



Thursday, October 10, 2019 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
United Way of Denton County, Inc. (1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)

### Meeting Summary

**Appointees/Ex-Officios Present:** Alice Mankoff, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Courtney Cross, Cynthia Harris, Dale Tampke, Dani Shaw, Emily Taylor, Gary Henderson, Jessica DeRoche, Jill Adams, Josh Ashford, Kathy Srokosz, Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Thomas Muir, Mary Jones, Nicole Recker, Roy Metzler, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer,

**Appointees Absent:** Ashleigh Feryan, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Emily Taylor, Herman Oosterwijk, Isabel Rodriguez, Joe Perez, Sheryl English, Valerie Foster, Jim Mustain

**Guests:** Ed Cropp, Elena Lusk (United Way of Denton County), Hope Rodgers (United Way of Denton County), Jessica Caskey (United Way of Denton County)

### Welcome & Consideration of August 2019 Minutes

Co-chair Mayor Thomas Muir called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.  
Co-chair requested a motion to approve August 2019 minutes.

Motion: Terry Widmer  
2nd: Mary Jones  
Motion was approved.

### Amend Bylaws

Co-chair requested a motion to approve amending the DCHLT Bylaws and Charter to add one seat for the City of Carrollton, add one seat for Housing and Homeless Service Providers to allow for a seat for Metrocrest Services, and the total allowable members from 36 to 38.

Motion: Dale Tampke  
2nd: Josh Ashford  
Motion was approved.

### New Appointees

Co-chair Mayor Thomas Muir invited new appointees Jill Adams: Lewisville ISD Counseling Coordinator, and Jim Mustain: Christian Community Action Board Member, to introduce themselves to the DCHLT. Jim Mustain could not be present at this meeting.

### Homelessness Funding Update

Courtney Cross provided an update on Denton County homelessness funding. The City of Denton has provided an annual allocation of \$40,000 to the Barriers Fund with a 100% match requirement. UWDC is currently developing a



Barriers Fund marketing campaign to promote the City of Denton funding match, including a widget that displays the dollar amount raised towards the match. The widget is available to share on agency websites and can be found at: [www.BarriersFund.org](http://www.BarriersFund.org). Currently, \$8,300 has been raised towards the \$40,000 match.

The City of Denton allocated funding to support a mental health homelessness street outreach position, which will require strong collaboration with local law enforcements and nonprofits. The City will be releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) soon for nonprofits to apply for these funds.

The City of Denton allocated \$100,000 for Rapid Rehousing (RRH), which has historically been funded through the Emergency Solutions Grant, and will be releasing an RFP in November available to emergency shelters and Our Daily Bread. If agencies that applied for RRH through the Continuum of Care grant are awarded, funds will not be available until April 2020.

The City of Denton allocated funding to expand the Monsignor King Outreach Center (MKOC) from a 3 nights/week volunteer-run operation, to a 7 nights/week shelter with paid staff. MKOC will be implementing an Enhanced Shelter Model with support and technical assistance from UWDC. The Enhanced Shelter program will have reserved beds with right of return for clients enrolled in MKOC housing-focused case management. Initially, 30 beds will be reserved for this model, with up to 50 upon full implementation.

Roy Metzler stated that MKOC that, although the City of Denton is subsidizing the shelter, they will still need to raise \$200,000 annually and will continue to rely on volunteers to supplement shelter operations. Additionally, Betty Kay, MKOC's former Executive Director, is retiring in December.

The City of Lewisville has allocated \$25,000 to the Barriers Fund with no match requirements. These funds will be reserved for clients who live in Lewisville. UWDC is currently identifying and developing processes to track Barriers Fund expenditures in Lewisville.

## **Workgroup Updates**

### *Data Workgroup*

Courtney Cross provided an update on the Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard. As of September 30, 2019, 409 people were experiencing literal homelessness as reported in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), where 39 are Veterans, 118 are chronically homeless, and 9 are fleeing domestic violence. There were 39 new Coordinated Entry assessments in September.

UWDC will be meeting with professors from TWU and UNT in the coming months to identify ways to streamline updating the Data Dashboard and is currently developing a scope of work to map current processes.

UWDC is currently in contact with Denton County school districts to obtain homelessness data for students and to identify processes that will allow the DCHLT to have consistent access to these numbers.

### *Housing Workgroup*

Terry Widmer thanked the Denton and Lewisville City Council for supporting the work of the DCHLT. The Housing Workgroup continues to meet every other week, alternating between Veterans and general case conferencing. The Housing Workgroup has recently started tracking and documenting client's individual barriers to housing in order to best match clients to an appropriate housing intervention.

### *Shelter Planning Workgroup*



Courtney Cross stated that the Shelter Planning Workgroup will reconvene in November to review progress of MKOC's expansion and to identify next steps. There are no updates for the Salvation Army's expansion at this time.

### *Ending Veteran Homelessness*

Courtney Cross provided an update on Ending Veteran Homelessness. The committee has developed a workplan to track progress towards the goal, in addition to using a benchmark-tracking tool provided by HUD that will allow the committee to identify progress and community needs. Additionally, UWDC has connected with UISCH for support and is exploring a collaborative grant from the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) to support the goal.

Dr. Mary Jones stated that the 100-Day Challenge is on hold due to lack of available ESG RRH funding in the community.

Courtney Cross stated that the Denton County Veterans Center is accepting donations (monetary or jackets, blankets, socks, etc.) for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Denton County Homeless Veteran Stand Down which will take place on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Denton County Homeless Coalition Update**

Dr. Mary Jones provided an update on the Denton County Homeless Coalition, which has recently transitioned to a workgroup of the DCHLT rather than its own coalition. The Workgroup continues to meet in both Denton and Lewisville and is undergoing structural changes as a new workgroup.

Dr. Mary Jones also provided an update on the 2020 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count. The DCHC Workgroup will be taking a different approach to the PIT Count than previous years, particularly putting a stronger emphasis on attempting to count further out in the county by dividing the county into geographic regions, with a geographic lead and headquarters for each region. UWDC will be working with Denton and Lewisville Police Departments to identify known encampments to visit on the day of the Count.

UWDC will finalize the PIT Count volunteer sign-up and will send it to the DCHLT once finalized. Approximately 100 volunteers are needed to conduct surveys on the day of the PIT Count.

### **Backbone Support Update**

#### *UWDC in Southern Denton County*

Gary Henderson stated that UWDC has recently entered a joint partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. This partnership allows UWDC to fundraise in zip codes in Southern Denton County and provides an opportunity to more than double funds raised in the county.

#### *Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update*

Courtney Cross provided an update on the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team (DCBHLT). The DCBHLT is currently updating their strategic plan with the goal of implementing it's finalized strategic plan in January 2020. Courtney provided an update on the HB-13 grant, a collaborative grant between UWDC, Denton County MHMR, and Giving Hope, and the Denton County Veterans Center, which seeks to reduce recidivism for justice-involved persons living with a mental health condition that also have a housing need or are Veterans. A budget amendment was approved by HHSC for the HB-13 grant, which will allow DCMHMR to hire two additional QMHPs, as well as allows for discretionary funds for clients benefitting from HB-13 services.

UWDC staff attended Texas Homeless Network's annual conference on Ending Homelessness. At the conference, Courtney Cross presented information on the Barriers Fund with similar-sized communities. Denton County is unique because of its diverse support from cities and municipalities regarding homelessness services and sets the bar for homeless solutions and interventions.



## Public Comment

Mayor Chris Watts thanked the group for their hard work and for remaining solutions focused. The DCHLT creates a large impact without creating unintended consequences.

Councilperson Keely Briggs recently toured The Palladium, a mixed-income apartment complex, and was impressed with the development and how they interact with the community and Council. The Palladium has already filled their 30% AMI units and maintains a waitlist for these units.

Gary Henderson stated that there is interest from a potential new DCHLT appointee from Senator Nelson's office. DCHLT appointees expressed support to pursue this appointment.

## New Business

Dani Shaw and Councilperson Keely Briggs will be discussing the PIT Count at the North Branch Library on October 20, 2019 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

Ed Cropp, a DCHLT guest and representative from the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) provided information on their new support group in Denton. The DBSA offers peer support and advocacy for people affected by Depression or Bipolar Disorder and is an affiliate of a DBSA National. The group meets on the first and third Thursday each month from 6:00pm – 7:30pm at 201 S. Locust St. Room 338 (First United Methodist Church).

## Adjournment

Co-chair Mayor Thomas Muir requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Motion: Terry Widmer

2nd: Mary Jones

Meeting was adjourned.

### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, February 13, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | United Way of Denton County, Inc.  
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Secretary

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Date

