



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

