



**Thursday, June 11th, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference**

Agenda

I.	Welcome & Consideration of February 2020 Minutes	Chair	2 min.
II.	COVID-19 Response Update	C. Cross	20 min.
III.	Homelessness Data Report	C. Cross	20 min.
IV.	Workgroup Updates		25 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Housing • Shelter Planning • Ending Veteran Homelessness • Denton County Homeless Coalition Update • Healthcare Collaboration 	C. Cross T. Widmer M. McGee/R. Metzler C. Cross D. Adams C. Cross	
V.	Backbone Support Update	C. Cross	10 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update • Texas Veterans Commission Grant • Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update 		
VI.	Public Comment	Chair	5 min.
VII.	New Business	Chair	5 min.
VIII.	Adjourn	Chair	2 min.

**Next Meeting Date:
Thursday, August 13th, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | United Way of Denton County**





Thursday, February 13, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
United Way of Denton County (1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)

Appointees/Ex-Officios Present: Alice Mankoff, , 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, Jill Adams, Jim Mustain, Josh Ashford, John Manganilla, Kathy Srokosz, Dr. Mary Jones, Roy Metzler, Sheryl English, Terry Widmer, Valerie Foster

Appointees Absent: Ashleigh Feryan (regrets), Dale Tampke (regrets), Emily Taylor (regrets), Frank Padgett, Herman Oosterwijk, Jessica DeRoche, Joe Perez, Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Thomas Muir (regrets), Nicole Recker, Stephen Coffeu

Guests: Elena Lusk (United Way of Denton County), Hope Rodgers (United Way of Denton County) Jessica Caskey (United Way of Denton County), Wendy McGee (Our Daily Bread), Stephen Thomas (Salvation Army Lewisville), Sarah Kuechler (City of Denton), Anja Taylor (City of Denton), Iris Guterrez (Goodwill Works), Arshod Rais (Goodwill Works)

Welcome & Consideration of December 2019 Minutes

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve December 2018 Minutes.

Motion: Terry Widmer

Second: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Motion was approved.

Workgroup Proposal: Healthcare Collaboration

Courtney Cross discussed a proposed Healthcare Collaboration Workgroup as an opportunity to engage healthcare facilities, emergency departments and street outreach teams to facilitate hospital discharge planning that includes housing solutions. This workgroup will seek to find alternative solutions for individuals being discharged from hospitals into local emergency shelters, where emergency shelters don't have the capacity to provide a level of care needed for these individuals. Dani Shaw stated that she has met with representatives from healthcare providers to begin this conversation.

Gary Henderson stated that this is an opportunity to work with hospitals like Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton, of which we have a DCHLT appointee representing, to not discharge individuals into homelessness. Kathy Srokosz of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton stated that they have a department for people living with chronic diseases are trying to identify additional strategies for individuals that don't qualify; individuals are often discharged to outpatient care and medical homes, and the hospital can cover these costs as needed.

Roy Metzler and Stephen Thomas stated that individuals are discharged to MKOC and SAD at least once a month. Kathy Srokosz stated that the hospital pays for transportation as needed when individuals are discharged, but it is up to the individual where they are transported to, and many opt to be transported to a shelter.

Workgroup membership will include emergency shelters, drop-in centers, street outreach, and healthcare providers.

Chair requested a motion to approve Healthcare Collaboration workgroup.

Motion: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Second: Dr. Mary Jones



Motion was approved.

Workgroup Updates

Data

Courtney Cross provided a Data Workgroup update and review the Homelessness Data Dashboard. The Data Dashboard reflects 397 Actively Homeless, 35 Veterans, 148 Chronically Homeless, and 11 Fleeing Domestic Violence. There were 34 New Assessments, 10 Reassessments, 0 Returns from Housing, 5 Returns from Inactive, 3 Housed, 25 Moved to Inactive, and 1 Permanently Left Service Area in January. UWDC is in the process of obtaining student homelessness numbers from ISDs and will update the Dashboard when all data has been received; ISDs track homelessness numbers at different frequencies which makes it difficult to update the Dashboard regularly. UWDC staff are facilitating ongoing data clean up to ensure that our data is accurate and timely. Additionally, UWDC staff are in the process of adding demographic information to the Dashboard in an effort to communicate how people of color of disproportionately experiencing homelessness.

Housing

Terry Widmer provided a Housing Workgroup update. UWDC staff Elena Lusk has been incorporating training opportunities into Case Conferencing, including Diversion training, HMIS training, and how to develop a housing plan with individuals experiencing homelessness. Workgroup members continue to identify immediate actions steps for service providers to assist individuals in steps towards obtaining permanent housing, such as helping individuals obtain critical documentation and facilitating referrals for medical and mental health care. In addition to discussing client barriers to housing, Housing Workgroup have started to identify client strengths and assets to practice from a strengths-based approach.

Councilperson Keely Briggs inquired why the number of people housed is lower than previous months. Dani Shaw stated this may be a direct result of community funding. Cindy Harris stated that GHI has been concentrating their services on homelessness prevention. Courtney stated that homelessness prevention is not tracked in a uniform way, though UWDC can explore methods of tracking this. Tracking these services will allow our community to better advocate for increased funding.

Shelter Planning

Roy Metzler provided an update on MKOC's expansion. As of today, MKOC has been open 7 nights/week for 30 days. MKOC is hiring a new Assistant Director to support shelter operations as the previous Assistant Director resigned. Previous overnight volunteer shifts are now taken care of by paid staff, and volunteer hours are now from 6pm-9pm.

Councilperson Keely Briggs stated that she has heard from clients that they are less stressed knowing that they'll have a place to sleep that night.

Courtney Cross stated that UWDC staff and interns have been assisting MKOC with HMIS enrollments and Coordinated Entry to ensure that every client is enrolled, which was previously done on paper. Approximately 20 individuals have been enrolled in their Enhanced Shelter Program, where there will be a maximum of 50 beds long term, but a maximum of 30 with current case management capacity. Individuals enrolled in the Enhanced Shelter Program have started to receive housing-focused case management. A portion of MKOC beds will be reserved for vulnerable individuals with chronic health conditions.

Wendy McGee inquired if MKOC is referring individuals with chronic health conditions to Giving Hope, Inc's PSH program. Courtney stated that Denton County MHMR has two PSH openings and will be utilizing the Housing Priority List to identify eligible households. Cindy Harris stated Giving Hope, Inc's PSH program also has two openings.

Ending Veteran Homelessness



Courtney Cross reviewed the Ending Veteran Homelessness infographic created by UWDC staff. 35 Veterans have been identified, where 30 of them are living unsheltered (i.e. not accessing emergency shelter services), 25 are experiencing chronic or long-term homelessness, and 1 Veteran has been housing since December 2019. UWDC has met with the VA to cross-compare lists, and is also exploring Grant Per Diem funding through the VA. UWDC has submitted a Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) grant that would provide general assistance for Veterans with a housing focus, an outreach position, and Veteran Barriers Fund.

Dani Shaw stated that every agency will need to commit to prioritizing Veterans for a period of time to reach our goal of ending Veteran homelessness. Over 70 other communities have prioritized Veterans or chronic homelessness and have reached functional zero.

Elena Lusk stated that 18 of the 35 Veterans have a VI-SPDAT score for PSH. Courtney Cross stated that the UWDC staff has been working with Housing Workgroup members to prioritize Veterans.

Councilperson Keely Briggs requested the dollar amount needed to provide housing and case management for 35 Veterans.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Update

Courtney Cross provided a Denton County Homeless Coalition (DCHC) update. 98 volunteers participated in the 2020 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count on January 23rd and canvassed 17 cities and towns. The county was divided into zones and the DCHC identified central volunteer check-in locations in each zone. UWDC will compile a PIT data report along with data from HMIS when THN releases PIT data in March. Metrocrest Services supported our PIT Count through conducting their own Count.

To date, 102 households have been assisted with the Barriers Fund with \$40,437.46. UWDC is in the process of rebranding the Barriers Fund to better communicate its impact. DCHC members are working with the City of Lewisville to plan a hiking fundraiser in the Fall, benefiting the Barriers Fund.

Dr. Mary Jones stated that DCHC members are continuing to develop awards for homelessness service providers, where recognition for awardees would be held in November. The DCHC needs a Selection Committee with representation from the DCHLT, DCHC, services providers, and clients.

