



Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team
Thursday, February 9, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Appointees Present: Alice Mankoff, Chasz Parker, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Cynthia Harris, Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Mayor Chris Watts, Roy Metzler, Terry Widmer, Valerie Foster

Ex Officios Present: Gary Henderson, Courtney Cross, Dani Shaw, Jessica Peters

Guests Present: LaTiffany Coleman, Nick McRae, John Cabrales, Katherine Gonzales, Barbara Ross, Hope Nordon, Sydney Wilburn

Appointees Absent: Barton Duffy, Chief Lee Howell, Kathy Srokosz, Monica Glenn, Sandra Robinson, Thomas Muir

Welcome & Consideration of January Minutes

Mayor Watts welcomed appointees and guests to the meeting at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Watts acknowledged Valerie Foster's presence at the meeting and offered condolences on behalf of the Denton County Leadership Team for the recent loss of her son, Tyler Foster.

Mayor Watts requested a motion to accept the January meeting minutes.

Motion: Terry Widmer

2nd: Councilman TJ Gilmore

Motion Approved

Workgroup Updates

Terry Widmer provided an update on the Housing Workgroup. The group has begun drafting its strategic goal to increase access to housing for residents of Denton County. Objectives include identifying unmet housing needs and expanding housing capacity. Strategies for achieving objectives include collaboration across agencies to network with private landlords and build a shared database of landlords willing to accept clients with special circumstances, and asset mapping and determining actual housing capacity to identify unmet needs. The Housing Workgroup will finalize its strategic goal for submission to DCHLT Strategic Planning Committee after the next meeting scheduled for February 13th. Terry commended Giving Hope's recent launch of a Housing Navigation program

Terry and Courtney provided an update on the Denton Supportive Housing Pilot. The Implementation Team is set to meet Friday, February 10th to discuss immediate next steps for housing clients. United Way of Denton County has executed an MOU with Denton Supporting Housing, Inc., who has fully funded the pilot program up-front. UWDC will act as fiscal agent for the program. UWDC has also executed and MOU with Denton Affordable Housing Corporation (DAHC). DAHC's board has agreed to a



negotiated rent of \$650 per unit, and has agreed to prioritize pilot clients for units as they become available. Community member Deborah Cosimo works in program evaluation for Health and Human Services in Dallas, and has agreed to review the program overview for the pilot in-kind to ensure outcome measures are being tracked consistently.

Stephen Coffey provided an update on the Data Workgroup. The workgroup met with the Denton County Homeless Coalition Coordinated Entry Steering Committee January 13th. The groups voted to approach their respective governing bodies for formal approval to combine their efforts to implement Coordinated Entry in Denton County, and to prioritize Veterans. The prioritization of Veterans was recommended because of the existing resources and mechanisms in place for Veterans and their families, and the ability of local agencies to utilize those existing resources as a way of launching the Coordinated Entry Process in Denton County.

Mayor Watts requested motions for the following recommendations:

- Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team to combine efforts with the Denton County Homeless Coalition to implement a Coordinated Entry Process in Denton County.
 Motion: Stephen Coffey
 2nd: Terry Widmer
 Motion Approved
- Prioritization of Veterans for the initial implementation of a Coordinated Entry Process in Denton County.
 Motion: Stephen Coffey
 2nd: Keely Briggs
 Motion Approved

The Data workgroup will draft its strategic goal at the next meeting, Friday, February 10th. The DCHLT Strategic Planning Committee has advised the workgroup’s goal focus on the implementation of a Coordinated Entry Process in Denton County.

The DCHLT continues to partner with the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team to obtain community feedback regarding behavioral health and housing needs and experiences. The Consumer Workgroup met February 7th to discuss ways to obtain feedback. The group voted to change the name to ‘UWDC Community Conversations’ in order to be more relatable and accessible to the general community, and the ‘workgroup’ will now serve as an oversight committee for the planning and facilitation of consistent conversations with various community groups throughout Denton County.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Councilwoman Keely Briggs provided a report of the DCHLT Strategic Planning Committee’s first meeting. Committee members include: Keely Briggs, Jessica DeRoche, Alice Mankoff, Dani Shaw (Ex-Officio), Courtney Cross (Ex-Officio), Gary Henderson (Ex-Officio), Chief Lee Howell, Monica Glenn and





Sherri McDade, Councilwoman Briggs and Jessica DeRoche were appointed co-chairs by committee members.

Councilwoman Briggs reviewed recommendations of the committee to workgroups as they develop their strategic goals:

- Data Workgroup
 - o Strategic Goal: Implement a Coordinated Entry System in Denton County.
 - o Suggested Objectives: Funding, capacity issues, staffing at agencies, collaboration/partnerships across agencies
- Housing Workgroup
 - o Strategic Goal: Increase access to housing in Denton County. (Intentional removal of the word 'affordable' to be more inclusive of the spectrum of need.)
 - o Suggested Objectives: unmet need, housing inventory (assure accurate and real-time)

Councilwoman Briggs raised the topic of Workforce Development as a potential future workgroup and requested feedback from DCHLT appointees. Jessica DeRoche stated the importance of income and employment in maintaining housing, and Dani Shaw stated the Data Workgroup's System Performance Measure of increasing income. Mayor Watts raised the question of whether the DCHLT was equipped to launch a Workforce Development workgroup. After discussion, appointees requested that UWDC Backbone Support staff conduct fact-finding meetings to assess current workforce development related initiatives in Denton County and report back to the DCHLT in April.

Speakers Bureau

The need for increased community awareness and presentations throughout Denton County was raised during the Strategic Planning Committee meeting. Mayor Watts emphasized the importance of communicating 'wins' through presentations to various community and civic groups throughout Denton County. Courtney presented a draft of Speakers Bureau slides for feedback from the group. Appointees provided feedback for additions to the presentation, and Courtney will make updates for the March meeting.

Backbone Support Update

Gary Henderson provided an update on the nonprofit team that will join the Denton Chamber's joint position group for Denton County Days in Austin February 28th to March 1st. UWDC leads the nonprofit team and collaborated with partner agencies to develop their 2017 Legislative Agenda to inform advocacy efforts. Approximately 150 Denton community members will be in Austin to call on delegates regarding various bills and legislation.

New Business/Public Comments



Mayor Watts informed appointees to recent proposals by developers and the Denton Housing Authority regarding low income housing tax credit developments in Denton, and the potential for increased funding for housing and homelessness initiatives as a result of future developments.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:23 a.m.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, March 9, 2016 @ 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
United Way of Denton County Office


Secretary

3/9/17
Date

