

## **DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 25, 2019**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Durham County Human Services Building  
414 E. Main Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

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; Secretary Jonathan T. Crooms, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy for Lois Harvin Ravin, Director, Durham County Veterans Services Office*); Mayor Steve Schewel; Durham City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield; Heidi Carter, Durham County Commissioner, Reverend Dr. B. Angeloe Burch, Sr., Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble; Xavier Cason, Durham Public School Board; Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff, Durham County Manager's Office; Alma Davis, Durham Crisis Response Center (*Proxy for Kathy Hodges, Durham Crisis Response Center*); Meredith Daye, Development Director, Durham Housing Authority; Ryan Fehrman, Non-Profit Representative for Durham County/Families Moving Forward; Janeen Gordon, Durham County Social Services Department (*Proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*); Calleen Herbert, NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service; Angela Holmes, Former Homeless Representative for Durham County; Alex Protzman, LIFE Skills Foundation; Chris Toenes, MSW, Non-Profit Representative for the City of Durham/TROSA; Tony Tosh, Private Sector Representative for the City of Durham/Prosperity Recovery Services; Captain Helen Tripp, Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS); Angela Vick-Lewis, Formerly Homeless Representative for the City of Durham; and Amber Wade, Assistant to the Mayor (*Proxy for Mayor Steve Schewel*).

**Excused Committee Members:** Regina D. King, Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham; Ve'ga Swepson, Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College; and Ebony Thomas, Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison.

**Committee Members Absent:** Pam Karriker, Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly; Vice-Chair Ellecia Thompson, Durham VA Medical Center; Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department; Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*); Kathy Hodges, Durham Crisis Response Center (*Proxy Alma Davis in attendance*); Tracy Stone-Dino, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare (*Manuel Hyman in attendance*); and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe (Duke University).

**Staff Present:** Director Reginald J. Johnson, Assistant Director of Strategy Karen Lado, Project Manager II, Lloyd Schmeidler, Project Manager II, Hanaleah Hoberman, Project Analyst Keshia Barnette, Community and Economic Development Coordinator Ruebe Holmes, Department of Community Development; and Assistant City Clerk Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk.

**Also Present:** Shana Carignan, Families Moving Forward; Daphne Lancaster, Diane Willis, Duke CTSI CERI; Joyce Caesar, WakeUp ReachUp, Inc.; Rikki Gardner, Russ Pierce, Valaria Brown, Housing for New Hope; Larry Partee, Durham Crisis and Response Center, Lillian

## **2 Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee – September 25, 2019**

---

Presley, Spaghetti Theatre Outreach Program; Matthew Lanza, Duke (Sanford School); Curtis Booher, CAARE, Inc.; Donna Carrington, Community Empowerment Fund (CEF); Kate Culhane, LHC; Sheldon Mitchell; Keyshawn Herbert, Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) and Rakeem V. Chambers, Reformation Asset Management Comm. Real Estate Broker.

### **Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair McCollers called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm, welcomed everyone and read the HSAC goals aloud.

### **Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – August 28, 2019 HSAC Meeting**

In order for everyone to have sufficient time to review the minutes, voting and approval was delayed until the end of the meeting.

### **Subject: Public Comment Period**

Daphne Lancaster with Duke CTSI/Community Engaged Research Initiative, made comments concerning research being conducted by Duke on how to reach vets that are not honorably discharged so those vets can receive mental health services. Duke is looking for a small panel of 8 to 10 volunteers who are not honorably discharged vets to provide feedback for the research. A meeting will be held on October 3, 2019 regarding this initiative. Contact information was made available for anyone interested in this project.

Committee Member Fehrman made suggestions on ways to improve the Continuum of Care (CoC) in regards to processes, policies, action items for new HSAC Executive Committee, transparency in decision making, building confidence in the HSAC's processes, providing technical assistance, capacity building around Rapid Re-Housing implementation and the creation of new policies for accessing permanent and affordable housing. Mr. Fehrman added that CoC Providers should be treated instrumentally as partners in the shared mission of ending homelessness.

### **HSAC Officer Transition and Election of Secretary**

The process of transitioning HSAC officers was explained by Chair McCollers and later by Project Manager II Hanaleah Hoberman. Committee Member Vick-Lewis shared comments regarding her homeless experience and her passionate reasons for serving on the HSAC.

HSAC Executive Committee nominated Angela Vick-Lewis to serve as Secretary of the HSAC and Ellecia Thompson to serve as Vice-Chair. No additional nominations were made for either position. A vote was taken by the HSAC approving Ellecia Thompson as Vice-Chair and Angela Vick-Lewis as Secretary. Abstain: Committee Member Burch.

Per the HSAC Inter-local Agreement, Vice-Chair Crooms transitioned into the Chair position. The newly-elected officers of HSAC are as follows: Jonathan Crooms, Chair; Ellecia Thompson, Vice-Chair; and Angela Vick-Lewis, Secretary.

Chair-Elect Crooms took over the meeting and thanked out-going Chair McCollers for her dedication and service. On behalf of the HSAC, Community Development Director Reginald Johnson presented a plaque to Ms. McCollers' acknowledging her unwavering commitment to ending and preventing homelessness in Durham.

**Subject: Approval of Proposed Revisions to CoC Governance Charter**

**Motion** by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to approve the proposed revisions to the CoC Governance Charter was unanimously approved by the Full CoC at 3:33 p.m.

**Subject: Solicitation of Committee Members and CoC Liaisons**

Chair Crooms announced the Executive Committee, Policy and Planning Committee, Performance Committee and the Ombudsman Panel all need members to serve. He provided a brief description, listed the responsibilities of each and afterwards, opened the floor for questions.

Ms. Hoberman explained the process of how individuals can nominate themselves for the committees and stated information would be forthcoming concerning the process. She added that Full CoC Liaisons and HSAC members are both needed on the committees.

Chair Crooms encouraged everyone to sign up for the committees and to please direct specific questions to him or Ms. Hoberman.

**Subject: Proposed Changes to Attendance Tracking and Reporting Policy and Excused Absence Request Policy**

Ms. Hoberman gave a review of the proposed attendance policy as well as the excused absence policy. Each committee of the HSAC will be responsible for tracking their attendance. The Secretary for each committee will be responsible for keeping up with attendance in addition to requests from members asking for excused absences.

In regards to HSAC members who were appointed by the elected bodies, City Manager Bonfield wanted to know how the elected bodies would be notified if these members failed to meet the attendance requirements and/or how they would be replaced. Ms. Hoberman explained the process per the HSAC's Interlocal Agreement. Additional discussion followed concerning the process for removal of members from the HSAC, HSAC Committees and attendance.

**Motion** by Committee Member Cummings, seconded by Commissioner Carter to adopt the proposed changes to both the Attendance Tracking Policy and the Excused Absence Request Policy was unanimously approved.

**Subject: Appeal Committee Recommendations Regarding Families Moving Forward Appeal of State ESG Funding Recommendations**

Chair Crooms provided a summary of a letter from the Appeals Committee dated September 23, 2019 concerning Families Moving Forward (FMF) Appeal of State ESG Funding Recommendations. He noted that the Appeals Committee did not find any informal prioritization of street outreach and no bias against shelter-funding among members who scored the applications. However, the Committee did find an error in scoring which was corrected. Also, soliciting Rapid Rehousing funds had no effect on the emergency response funding.

Committee Member McCollers directed everyone's attention to the revised awards section of the letter showing recommendations to Families Moving Forward.

**Motion** by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to amend the amounts recommended for Families Moving Forward was approved by the following vote:

**Ayes: 19, Nos: 0; Abstain: 2 (Alex Protzman, Ryan Fehrman).**

**Subject: Presentation of Street Outreach Funding Recommendations for City Emergency Solutions Grants Competition**

Project Manager II Lloyd Schmeidler reported the City of Durham is making \$77,000 available in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Street Outreach activities. The funds were recaptured from another activity that did not move forward and will serve as a one-time resource for Street Outreach services. Through the City of Durham’s contract process, the Department of Community Development will be assisting in making the funds available.

**Subject: Presentation on Proposed Durham Affordable Housing Bond Potential Impact on Homelessness**

Mayor Steve Schewel provided a presentation on the proposed \$95 million Durham Affordable Housing Bond and its potential impact on homelessness. Information included the following:

- 5-Year Housing Plan
- Funds for the Housing Bond
- 15,000 Durham low-income residents will be assisted with housing
- 1,600 new affordable housing units
- 840 affordable rental units preserved/replaced
- 1,700 homeless households moved into permanent housing over the 5 years
- 400 affordable homeownership opportunities for low-income 1<sup>st</sup> time homebuyers
- Assist 2,800 low-income renters and homeowners to remain in their homes

Other discussion that followed concerned poverty, mixed-income communities, affordability for current DHA residents, relocation and neighborhood stabilization. Mayor Schewel asked the HSAC to endorse the passage of the Housing Bond.

Committee Member McCollers thanked Mayor Schewel for his work and leadership involving affordable housing in Durham. In response to Committee Member McCollers’ question about whether the 800 units would be preserved at the 30% AMI traditional Housing Authority clientele, Mayor Schewel responded yes, 30% or below. Comments were made about vouchers and the move from Section 9 to affordable housing.

Committee Member McCollers also expressed her concern and asked if there was going to be any services offered to people to help them make the transition from the “pretty poverty” mindset into a mixed income environment. Committee Member Daye explained that through DHA’s various partnerships, agencies, community groups and their DHA Resident Services Department they work with tenants to become ready and help them adjust. She pointed out that support services will be provided to assist tenants in their day-to-day living.

**Motion** by Committee Member Ryan, seconded by Committee Member McCollers to endorse the Housing Bond was approved with the following vote:

**Ayes: 14, Nos: 0 Abstain: 3 (City Manager Tom Bonfield, Meredith Daye, Amber Wade).**

**Subject: Reminders and Announcements**

Ms. Hoberman noted the following reminders:

- The approved Governance Charter affects the way membership of the CoC occurs. HSAC members are automatically members, however, for those who are not, an e-mail will be forthcoming with instructions on how to complete the new form for CoC membership.
- New Coordinated Entry system for families has been implemented for the past two weeks and on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> the Coordinated entry intake system will be rolled out for singles. To help make the transition smoother volunteers are needed on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 10:00 am to escort people for coordinated intake and help them become familiar with the Human Services Building. Please contact Ms. Hoberman if interested in volunteering.

Committee Member Cason announced that he is Co-Chairing the Bull City Fresh Start event with James Alston of the Durham Veterans Outreach Center. This year the event is taking place in March and is being combined with the Bull City Stand Down. No specific date has been selected yet. Committee Member Cason encourages anyone who wants to be a part of the planning committee to please let him know. Chair Crooms noted that he and Committee Member Herbert are part of the planning committee.

Assistant Director Karen Lado, Department of Community Development, introduced Ruebe Holmes who is transitioning into Keshia Barnette's role over the next few months. Ms. Barnette will be transitioning into a new role within Community Development. Also, the new Team Lead will be starting soon with the Department of Community Development and will be in attendance at the October HSAC meeting.

Committee Member Davis (*Durham Crisis Response Center*) reminded everyone that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Kickoff is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2019 with a candlelight vigil in celebration of the lives of the victims who have died. Committee Member Holmes will be speaking at the event as a survivor.

Committee Member Holmes recognized her oldest daughter, Ruebe Holmes. She shared her daughter's homeless experiences and acknowledged Reuebe's academic achievements of graduating from Hillside High School with a 4.3 GPA; earning a full academic scholarship to Duke University with a double major and receiving her MPA from North Carolina Central University.

Ruebe announced that she is part of the Durham County Women's Commission. The Commission is holding "A Women in Homelessness Forum" on October 22, 2019 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Durham County Human Services Building. Focus of the forum will be domestic violence, women who are homeless and the issues they face in North Carolina as well as in Durham. Ruebe will be sending out information concerning the forum.

## **6 Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee – September 25, 2019**

---

Secretary Vick-Lewis noted she is working the polls and reminded everyone to come out and vote.

### **Subject: Adjourn**

**Motion** by Committee Member Herbert, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously.

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Crooms adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock, Assistant City Clerk  
Office of the City Clerk