Backbone Support Update

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update

Courtney Cross reviewed the DCBHLT 2020-2022 strategic plan, approved in the January 2020 DCBHLT bimonthly meeting. The DCBHLT Veterans workgroup has taken a holistic approach to addressing the overall needs of Veterans and their families, and has integrated the Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee with the Veteran workgroup to allow for streamlined and coordinated planning and to leverage the resources of both groups. The DCBHLT Child & Family Systems Workgroup is focused on increasing access to behavioral health services for youth and families, with a special focus on reducing mental health stigma and increasing conversations around the impacts of trauma. The DCBHLT Jail Diversion Workgroup is focused on addressing Intercept 0 (Community Services) and Intercept 1 (Law Enforcement) of the Sequential Intercept Model, which identifies the 6 points at which standard process of crimes can be intervened with community-based actions.

Thanks to partnership with Denton County MHMR and UWDC's HB-13 grant, registration for free Adult Mental Health First Aid Courses is available on UWDC's website at <https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/mental-health-first-aid-course>

Courtney Cross introduced Amanda Adams, UWDC's new Housing Navigator funded through the Continuum of Care grant, who joins UWDC with prior experience connecting vulnerable households to permanent housing solutions through her previous work at a Housing Authority.



Gary Henderson stated that UWDC is working with United Way of Texas and One Star Foundation to coordinate a Nonprofit Convening focused on advocacy efforts, which is scheduled to take place March 31st.

Public Comment

Dani Shaw stated that Denton City Council approved an affordable housing assessment this week.

John Manganilla, newly appointed DCHLT appointee introduced himself to the group. John was appointed by the Denton Chamber of Commerce and works for Atmos Energy.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Chair requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Sheryl English

Second: Terry Widmer

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 am.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | United Way of Denton County



DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

April 2020 – June 2020

The previous meetings of the Data Workgroup were on hold due to COVID-19 response measures. Without being able to meet with the workgroup, the decision to move forward and add demographic data to the dashboard for May 2020 has been made. Demographic information from individuals on our HPL being listed on the dashboard includes: Age, Race, Ethnicity.

The decision to not include gender identity was a measure taken in order to not single any individual or small group of individuals out from disclosing that information to the general public.

The data dashboard has been updated with April and May data. There are currently 348 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. That number breaks down into:

- 28 families
- 320 individuals
- 29 Veteran households
- 125 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

March 2020 was the first month that the amount of people prioritized for Permanent Supportive Housing outnumbered the amount of people prioritized for Rapid Rehousing, and that trend has continued. The amount of people prioritized for the more intensive housing intervention, Permanent Supportive Housing, is now 50% of the population on the Housing Priority List. Housing intervention prioritizations for May 2020 are:

- Diversion Services – 30 households
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 144 households
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 174 households

This is reflective of the steady stream of people being reassessed in our system with Coordinated Entry for their barriers and vulnerabilities to be more accurately tracked, and the length of time people are experiencing homelessness in Denton County. Data average from people that exited to housing from Jan 2019 – Dec 2019 shows that the rate at which people are entering our system and exiting to housing is nearly 9 months of an individual experiencing homelessness. The data average thus far in 2020 (Jan 2020 – May 2020) is a bit over 7 months from someone experiencing homelessness to exiting to housing.

The Veteran homelessness infographic page detailing Denton County's progress towards the federal criteria and benchmarks to end Veteran homelessness was updated with April and May data. The [infographic \(linked\)](#) is updated to reflect the end of the last 90 day look back period that ended on May 31st. At the end of the last 90 days, Denton County was able to show that we were successful in housing more Veterans than the amount of Veterans that entered our system in those 90 days, meaning we have made good progress to meet one of the benchmarks needed for our goal.

The 2020 Data Report has been completed with majority of the report being visualizing homelessness data from the PIT Count and the Data Dashboard. Plans of having a follow up document expressing the story of our progress and steps last year as well as our plans for this year will be created as a secondary document to the Data Report soon.

Increase in access to HMIS at agencies serving in Denton County has continued with 5 additional HMIS licenses being purchased in Denton County and 9 people beginning training since April on new licenses or previously purchased licenses. Agencies that increased their access recently are:

- Denton County Veteran Service Office
- Grace Like Rain
- Monsignor King Outreach Center
- Next Steps – The Colony
- Recovery Resource Council
- United Way of Denton County

Continuing education for current HMIS users with infographics breaking down vital parts of HMIS has continued as well. Infographics created recently include how to check referrals for both agencies and clients as well as how to create appropriate referrals for clients.

Short-term action items

Meet with Data Workgroup to discuss the addition of Client Demographics to the Data Dashboard as well as any plans or ideas.

Continue monthly training topics virtually with infographics during case conferencing to have an accurate system from all agencies.

Accomplishments

2020 Data Report was completed and is ready to be presented.

Increase in access HMIS with more trained users in Denton County.

Special population HPL's were created for both the PSH programs and the agencies managing the Hotel during COVID-19.

Referral infographics were created in order to show the importance of referrals and tracking them in HMIS as a community.

Concerns

Data management during COVID-19 Pandemic may allow for households to be missed, information to not be submitted and for data to not be collected.

Next Meeting Dates

TBD

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

June 2020

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

April 2020 – June 2020

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 1 time between April 2nd and June 11th. In lieu of Housing Workgroup meetings, UWDC has organized and facilitated targeted Case Conferencing with service providers based on program type or target population. UWDC has convened a RRH Case Conferencing with MKOC, ODB, and City of Denton staff weekly since May 12th to assist prioritizing households for RRH and identify immediate next steps in housing plans for individuals that are currently living in hotels rather than emergency shelter.

UWDC staff has convened 2 meetings with Recovery Resource Council's SSVF program staff to assist in data sharing, prioritizing eligible Veteran households, and receive updates on current Denton County Veterans served or who may be served through SSVF.

UWDC staff has convened 1 meeting with PSH staff from Giving Hope and Denton County MHMR Center to assist in prioritizing eligible households for their PSH Expansion projects. Giving Hope has 10 new PSH beds available and is in the process of obtaining eligibility documentation for enrollment, and DCMHMR will have 20 additional PSH beds in October. DCMHMR will have 2 of their 20 spots reserved for households experiencing chronic homelessness and will need help from the community in identifying eligible households. Both PSH projects identified a need for additional training for Case Conferencing members to ensure that referrals are appropriate.

UWDC staff created an infographic that outlines PSH and RRH eligibility and required documentation (see next page), and reviewed with service providers in the June General Case Conferencing meeting. Additionally, in the June General Case Conferencing, service providers received training and an infographic on how to check referrals in HMIS, as well as received an update on changes in Barriers Fund eligible expenditures.

Short-term action items

Reconvene regularly scheduled General and Veteran Case Conferencing virtually via Zoom

Continue to convene Case Conferencing for specific program types (RRH)

Identify 2 families that meet the definition of chronically homeless for MHMR's PSH expansion in October

Assist individuals and households in obtaining necessary eligibility documentation for PSH projects

Accomplishments

3 additional Recovery Resource Council SSVF staff are being trained in Denton County HMIS

16 individuals have been housed since April

Concerns

Difficulty contacting individuals currently staying in hotels rather than emergency shelter to connect them with CE or supportive services

Next Meeting Dates

June 15th, July 6th, July 20th, 2020

HOUSING PROGRAM REFERRALS

Referral Process:

1. Complete a Coordinated Entry enrollment or reassessment.
2. Based on what you learn during the assessment, discuss each agency on the eligibility matrix and what you know about the program you are suggesting a referral to.
3. Allow the client to decide what agency they would like a referral to.
4. Complete the referral(s) in HMIS.
5. Do a warm hand off with that client to the agency you are referring them to if possible.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF THE REFERRAL FOR THE HOUSING PROGRAM IS APPROPRIATE

RAPID REHOUSING

Assists households with housing and case management for up to 24 months (2-6 month average).

General Requirements for Program Entry:

- VI-SPDAT score 4-7 OR F-VI-SPDAT score 4-8
- Form of official identification*
- Plan or ability to sustain housing after the short term assistance

Agencies Offering RRH in Denton County:

- Christian Community Action
- Giving Hope
- Monsignor King Outreach Center
- Our Daily Bread
- Recovery Resource Council (Veterans Only)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Intensive long term assistance with housing and case management (typical length is several years).

