

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 23, 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))
Shiesha Bell (LIFE Skills Foundation)
Natalie Beyer (DPS Board of Education)
Dr. Angeloe Burch (Durham County 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)
Janean Gordon (Assistant Director, Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*)
Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service)
Eliza Mathew (Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs)
Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare)
Vega Swepson (Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College)
Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative, City of Durham/TROSA)
Renee Vaughan (Faith Community Representative)

Excused Committee Members:

Michael Best (Formerly Homeless representative)
Ryan Fehrman (Executive Director, Families Moving Forward)
Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*)
Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham)
Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless)
Wanda Page (City of Durham City Manager’s Office)
Mayor Steve Schewel
Ebony Thomas (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison)
Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)
Jasmin Young-Bradshaw (Durham Crisis Response Center)

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Staff Present:

Reginald Johnson, Community Development Director
Colin Davis, Community Development Manager
Lloyd Schmeidler, Senior Community Development Analyst
Hanaleah Hoberman, Senior Community Development Analyst
Ruebe Holmes, Community Development Coordinator

Also Present:

Terry Allebaugh (Durham)
Brooke Anderson (Reinvestment Partners)
Danielle Butler (Triangle Apartment Association)
Shana Carignan (Families Moving Forward)
Isabella Coogan (Community Empowerment Fund)
Star Dorsett (NCCU Student Advocacy Coordinator)
Patricia Dorsey (Family Temporary Transitional Housing Program)
Rikki Gardner (Housing for New Hope)
Manuel Hyman (Alliance Health)
Denita Johnson (Durham Housing Authority)
Peri Manns (Durham County Government, Assistant General Manager)
Katie McCallister (AmeriHealth Caritas)
Kristi Page (Housing for New Hope)
Drew Pridgen (TROSA)
Malcolm White (Alliance Health)
Laressa Witt (Alliance Health)
Tim Wollin (StepUp Durham)

Subject: Call to Order and Housekeeping

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. She thanked everyone for attending, read the goals of the HSAC aloud, and reviewed housekeeping rules.

Subject: Minutes Review and Approval

The minutes for April 28, 2021 meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections or additions.

Motion: Dr. Angeloe Burch, Sr.

2nd: Calleen Herbert

The motion passed with no nays or abstentions.

Subject: Public Comments Period

There were no public comments.

Subject: Policy and Planning Quarterly Report

Colin Davis provided the Policy and Planning Quarterly report for Chair Charita McCollers.

- Dedicated Plus Funding Priority Recommendation

- The Gaps Analysis Subcommittee is working through gaps analysis with an equity lens and asks for more time to continue their ongoing work. This is because of staffing challenges. Unpaid interns with limited time are doing the bulk of the analysis work. HSAC and CoC members are performing interviews with clients and other service providers and interested parties.

- The Coordinated Entry Subcommittee is working on several areas.
 - Revamping the prioritization for coordinated entry.
 - New projects piloted to move people more quickly into Rapid Rehousing.

- The inherent racial biases evident in the VI-SPDAT. For people entering Permanent Supportive Housing
 - The average disparity between all Black or African American clients and their white counterparts was one point.
 - For people with three or more disabilities, there was an average three-point disparity between the Black or African American clients and their white counterparts.
 - The committee voted to add a weighted scale as a temporary fix while searching for a better, more equitable, evaluation method for determining how to place people into housing.
- The Community Development Department and two others are participating in a HUD-sponsored technical assistance project on Coordinated Entry.
- They are exploring bringing a recommendation to the HSAC for setting aside some of the 300/500 block of the East Main Street housing projects for people experiencing homelessness.
- Discussions about returning to pre-COVID conditions are centering around what is needed for sheltering guidelines, what information is needed, identifying the triggering events, and what may need to be requested from the City or County later as they identify that process.
- Vacant seats are coming up. We need more HSAC members to join the committee so can more CoC members can join as well.

Subject: Approval of CoC Competition Priorities

The HSAC will be asked to approve priorities for the CoC competition based on recommendations from the Policy and Planning committee. The Policy and Planning committee is recommending that DedicatedPLUS units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) be the priority for the use of any bonus funds available for 2021 CoC Homeless Grants competition.

Lloyd Schmeidler provided information about the proposal.

- The annual competition for CoC funds generally includes a portion of funds for a Permanent Housing bonus. The CoC board is responsible for prioritizing projects to use those funds. It is generally used for Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing.
- Under the Permanent Supportive Housing category, HUD typically instructs it should be dedicated to people who are chronically homeless.
- In 2017, HUD broadened the idea of dedicated beds to a new category called DedicatedPLUS. These can be used for chronically homeless people or for people who, except for a technicality, would otherwise be chronically homeless.
- To qualify for Permanent Supportive Housing, a person must
 - Have a year or more of homelessness continuously over the last three periods or
 - Have four or more episodes of homelessness totaling a year.
 - Must have a disability.

- For a DedicatedPLUS bed the person is required to have
 - A year or more of homelessness in only two episodes of homelessness
 - People who had been chronically homeless and in PSH and lost it could return to a Dedicated Plus bed without reestablishing chronic homelessness.
- A flyer describing the difference was distributed with the agenda for this meeting.

Chair Thompson asked for questions from the HSAC and CoC members.

- Rikki Gardner asked if this change would affect the funding list prioritization for PSH projects that would be DedicatedPLUS. Hanaleah replied there would be no change for existing projects. We are recommending renewal projects change their applications to include DedicatedPLUS for bonus projects only. This will allow more clients to be eligible for PSH.
- Jonathan Crooms asked to clarify how this proposal is different from what is currently practiced. Colin Davis explained DedicatedPLUS would allow someone with only six months of chronic homelessness be eligible for PSH as long as they are at the top of the prioritization list. This is different than requiring a full year of continual homelessness or four episodes over three years totaling 12 months of homelessness. It allows more flexibility.

A motion was made to approve the Policy and Planning recommendation that DedicatedPLUS units of Permanent Supportive Housing be the priority for the any bonus funds available in the 2021 CoC Homeless Grant competition.

Motion: No motion made (Drew Cummings commented by phone but it sounded like he said “Yes”)

2nd: No second received

The motion passed with no nays or abstentions.

Subject: Shared Housing Discussion

Lloyd Schmeidler presented information about Shared Housing. The presentation is available on the CoC web site at <https://www.durhamcoc.org/board-meetings.html>

There is a presentation on July 9, 2021 at 10:00 am with Dr. Jamie Taylor, the founding Director of the Shared Housing Institute. <https://www.sharedhousinginstitute.com/>

Chair Thompson invited questions from the HSAC and CoC members.

Tracy Stone-Dino asked about how pairing with non-family members is done. Lloyd Schmeidler explained roommate matching is voluntary using questionnaires and tools designed to facilitate this process.

Rikki Gardner asked if local landlords working with the CoC were invited to the July 9 presentation. Lloyd Schmeidler stated they had not but CoC members who had received the invitation were welcome to forward it to landlords who would benefit from the information.

Lloyd noted there is already some shared housing work currently in Durham. Drew Cummings related there are private homeowners that may be available to share extra space in their homes.

Colin Davis asked if we approve a system-wide commitment to implement Shared housing, are we committing ourselves to work with the Shared Housing Institute? Lloyd explained this is a separate process that would be handled through the Community Development Department. They are not looking for that commitment at this time.

Subject: HOME Funds

Discussion on the potential use of \$4.3 million of HOME funding.

Colin Davis explained the City of Durham will be receiving \$4.3 million in American Recovery Program HOME funds. These funds are earmarked for HOME-related activities targeted for people experiencing homelessness. It is a large infusion of cash. We need to decide how we can use these funds to make a lasting impact on homelessness in Durham. We need to work with the HSAC and Policy and Planning committee to work with as many people in the community as possible to determine the actual needs and wants. We would then bring these recommendations back to the HSAC and then to City and County leadership. We would need this request by November. It could lead to additional funding from the City and County if that is available. Meetings will start in August/September and will start with those who were involved with the ESG-CV funding process.

Tracy Stone-Dino asked if there will be any restrictions on the use of these funds. Colin explained there will be restrictions. These will be discussed in the meetings and posted on the CoC web site to keep everyone informed. Roughly it will be used for acquisition or building or renovation of structures. It is more brick-and-mortar than service oriented. It must be spent by 2029. Permanent construction may be a better use of the funds.

Terry Allebaugh complemented the foresight of taking time to appropriately plan for using these funds. He offered to participate in any way he can be of help.

Chris Toenes asked if a racial equity tool would be applied to the process. Colin explained this is more of a high-level process. An equity lens will be a part of the use of the projects stemming from these funds.

Subject: Announcements

No announcements

Subject: Adjourn

Chair Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Inaudible

2nd: Renee Vaughn

With no further business, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Helen Tripp
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee