Ms. Hoberman responded only broad recommendations were given and no commitments had been made. Committee Member Cummings recommended a clear proposal of all changes be presented to the Board. Ms. Hoberman responded changes would be presented to the Board at a Full CoC meeting when ready for voting. She added no membership changes could be made until the Interlocal Agreement was changed and the Interlocal Agreement changes would be structural.

Subject: Update Regarding CoC Street Outreach and SOAR Capacity and Review of ESG Funding Priorities

Russell Pierce, Executive Director, Housing for New Hope (HNH) provided the Board with the history, mission and funding for HNH. He explained HNH has provided street outreach for over ten year and the last seven years had been fully funded by Alliance Health. Mr. Pierce added HNH received meets and exceeds expectations on reports from Alliance Health. He expressed the shock when HNH found out funding for street outreach including a full time SOAR specialist was going to be withdrawn and had 2 months to use the current funding. He added HNH waited for an official notice in writing from Alliance Health before making a public announcement. Mr. Pierce stated

the notice also explained the funding of about \$53,000 was extended for use until December 2019. He explained staff had been reduced and HNH was trying to figure out the best way to proceed forward with the critical need resources.

Chair McCollers stated her employer reduced the number of employees for street outreach and SOAR which resulted in fewer people being served. Committee Member King and Chair McCollers discussed accepting Social Security applications.

Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Manager II stated he could send a packet to the Board that would explain how SOAR workers impacted Durham. Committee Member Commissioner Carter asked if the CoC staff had a proposal to address the funding reduction even with City and County funding. Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II responded this was already discussed with the City and County and Alliance was set to address the crisis also. She added the City planned to move forward with the street outreach and use funds that were intended to supplement for the under sourced; although those funds would not replace the lost funding. Mr. Schmeidler stated the department would be looking at diverting some funds to street outreach based on the quality of applications submitted. Mr. Pierce expressed his happiness to have partners included in the discussions.

Subject: Review of Conflict of Interest Policy and Statement

Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Manager II explained changes were made to the Conflict of Interest Policy and Statement and advised the members to make sure if their organization was applying for funding to sustain from the discussion and voting. Committee Member Fehrman asked should he sustain or not be in the room when the Board handled ESG funding. Ms. Hoberman replied it was up to each member to decided; however, there was nothing in the policy to prevent the member from being in the room. Chair McCollers asked the Board to review and sign the Conflict of Interest Policy and Statement.

Subject: Announcements

Committee Member Karriker announced a presentation would be forthcoming to the Board about the Affordable Housing Bond and how it would pertain to homeless housing in Durham.

Committee Member Holmes announced a student bought a pellet gun to Hillside High School and asked the Board to pray for the schools and kids.

Subject: Adjourn

Motion by Committee Member Vick, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

With no further business to come before the body, Chair McCollers adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Macio Carlton, Deputy Clerk
County Clerk to the Board Office