General Requirements for Program Entry:

- VI-SPDAT score 8+ OR F-VI-SPDAT was 9+
- Disabling condition (**Documentation Needed**)*
- Length of time experiencing homelessness - 12+ months within 3 years (**Documentation Needed**)*
- Form of official identification*

Agencies Offering PSH in Denton County:

- Denton County MHMR (20 beds max)
- Giving Hope (30 beds max)

Housing Vouchers from agencies like DHA and the VA are also a form of permanent housing but are not specifically PSH programs.

*** Receiving agencies can help with documentation collection ***

Referrals should be made in HMIS, even if the agency does not use HMIS, so that all referrals for each client can be tracked in one spot for them.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

April 2020 – June 2020

The DCBHLT Veterans Workgroup met April 9th, and did not meet in May. The April meeting focused primarily on resource sharing related to COVID-19 response.

UWDC staff have updated the Ending Veteran Homelessness infographic to effectively communicate our goal and progress to the community (see next page).

UWDC has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Homeless Network to obtain a Veteran Employment Specialist VISTA. This position will primarily support the development of workforce development opportunities for Veterans experiencing homelessness and will support our community's overall goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness.

UWDC has been awarded a \$300,000 General Assistance grant to serve Veterans and their families. While this is not a homelessness or housing grant specifically, this grant will support the Denton County Veteran Stability Program and provide emergency financial assistance to Veterans served through local support programs. The grant will include the hiring of a Coordinator position for the Denton County Veteran Center to support implementation of the grant and operation of the center.

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program serving Denton County has transitioned from Catholic Charities to Recovery Resource. The SSVF program functions primarily as a Rapid Re-housing program for Veterans. UWDC has connected with Recovery Resource to ensure they are fully aware of Denton County's Coordinated Entry system, HMIS database and other details of our housing crisis response system. During the pandemic, the SSVF program has been supporting 45-day hotel stays for Veterans experiencing homelessness as they work towards a permanent housing solution.

Six Veteran households have been housed since March, and there are currently 29 Veteran households on the Housing Priority List. UWDC will discuss the possibility of not reaching our goal by the end of the year and how to reassess and move forward.

Short-term action items

UWDC hire VISTA and TVC positions

Accomplishments

Ending Veteran Homelessness in Denton County data available to public with monthly updates via UWDC website

UWDC executed MOU with THN for a Veteran Employment Specialist VISTA

Concerns

Sufficient housing assistance resources and wrap-around services for Veterans experiencing homelessness

Reaching our goal by the end of 2020

Next Meeting Dates

June 11th, July 9th, August 13th



END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN DENTON COUNTY BY 2020

We will end Veteran homelessness when we have enough resources to meet the need. Our milestones to reach this goal are:

MILESTONE

STATUS

All Veterans experiencing homelessness have been identified.	 In Progress
The community has ended chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans.	 In Progress
Veterans move into permanent housing in 90 days or less of becoming homeless.	 In Progress
More Veterans are moving into permanent housing than becoming homeless.	 On Track
The community is providing transitional housing in limited instances.	 In Progress

29 VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
214 DAYS UNTIL OUR GOAL



DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

April 2020 – June 2020

The Denton County Homeless Coalition has convened one time between April and June. Due to the growing needs and response efforts related to COVID-19, the March meeting was cancelled in order to abide by the county's stay-at-home mandates. The April meeting was cancelled as the majority of members' time was dedicated to the continued increased work volume of COVID-19.

During the May meeting the group discussed COVID-19 response and recovery efforts including eviction prevention funding and other CARES Act funding opportunities. The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, Denton County's service area for federal and state homelessness funding, was allocated approximately \$7M of Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funding. The City of Denton is pursuing a \$1.4M application for the Emergency Solutions Grant and plans to procure services from local organizations for Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Homeless Prevention, Rapid Re-housing and HMIS.

The group also discussed additional CARES Act funding through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. UWDC staff reviewed Denton County Public Health's COVID-19 Data Dashboard and provided an update on case conferencing during the pandemic.

UWDC presented the 2020 Denton County Homelessness Data report and received feedback from the group. Roxanne del Rio will work with staff to organize a virtual data reveal.

The remainder of the meeting was spend sharing additional resources and information related to pandemic response and recovery.

Short-term action items

Planning the release of the 2020 Point-In-Time Count results.

Accomplishments

2020 Denton County Homelessness Data Report completed

Concerns

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates

June 24th; July 29th