

Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team
Thursday, August 11, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Appointees Present: Alice Mankoff, Angie Cadena, Barton Duffy, Chief Lee Howell, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Cynthia Harris, Herman Oosterwijk, Isabel Rodriguez, Mayor Chris Watts, Monica Glenn, Roy Metzler, Sandra Robinson, Sherri McDade, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer, Mayor Thomas Muir, Valerie Foster

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

Guests Present: Barbara Ross, Pat Smith, Alex Reed, Katherine Boswell, Toni-Johnson Simpson, Alonzo Peterson, Michelle DeGrate, Donna Bloom, Julian Gill

Appointees Absent: Jessica DeRoche, Kathy Srokosz,

Welcome & Consideration of July Minutes

Mayor Watts welcomed appointees and guests to the meeting at 8:03 a.m.

Mayor Watts directed members to the July meeting minutes for review. There was one amendment to the minutes regarding a typo wherein the minutes listed July rather than June. Mayor Watts requested a motion to accept them as amended.

Motion: Councilman TJ Gilmore

2nd: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Motion Approved

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Update

As of July 28th, TDHCA's board elected not to award the Denton ESG Collaborative any of the requested \$600,000 of ESG funding for the 2016-2017 grant year. The week of August 1st, the Denton City Council pledged \$200,000 of one-time, emergency stop-gap funding to help make up for the loss of federal funding. Denton County Commissioner's Court also contributed \$35,000 of contingency funds.

The DCHLT invited the four ESG-funded organizations today to share how the ESG funding reduction has and will affect their organization representatives from each ESG organization provided short presentations.

Toni Johnson-Simpson provided an update on the effects of funding losses for the Denton County Friends of the Family Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter. ESG funding accounted for approximately 26% of the shelter's budget, and roughly 50% of shelter operating expenses. Loss of funding has resulted in a case manager and counselor being reduce from full time to part time, and the loss of a full-time crisis intervention specialist. The shelter has seen a 22% increase in shelter demand over the last five years, and have seen a 40% decrease in the number of their clients successfully

transitioning into Transitional Housing programs once they leave the shelter. Moving forward, the shelter plans to adjust their budget allocations and address the rapid re-housing issue which contributed to the loss of funds, and to build a larger shelter facility as well as transitional housing units for domestic violence and assault victims in Denton County.

Michelle DeGrate presented on behalf of Christian Community Action (CCA), stating that focus their ESG funded programs on Homeless Prevention under the mentality that is more cost effective to keep someone in housing rather than try and help them secure housing altogether. Last year eighty-eight individuals (thirty-five families) were served at CCA via ESG funds. The loss of funding has resulted in CCA having to cut one full time position from their already short case management staff, and a deficit of \$90,000 previously used to provide assistance and promote stability.

Alonzo Peterson presented on behalf of Giving Hope, Inc., noting cuts to rental assistance, the elimination of a full-time street outreach coordinator, the reduction of a Housing Navigator from full-time to part-time, and the possibility of not being able to fully fund their remaining two full time case managers. ESG funds accounted for 37% of Giving Hope, Inc.'s total expenses. Immediate solutions include possible shared staffing with the Salvation Army Denton Shelter, a potential increase in housing stock south of Lake Lewisville and applying to various Dallas foundations for stopgap funding.

No representatives from the Salvation Army Denton Shelter were present to report on the effects of ESG funding loss.

DCHLT members discussed the loss of ESG funding, and inquired into the types of funds currently funneling into the community. Currently the City of Denton and City of Lewisville receive this type of funding, but there are no funds of this type coming in at the county level.

Alice Mankoff asked what strategies can be used in order to improve the likelihood the community will receive ESG funding next year, and Mayor Watts requested that be addressed at the next meeting.

Work Group Updates

Terry Widmer provided an update from Housing Workgroup regarding their goals to finalize all details by 8/22/16 for the tentative 9/1/16 housing pilot program launch date. Regarding the request for funding from a pilot program partner, the Housing Workgroup made the following recommendations to the DCHLT:

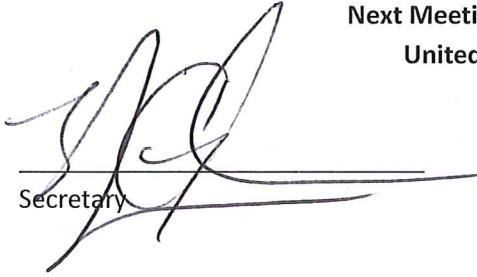
1. UWDC does not fulfill the funding request submitted by the Denton Community Health Clinic; workgroup members voted that no pilot participants should seek funding from UWDC
2. After reviewing multiple RFPs, the workgroup recommends that Denton Community Health Clinic serve as lead case management organization for the low-barrier, transitional, intensive case management pilot program. Additionally, program MOUs and documents will state that the workgroup will reevaluate all aspects of the program at various stages to ensure efficiency.

Public Comments: No public comments were received.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:27 a.m.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2016 @ 8:00 a.m.

United Way of Denton County Office


Secretary

9/8/16
Date

Stephen Coffey provided and updated for the Data Workgroup. Barriers moving forward will be the sharing and aggregation of data from multiple sources. Including homeless and housing agency board members in the conversation will help address capacity issues agencies face in data collection and tracking.

Courtney Cross and Alex Reed informed the leadership team that the DCHLT will be partnering with the DCBHLT and the United Way of Denton County's 2016 Community Needs Assessment Steering Committee to pilot a community conversation approach to obtaining qualitative consumer data as it pertains to behavioral health and housing needs and experiences throughout Denton County. The group will conduct listening sessions with community groups which vary in demographic and need throughout the Fall and report back to the leadership teams with results.

Backbone Support Update

Dani Shaw and Courtney Cross informed the DCHLT of the Denton County Homeless Coalition's (DCHC) request that United Way of Denton County serve as the fiscal agent for the 2016 Bridging the Gap event. This event is intended to establish relationship and open lines of communication between social service agencies serving the homeless and housing-insecure throughout Denton County. This year the DCHC will make an ask of faith organizations to contribute financial donations in light of the loss of ESG funding.

Roy Metzler noted the tentative event date's proximity to North Texas Giving Day, and requested the DCHC consider this. After discussion regarding who would be eligible to receive funds and how they would be disbursed, Mayor Watts requested a motion to approve that the United Way of Denton County the Denton County serve as the fiscal agent for Bridging the Gap 2016 event provided that the homeless coalition determine the aforementioned details before the event takes place.

Motion: Alice Mankoff

2nd: Keely Briggs

Motion Approved

New Business

Monica Glenn shared Leadership Denton's 2016-2017 project focus of housing and homelessness in Denton, and informed the DCHLT that Leadership Denton Candidates will be interviewing key stakeholders in the coming weeks.

Mayor Watts made an inquiry into the possibility of mapping Denton County's current housing and homelessness system. Dani Shaw informed the group of the work of the Coordinated Entry Steering Committee to do this, and informed the leadership team that the committee would be ready to share their work with DHCLT workgroups and present to the leadership team once it is further developed.