Thursday, October 12, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
United Way of Denton County, Inc. (1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)

Agenda

I. Welcome & Consideration of August Minutes C. Watts 2 min.

II. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Update D. Shaw 15 min.
& Housing Funding 101

III. Salvation Army DFW Command J. Rich 15 min.

IV. Workgroup Updates 30 min.
   • Data Workgroup S. Coffey
   • Housing Workgroup T. Widmer
   • Workforce Development C. Cross
   • Community Conversations Workgroup C. Cross

V. Denton County Homeless Coalition Update J. Peters 10 min.
   • Point-In-Time Count 2018

VI. Backbone Support Update C. Cross 15 min.
   • Barriers Fund
   • Speaker’s Bureau

VII. New Business C. Watts

VIII. Adjourn C. Watts

Next Meeting Date:
Thursday, December 14, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. |
United Way of Denton County, Inc. (1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)
**Appointees/Ex-Officios Present:** Alice Mankoff, Chief Lee Howell, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Courtney Cross (Ex-Officio), Cynthia Harris, Dani Shaw (Ex-Officio), Gary Henderson (Ex-Officio), Mayor Chris Watts, Roy Metzler, Sandra Robinson, Terry Widmer, Valerie Foster

**Appointees Absent:** Barton Duffy, Chasz Parker, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Herman Oosterwijk, Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Jessica Pool (Ex-Officio), Kathy Srokosz, Monica Glenn, Sherri McDade, Stephen Coffey, Thomas Muir

**Guests:** Eileen Hall (on behalf of Cindy Harris, Giving Hope), Brenda Jackson, Sarah Kuechler, Chris Martin, Sonia Redwine, Katherine Gonzales

**Welcome & Consideration of June Minutes**

Chair Mayor Watts called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He requested a motion to approve June meeting minutes.

Motion: Councilman TJ Gilmore

2nd: Chief Lee Howell

Motion was approved.

**2017-2018 DCHLT Officers**

Mayor Watts presented the 2017-2018 slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee:

- Chair – Mayor Chris Watts
- Co-Chair – Chasz Parker
- Secretary – Councilman TJ Gilmore

He requested a motion to accept the recommended 2017-2018 slate of officers.

Motion: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

2nd: Valerie Foster

Motion was approved.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Update**

Dani Shaw provided an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) update. She reviewed final score submission information, the ESG application and award approval timeline, and implications for Denton County’s Housing Crisis Response System.

Last year’s ESG Collaborative application ranked 8 of 16, and this year ranks 3 of 19. There are places within the application the collaborative may lose points (the Texas Department of Housing and
Community Affairs utilizes a self-score application process, but at this point in time the collaborative remains cautiously hopeful about its placement. The collaborative consciously lowered the number of people it committed to serving in light of current capacity, realizing that the need will remain greater, but increased accurate data on households served will allow for concrete applications for increased funding regarding ESG and other grant funding.

The current ESG application is for 2 years of funding (2017-2019).

Workgroup Updates

Data Workgroup

Courtney Cross provided an update on the Data Workgroup. The workgroup is finalizing the Denton County Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures for final approval by the Texas Homeless Network. Backbone support developed an ‘Eligibility Matrix’ with feedback from the workgroup. This is a tool for Front Door assessing providers to be able to determine best referral options and availability of resources. This will be available on UWDC website with hyperlinks to various housing interventions. Additionally, the workgroup has finalized its prioritization standards, and backbone support is currently assisting agencies in incorporating these standards into their daily operations.

Use of the common assessment tool known as the VI-SPDAT has increased by over 1000% in 2017. These are usually done once for most people who present at an agency, and are updated periodically if enough time has passed, or if an individual or family’s circumstances have changed significantly since their last assessment. As of Q2 2017, we have been able to identify the majority areas of need, which will inform the DCHLT Housing Workgroup as they make policy and funding recommendations.

The workgroup continues its education efforts to promote CE among housing agencies, additional service providers, and the faith and business communities. The next phase of CE implementation includes bringing the Sanger Crisis Center on to HMIS. Additionally, the group continues to develop its data dashboard, working with the Texas Homeless Network and local volunteers to accurately export and analyze our homelessness data.

Housing Workgroup

Terry Widmer provided an update on the Housing Workgroup. The second Denton Supportive Housing Pilot has been housed. We are working with the Salvation Army Shelter to negotiate an extended stay option for pilot participants as they wait for units to become available with Denton Affordable Housing Corporation. We have been able to partner well with Youth & Family Counseling to provide more intensive therapy to participants suffering from substance use disorder.

The workgroup has been able to utilize preliminary data coming from Data Workgroup and CE implementation to determine performance goals as a county, and how we will reach them. The workgroup is planning a Landlord Forum for Wednesday, October 18th. The is to share resources between nonprofit and landlord/property manager communities. The workgroup is also planning a soft-
launch of the landlord outreach efforts they’ve been developing, closely modeling Austin’s homeless coalition’s successfully implementation of a similar model. A survey will be administered to landlords and property managers attending the forum to gather helpful information to begin building a landlord database and identify those landlords that would be willing to participate in pilot landlord outreach efforts.

Mayor Watts inquired as to the geographic target of the forum, and Courtney informed him that backbone support is seeking a Corinth location for the forum

Moving forward, the workgroup plans to increase discussion of housing policy and ways in which data from CE implementation and landlord outreach, along with additional research, to develop policy and funding recommendations to the DCHLT.

Workforce Development Workgroup

Courtney Cross informed the group that stakeholders were being contacted, and that the Workforce Development workgroup will meet the last week of September 2017.

Community Conversations Workgroup

Courtney informed the group that backbone support continues to meet with interns and volunteers to develop information and conduct feedback sessions throughout the community.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Update

Courtney Cross provided the Denton County Homeless Coalition update. Councilmen TJ Gilmore and Neil Ferguson attended the August General meeting in Lewisville. A subcommittee is developing the framework for the approved ‘Barriers Fund’, as well as direct donation options. Planning for the 2018 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count will begin August 14th.

Backbone Support Update

Courtney provided an update of her presentation to Denton City Council, requesting sustained support of the DCHLT backbone support position, as well as CE and landlord outreach initiatives. Council will provide final approval in September.

Courtney and Dani will present to the Denton Main Street Association in August to provide information and solicit support for homelessness initiatives through the homeless coalition’s Barriers Fund. Councilman Gilmore will connect Courtney with the Main and Mill Historic District Association in Lewisville.

New Business/Public Comments

The Chair made a request for any new business.
Roy Metzler informed the group that the Monsignor King Outreach Center passed inspection, and will host a grand opening with tours August 28\textsuperscript{th}. Capacity will increase from 40 to 95 beds (with the plan to initially expand to 60), and the shelter will go from one working shower to twelve.

Brenda Jackson informed the group that Our Daily Bread is celebrating 17 years and 800,000 meals served.

Chris Martin notified attendees of the Denton County Homeless Veteran Stand Down October 26\textsuperscript{th}.

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell mentioned her discussions with the Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA), and says they are willing to negotiate a stop with the Monsignor King Outreach Center.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:00 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**
**Thursday, October 12, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | UWDC**

____________________________ ________________
Secretary Date
DCHLT Workgroup Reports
August 2017

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

Meeting Summary: Friday, August 25, 2017

Members Present: Stephen Coffey (Chair), Courtney Cross, Danielle Shaw, David Mays, Katherine Gonzales, Linda Choi, Rebecca Woodland, Christy Daniel, Keith Henderson, Stephanie Aguilar, Guests: Katie Chapman, Wendy Noble

To kick off the meeting the group reviewed and provided feedback on the ‘side door’ infographic that will help faith based organizations and non-HMIS users connect people experiencing homelessness to the Coordinated Entry Process.

The group also reviewed the Denton County Coordinted Entry Eligibility and Prioritiy Matricies. These tools are used by Front Door and Receiving Agencies to make appropriate referrals that are available in the community and to prioritize households into housing/ assistance based on their vulnerability and needs. Afterward, the workgroup broke off into teams to complete a case study activity that provided an opportunity for everyone to get more familiar with the matricies and how they are used.

There was also an update on the CE Tool-Kit that will be made available soon on the UWDC webpage where Front Door and Receiving Agencies can access the CE Policies and Procedures; Data Improvement Plan; Eligibility and Priority Matricies; and other documents that pertain to CE Process.

Short-term action items

Creating CE took-kit accessible on UWDC webpage
Coordinated Entry Education and Outreach
Develop Data Improvement Plan
Develop At-risk Referral Tool

Accomplishments

Workgroup approval of the CE Policies and Procedures
CE Policies and Procedures submitted to THN
UWDC Veteran Community Navigators onboard the HMIS
All Front Door Agencies Signed

Concerns

Improving Data Tool

Next Meeting Dates

September 29, 2017
DCHLT Workgroup Reports
September 2017

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

Meeting Summary: Friday, September 29, 2017

Members Present: Courtney Cross, Danielle Shaw, Katherine Gonzales, Keith Henderson, David Mays, Rebecca Woodland, Jordan McCarthy, Brenda Jackson, Tyheshia Scott

Guests: Katie Chapman, Wendy Noble, Hope Nordon, Nate Dears, Damita Harris, Chris Marchbanks, Myles Wood

Workgroup member guests, which included all HMIS participants, met to discuss existing data quality and review the Denton County HMIS Data Improvement Plan. The group kicked off the meeting reviewing the monthly HMIS report which contains data of the number of people on the Housing List, identified housing need, and how many people have been housed. Improvement areas identified are making referrals within the HMIS; following up referrals with a phone call or email to the Receiving Agency; and updating household’s housing status after receiving assistance.

The group discussed the anticipation of ESG funding and what reporting changes must be made within the HMIS to reflect how effectively the grant is being used to get people housed. Afterwards the group reviewed the Denton County HMIS Data Improvement Plan. This plan outlines steps that HMIS users should make to ensure the best possible data is collected.

Lastly, the group went over changes in the HMIS that will be made effective on October 1st.

Short-term action items

Develop a referral and housing status tracking tool
Build work-flow within HMIS to track Barriers Fund Requests

Accomplishments

DHA, Goodwill, Interfaith working toward on-boarding HMIS

Concerns

Collecting quality data within the HMIS as it pertains to ESG

Next Meeting Dates

October 27, 2017
This tool will be used by Front Door Agency staff when ready to make an appropriate referral within the CE workflow. Illustrated below are possible recommended housing interventions and available community resources. Recommended housing interventions may not exist; this will require assessors to record any unmet needs. Once staff memeber makes an appropriate referral within HMIS, they will warmly handoff the household to the Receiving Agency by phone or email. This Eligibility Matrix will be updated frequently to reflect available funding and capacity. Referrals to Emergency Shelter are possible and likely when recommended housing interventions lack vacancy or funding. Assessors will continue to make the recommended housing referral before referring families to an Emergency Shelter.

### DENTON COUNTY COORDINATED ENTRY ELIGIBILITY MATRIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(F)VI-SPDAT SCORE</th>
<th>HOUSING INTERVENTION</th>
<th>DENTON COUNTY PROGRAMS</th>
<th>PROGRAM DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>SERVICE AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI-SPDAT 0-3 or F-VI-SPDAT 0-3</td>
<td>Minimal Intervention/ Diversion, If Any</td>
<td>Vision Ministries</td>
<td>Hotel vouchers</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Journey to Dream</td>
<td>Diversion services for youth experiencing homelessness</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>Diversion services offered on a case by case basis</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Giving HOPE, Inc.</td>
<td>Homelessness Prevention services</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MetroCrest</td>
<td>Rent/utility assistance, food pantry, financial education and employment counseling</td>
<td>Carrollton; Farmer Branch; Addison; Coppell; and the City of Dallas in Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Betty Jane Morrison Foundation</td>
<td>Wheeler Services for children 0-8 Yrs.; Hotel vouchers</td>
<td>City of Denton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christian Community Action</td>
<td>Homeless Prevention services</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI-SPDAT 4-7 or F-VI-SPDAT 4-8</td>
<td>Transitional Housing (TH) or Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)</td>
<td>Giving HOPE, Inc.</td>
<td>Wheeler House (TH); Short-term and medium-term rental assistance (RRH)</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bedtime Rescue</td>
<td>Provides transitional housing for families experiencing homelessness (TH)</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Journey to Dream</td>
<td>Transitional Living Program; Youth 16-19 Yrs.</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Solutions of North Texas</td>
<td>Residential Services Program (alcohol/substance use/threat of violence or abuse, incarceration, abandonment, or death of a family member) (TH); Family Outreach Program, rental/utility, and grocery assistance (RRH)</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arms of Hope</td>
<td>Rental/utilty assistance, help obtaining benefits for Veterans at-risk or experiencing homelessness</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christian Community Action</td>
<td>Rental/utility assistance and transportation assistance (RRH)</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic Charities</td>
<td>Rental/utility assistance, help obtaining benefits for Veterans at-risk or experiencing homelessness</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Denton Housing Authority</td>
<td>Housing Choice Voucher programs provides medium to long-term rental assistance</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Refuge for Women</td>
<td>Long-term care for women escaping human trafficking or sexual exploitation</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home</td>
<td>Children's Residential Program, children 5 - 18 Yrs; Single Parent Family Program provides low-cost housing for single parent households</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI-SPDAT 8+ or F-VI-SPDAT 9+</td>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</td>
<td>Giving HOPE, Inc.</td>
<td>Long-term rental assistance for Chronically Homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Denton Supportive Housing Pilot</td>
<td>Long-term rental assistance for Chronically Homeless Veterans</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Denton County MHMR</td>
<td>Long-term rental assistance for Chronically Homeless individuals and families living with a diagnosable mental or physical disability</td>
<td>Denton County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Front Door** - A designated location where individuals and families experiencing homelessness undergo a common assessment process to quickly and equitably gain access to available community resources.

**Receiving Agency** - Receive housing referrals through HMIS from Front Door agencies and provide housing and/or funding to stably house qualifying households when available and if not, record unmet needs

**Diversion** - A tool used to assist households seeking housing outside of an emergency shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements, and if necessary, contacting households with services and/or financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

* **RRH** - Rapid Re-Housing - A housing intervention that provides medium to long-term housing to bridge households from homelessness to permanent housing.
* **PSH** - Permanent Supportive Housing - A housing intervention that provides long-term rental assistance along with extensive wrap-around services to chronically homeless households that could not independently support themselves otherwise.
* **ES** - Emergency Shelter - Provides temporary shelter to households experiencing a housing crisis while more permanent housing solutions are being secured.
* **TH** - Transitional Shelter - Medium-term housing intervention where households experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence may stay and receive supportive services that enable households to move into permanent housing.
DENTON COUNTY COORDINATED ENTRY PRIORITY MATRIX

This tool will be used to assist Receiving Agency staff when ready to select a household from the Housing Priority List. Highest scoring families have first priority to available housing. In the case of multiple households possessing the same VI-SPDAT score, this Priority matrix will be utilized to objectively select the household with the highest vulnerability and most severe service needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Where Experiencing Homelessness</th>
<th>(F)VI-SPDAT Score</th>
<th>Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Literally homeless households with long periods of episodic homelessness and severe service needs</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Literally homeless households with a disability with severe service needs</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Literally homeless households with a disability coming from places not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or emergency shelter without service needs</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4</td>
<td>All other Chronically Homeless households</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with most severe service needs</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P7</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with the most severe service needs</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P8</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with the longest history of homelessness</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P9</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P10</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P11</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P12</td>
<td>Category 1 &amp; 4 Families with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS</td>
<td>UN, ES, or RRH (if documented CH at entry)</td>
<td>Individual Households 8 + Families 9+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ES* - Emergency Shelter - Provides temporary shelter to households experiencing a housing crisis while more permanent housing solutions are being secured.

*PSPH* - Permanent Supportive Housing - A housing intervention that provides long-term housing assistance along with intensive wrap-around supportive services to chronically homeless households that could not independently support themselves otherwise.

*RRH* - Rapid Re-Housing - A housing intervention that provides medium to long-term assistance to bridge households from homeless to permanently housed.

*TH* - Transitional Housing - Medium-term housing intervention where households experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence may stay and receive supportive services that enable households to move into permanent housing

*UN* - Unsheltered - Households sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (i.e. car, tent) in public areas, or another place that is not permanent or safe.

Adopted August 2017. Target populations include Veterans, households experiencing chronic and literal homelessness and those fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.
In August, the Housing Workgroup attempted to begin setting benchmark system performance goals for the Denton County Housing Crisis Response System. After extensive discussion, it was decided that backbone support would conduct additional research and bring recommended benchmarks back to the workgroup. Backbone support is currently working with the Texas Homeless Network to determine a way to accurately extract this data to inform future goal setting.

