



**Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team
Meeting Minutes | Thursday, May 11, 2017**

Appointees/Ex-Officios Present: Alice Mankoff, Chasz Parker, Chief Lee Howell, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Courtney Cross (Ex-Officio), Cynthia Harris, Dani Shaw (Ex-Officio), Gary Henderson (Ex-Officio), Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Monica Glenn, Roy Metzler, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer, Thomas Muir, Valerie Foster

Appointees Absent: Barton Duffy, Herman Oosterwijk, Jessica Pool (Ex-Officio), Kathy Srokosz, Mayor Chris Watts, Sandra Robinson, Sherri McDade,

Guests: Brenda Jackson, Sarah Kuechler, Breanna Slaughter

Welcome & Consideration of February Minutes

Co-Chair Chasz Parker called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. He requested a motion to approve April meeting minutes.

Motion: Terry Widmer

2nd: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Motion was approved.

Giving Hope, Inc. Update

DCHLT Appointee and Giving Hope, Inc. Board Vice President, Cindy Harris, informed the group of recent changes in leadership at the agency. In light of the loss of their Executive Director and two case managers, Cindy, along with incoming Board Treasurer, Jean Bush, have been acting as co-operating directors to oversee day-to-day operations. A new case manager for their Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program will start the following week. The board is seeking to reorient the agency back to its original mission – to get people housed and keep them housed. They realize relationships with community agencies have been strained, and are working to mend those relationships in order to better serve their clients. Giving Hope, Inc. is fully committed to Coordinated Entry, and the board offers their gratitude to the United Way of Denton County and the City of Denton for offering their time and skills during the transition.

Terry Widmer commended Giving Hope, Inc.'s Board of Directors for stepping up to keep things going during the transition.

Workforce Development Update

Courtney Cross reviewed the proposal for a project-based Workforce Development Workgroup in order to develop a resource portal for service providers seeking to connect clients to employment opportunities according to their need. Potential partners include local universities, Texas Workforce



Commission, Denton ISD Adult Education and the Denton Chamber. Chasz requested a motion to implement a project-based workforce development workgroup to develop a referral resource portal.

Motion: Councilwoman Keely Briggs

2nd: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Motion was approved.

Workgroup Updates

Terry Widmer provided an update on the DCHLT Housing Workgroup. In their April meeting, members broke off in groups to collaboratively brainstorm activities, metrics, outcomes, and timeframes for the DCHLT Housing Workgroup Work Plan. Members then shared and discuss ideas to add to the document. Initial timeline mapping will inform identification of concrete next steps and sub-group activities. Long-term activities include collaborating with the universities to develop housing inventory and landlord databases, implementing a county-wide approach to networking with landlords in order to alleviate capacity restrictions of case management personnel, and develop material to encourage uniformity of services across agencies to promote housing-focused case management.

Terry, Alex Reed and Courtney Cross provided an update on the Denton Supportive Housing Pilot. Two clients passed the background and eligibility screening, and the team has been working with Denton Affordable Housing Corporation to place one of them in the next available unit.

Stephen Coffey provided an update on the Data Workgroup. The DCHLT Data Workgroup and the DCHC Coordinated Entry Steering Committee continue to work toward creating a web-based data dashboard that will make Denton County homeless information accessible to the general public in a readable way. The group has identified data sources and is gathering baseline measurements to track continuous improvement. Final comments and suggestions have been added to the Front Door and Receiving Agency Memorandums of Understanding and are awaiting agency board approval. Short-term action items include CE Education and Advertisement throughout the community, and determining where to locate said resources online and throughout the community in order to make them easily accessible.

Alex Reed provided an update on Community Conversations Workgroup. Three conversations have been conducted at Our Daily Bread, Vision Ministries and with the UNT Pride Alliance.

Backbone Support Update

Courtney informed the group that the Landlord Forum had been postponed and will move forward as a collaborative effort of community agencies.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Update

Dani Shaw provided a presentation of the 2017 PIT Count results. Details of that presentation are attached to these meeting minutes.



Dani informed the DCHLT that TDHCA had decided to wait to accept ESG applications for the 2017-2018 grant year given the recent changes in administration and consideration of federal program budgets. The Notice of Funding Availability may be released at any point in time now, and Dani requested feedback from DCHLT appointees on how to best revamp the Denton ESG Collaborative application. It was determined that the DCHLT Housing Workgroup would collaborate with the ESG Collaborative to discuss weaknesses of the application, and ways it can be improved. An update on that meeting will be provided at the June DCHLT meeting.

New Business/Public Comments

No new business was presented.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:22 a.m.

**Next Meeting:
Thursday, June 8, 2016 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | UWDC**

Secretary

Date

