

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Virtual Conference Call

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

Committee Members Present: Chair Jonathan T. Crooms (Durham County Veteran Services Office – *Proxy for Lois Harvin-Ravin*); Vice-Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center); Secretary Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham); Thomas J. Bonfield (Durham City Manager); Reverend Dr. B. Angeloe Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); Heidi Carter (Durham County Commissioner); 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*); Meredith Daye, (Development Director, Durham Housing Authority); Ryan Fehrman (Non-Profit Representative, Durham County/Families Moving Forward); Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly); Janeen Gordon (Assistant Director, Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*); Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service); Angela Holmes (Former Homeless Representative for Durham County); Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham); Eliza Mathew (Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs); Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless); Steve Schewel (Durham Mayor); Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation); 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); Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)); Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)

Excused Committee Members: None

Committee Members Absent: Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*); Kathy Hodges, Durham Crisis Response Center (*Proxy Alma Davis in attendance*); Tony Tosh (Prosperity Recovery Services/Private Sector, City of Durham);

Staff Present: Community Development Assistant Director Karen Lado, Community Development Manager Colin Davis, Senior Community Development Analyst Hanaleah Hoberman, Senior Community Development Analyst Lloyd Schmeidler, Community Development Coordinator Ruebe Holmes.

Also Present: Russell Pierce (Housing for New Hope), Spencer Bradford (Durham Congregations in Action); Drew Pridgen (TROSA); Peter Gilbert (Legal Aid of NC); Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries of Durham); Donna Carrington (Community Engagement Fund); Phillip Miller (Project

Access of Durham); Chaney Stokes (NCCEH); Shona Wynn (Urban Ministries of Durham); Cierra Hamlet (Durham Access Care Transitions); Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward);

Subject: Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Crooms called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending and read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

February 26, 2020 HSAC Meeting Minutes – **Motion** by Committee Member Fehrman, seconded by Committee Member Herbert to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subject: Public Comments Period

There were no public comments.

Subject: Homelessness & Covid-19 Response

Community Development Manager Colin Davis gave a presentation on the hotel and shelter plan: Food services, security, screening and testing, getting shelters to capacity, implementing telehealth at the hotel and laundry services. A decision was made to relocate UMD's emergency shelter, temporarily, to the Marriott RTP. This allowed for social distancing and returning shelter operations to full capacity. This hotel is set up to house people experiencing homelessness who would ordinarily enter an emergency shelter. Screenings are being done for COVID-19 symptoms and referrals made for testing. We are currently in the process of getting the emergency shelters back to full capacity.

An isolation hotel has yet to be identified that will provide a place for people who are homeless or have no other safe housing option to recover from COVID-19 or await their test results.

For state prisons, there is an early release program for some non-violent offenders. Durham's re-entry group is working with people as they return home. The re-entry group is working on housing plans and hotel stays for those who require a 14-day self-quarantine. The Homeless team is coordinating with the re-entry group.

Next steps:

- There are COVID-19 related ESG funds available.
- CDD will be deploying the ESG-CV entitlement funds through a simplified process.
- A brief request for assistance document will be sent out early next week.
- Performance data as well as input from providers will be sought regarding how these funds will be prioritized.
- Policy and Planning will review data and input shared by providers to determine final funding priorities.
- Priorities will be shared with CoC prior to funding requests being due, so requests can be adjusted if needed.

- Requests for funds need to be tied to eligible ESG activities (Rapid Re-Housing, Homelessness Prevention, Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach).
- Requests will require (at a minimum) responses to these questions: Are funds filling a funding shortfall in a current project? Are funds expanding an existing program? A statement of need, budget/budget justification, numbers of people to be served, and capacity to carry out services also will be required.

Peter Gilbert from Legal Aid of NC gave an update on evictions in Durham. He stated that there were twice as many evictions filed in March 2020 vs last March. As of now, court deadlines are pending until June 1. Legal Aid is getting one or two cases of illegal evictions daily where they used to get one or two a month. Hotel evictions are not occurring through the court process; hotel owners are locking people out with the key card. 20,000 households in Durham cannot pay rent for April. There may be a rent shortfall each month amounting to millions of dollar's community-wide.