The group also began preliminary planning to Landlord Outreach initiatives, and determined a date and planning committee for a Denton County Landlord Forum. They reviewed the framework for a landlord outreach model that has been successfully implemented in Austin, Texas.

Backbone support met with Jeff Coffey and Terry Widmer outside of normal workgroup hours to continue to develop a Landlord Outreach framework to soft launch at the Denton County Landlord Forum set for Thursday, October 19th at CoServ in Corinth, Texas.

In September, the workgroup was joined by phone by Bree Williams, with Austin’s Ending Chronic Homelessness Organization (ECHO), to obtain further feedback regarding their experience implementing this initiative. Bree provided insightful feedback and engaged in discussion around funding sources and scale of programming given their community’s size and homeless population.

**Short-term action items**
- Finalize agenda for Landlord Forum
- Continued development of Landlord Outreach pilot program framework

**Accomplishments**
- Second Denton Supportive Housing Pilot client housed

**Concerns**
- Uncertainty of receiving ESG funding
- Ability of Housing Crisis Response System (HCRS) planning to include at-risk homeless population
- Case management capacity and training to adapt to HCRS best practices
- Ability to implement ideal uses of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to track grant performance and System Performance Measures

**Next Meeting Dates**
- Monday, October 16, 2017
Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team Workgroup Reports
October 2017

DCHLT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP

Meeting Summary – Thursday, September 28, 2017

Attendees: Karmen Rubin (Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth), Lauren Lay (Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth), Chris Marchbanks (Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth), Alicia Froidl (United Way of Denton County), Roxanne Del Rio (North Central Texas College), Mathew Cantrel (United Way of Denton County) and Courtney Cross (United Way of Denton County)

Courtney Cross (UWDC) debriefed the group on the origins of the workgroup, which was created to ensure the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team’s efforts to address homelessness and housing insecurity are in alignment with the work of additional organizations working to meet the income and workforce needs of the Denton County community.

The group reviewed the need for a tool to streamline referrals to workforce development opportunities by case managers working with individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Backbone support presented a table of background research on existing workforce development opportunities, along with a Coordinated Entry Eligibility Matrix intended to assist case managers making referrals to housing. The group provided feedback on ways to utilize the research conducted to compose a helpful tool.

Attendees primarily consisted of organizations on the receiving end of referrals, and the group agreed the need to engage referring agencies in future development and feedback meetings. See below for additional feedback regarding improvement of future tools:

- Categorize workforce development opportunities by barriers clients may be facing (education level, criminal background, immigration status, immediacy of need, etc.)
- Elaborate on Program/Resource descriptions to include as much information as possible to ensure appropriate referrals
- Include supplemental materials detailing access to supportive services that would contribute to an individual or family’s ability to maintain or increase their income (childcare, transportation, etc.)

Short-term action items

Schedule next meeting
Identify referring agencies to invite to the table
Connect with the Texas Workforce Commission
Build out tool with initial feedback

Accomplishments

Background research and first meeting completed

Concerns

Ability to ensure long-term accessibility of tool/streamlining of referrals through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Next Meeting Dates

TBD
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WORKGROUP

CHAIR NAME: ELIZABETH FERRING  
CHAIR CONTACT INFORMATION: EFERRING@GMAIL.COM; (940) 387-4874

Workgroup Summary

Workgroup members engaged in Community Conversations are not identified for confidentiality purposes. The workgroup attendees remain fluid as representatives of the DCHLT and DCBHLT attend local, established groups.

The workgroup met to reestablish the group and to introduce new members to the group. With the addition of Mathew Cantrell, a UWDC intern taking over the work from the previous member Shion Neyestanki, the group has decided to continue forward. However, the workgroup has decided to take a more structured route to Community Conversations and will be working primarily with Service Providers and their clients.

Short Term Action Items

- Develop quantitative and qualitative metric tools
- Research local support groups for behavioral issues
- Research potential grant opportunities and their requirements

Accomplishments

- Reestablished the Community Conversation Workgroup

Concerns

- Effectively scheduling diverse conversations
- Capturing and synthesizing collected feedback

Next Meeting

September 28, 2017