Julia Gamble of Project Access of Durham gave an update on health conditions during Covid. She stated that access to restrooms for homeless people were decreased as businesses were closed. There could be a possible Hepatitis A outbreak due to defecations in public. Committee Member Toenes asked if there were best practices for sanitation issues from other cities. Staff responded that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was working on sanitation.

Chaney Stokes from NCCEH gave a presentation on Housing Prioritization during Covid, discussing the following items:

Designing a Covid (Re)housing System

- Decrease inflow, increase outflow
- Ramp up prevention and diversion
- Streamline and speed up prioritization and referral process
- Start a housing plan from day 1
- Current pilot phase

Will share with Policy and Planning next month to formalize the process

- Developed By-Name-List: Referral

Entry Point if they are referred to Shelter or Street Outreach

Pull from HMIS By-Name List

Providers can refer medically vulnerable clients to NCCEH Facilitator

- Check in Calls (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
- Team Meetings

PSH, RRH, Entry Point, Housing Team

Check in calls with UMD and FMF (as needed)

- NCCEH Lead Facilitator

Responsible for overall communication of housing responsible

Facilitate check in calls and Team Meetings

Responsible facilitating follow-up with providers

Subject: Clarifying CoC Membership & Orientation

Chair Crooms clarified the roles and responsibilities of CoC Organizational members. A CoC orientation was held on February 28 and an additional training will be held virtually on May 7th from 11:30am-3:30 pm.

Subject: Performance Management Committee Quarterly Update

Xavier Cason, Performance Management Committee Chair announced that scoring was done for the Revised CoC Permanent Housing Evaluation Tool and the next step would be to share the results with the Performance Management Committee and the Providers whose projects were scored. In April, the Committee approved the scorecard for the Combined Application which includes funding sources for the State ESG, City ESG, City of Durham Dedicated Housing Fund, Rapid Rehousing, and the City of Durham Community Development Block Grants for Emergency Shelter, Operations and Services.

Subject: System Performance Measures & Point in Time Annual Report

Senior Community Development Analyst Lloyd Schmeidler gave a presentation on the System Performance Measures and the 2020 Point in Time Annual Report. The 2020 PIC Count found 264 sheltered and 77 unsheltered. There were 232 males and 109 females. Racial demographics were counted with African Americans 70%, Whites 24%, Multi-racial 3%; By age group 78% were adults, 5% were young adults and children were 17%. By subpopulation there were 59 veterans, 55 chronically homeless, 10 Hispanic, 37 severe mental illness, 11 substance use disorder, 2 HIV/AIDS, and 14 Domestic Violence.

Staff reviewed the trends of Durham's System performance for 2015-2019.

Subject: Overview of Combined Application Approach

Community Development Manager Colin Davis gave a presentation on a multi-year approach for the Combined Application. There have been a lot of changes within the last few years within the Continuum of Care. The goal of a multiyear RFP is to create financial stability within the system.

- Financial stability will allow time for committees to complete work that has been started, bring in technical assistance for current and potential future providers, conduct an assessment of the system, and implement best practices.
- The proposal is to issue a 3-year RFP for City Dedicated Housing Funds(DHF), City Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) that fund homeless programs. State ESG funds will probably require an annual competition as will HUD CoC grants.
- During year one of the combined application the CoC would begin assessing the system and bringing in technical assistance for providers and organizations interested in becoming a future provider of services.
- Year two would be a decision-making year based on the assessment.
- Year three would be a transition year for providers effected by changing priorities.
- Year three would include the application for the next funding cycle which would be for two or three years.

Subject: Announcements

Chair Crooms announced that the Executive Committee voted to move the Full CoC meeting to June.

Committee Member Mathew announced that The Duke Covid Relief Fund Phase 2 will open April 23.

Subject: Adjourn

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

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Crooms adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruebe Holmes
Community Development Coordinator
City of Durham, Community Development

Angela Vick-Lewis
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee