DENTON COUNTY HOMELESSNESS LEADERSHIP TEAM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

United Way of Denton County, Inc.

Thursday, February 14, 2019 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

United Way of Denton County (1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)

Agenda

I.	Welcome & Consideration of December 2018 Minutes	T. Gilmore	2 min.
	• Leadership Denton Guests		
II.	Welcome New Appointees	T. Gilmore	5 min.
	• Emily Taylor, Our Daily Bread		
	• Nicole Recker, Salvation Army Denton Corps		
III.	Making A Pit Stop (Documentary Teaser)	T. Short, J. Peace	15 min.
	• VOTE: Endorsement of documentary and use of DCHLT logo in promotion		
IV.	Workgroup Updates		40 min.
	• Data Workgroup	K. Gonzales	
	• Housing Workgroup	T. Widmer	
	• Ad Hoc Committee	C. Cross	
	• Shelter Planning Workgroup	C. Cross	
	• Ending Veteran Homelessness		
V.	Denton County Homeless Coalition Update	M. Jones	10 min.
VI.	Backbone Support Update	C. Cross	10 min.
	• Barriers Fund		
	• Homelessness Advisory Workgroup		
	• Seattle Visit		
VII.	New Business	T. Gilmore	
VIII.	Adjourn	T. Gilmore	

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, April 11, 2019 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. |United Way of Denton County

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

February 2019

Denton and Abiliene, with the assistance of Texas Homeless Network, developed a Diversion workflow process to assist front door assessors to prevent households experiencing homelessness from entering a homeless crisis response system. In December Front Door and Recieing Agencies participated in Diversion training provided by Org Code and the Texas Homeless Network. The Diversion workflow was launched in December 2018 in the HMIS and has been fully implemented within the Coordianted Entry process across Denton County. The Diversion workflow gives front door assessors the tools to facilitate meaningful conversations with households seeking emergency services and assists households find alternative solutions to emergency shelter.

Data from the Diversion pilot will be a catalyst for the Data Workgroup to start collecting homeless prevention data. THN has put a hold on Diversion training as they work out internal processes for Diversion training requests and the training itself. As Denton County brings on new coordinated entry assessors UWDC must develop a workaround to complete Diversion outside of the HMIS until new users are able to complete Diversion training to maintain consistency. UWDC is working closely with THN to identify a training process to bring on new users.

In preparation of gathering system performance measures the Homelessness Inititatives Coordiantor, Katherine Gonzales, is working with Front Door and Receiving agencies to complete a final data clean-up before system performance measure baselines are recorded.

Lists of households with outdated asssessments will be sent out to agencies for verification that households are currently experiencing homelessness or have become inactive. Inactive households will be placed on the inactive list for a year before removal from the housing priority list. Active households experiencing homelessness will be used to measure system performance measures. Re-assessments and inactive statuses are due March 1st.

Short-term action items

Data clean-up to gather system performance measures

Accomplishments

Diversion workflow implemented within HMIS before Coordianted Entry Assessments

Concerns

Diversion training for new assessors

Next Meeting Dates

TBD

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

December 2018 – February 2019

The workgroup meets biweekly for case conferencing to prioritize the top households on the Housing Priority List. The group reviews households categorized by priority population (chronic, Veteran and domestic violence survivors), and assigns action steps.

UWDC's Homelessness Coordinator conducts weekly phone check-ins with providers to touch base on outflows and reassessments.

Backbone support works with providers to identify gaps in supportive service capacity of case managers and works to incorporate additional partners into regular case conferencing meetings.

The Doors for Denton County program launched January 7th, and UWDC's Housing Navigator is accepting referrals from local housing assistance providers.

Workgroup members continue to learn from each other and identify opportunities for increased training and process improvement. Backbone support plans to incorporate more training material into regular workgroup meetings. Backbone support also continues to collaborate with agencies to identify opportunities to revisit program policies and extend financial assistance as needed for higher acuity households.

Short-term action items

Program-specific training based on Standards of Excellence

Fair Housing training from the North Texas Fair Housing Center

Accomplishments

Attendance and collaboration of providers

Diversion pilot training and implementation

Concerns

Access to wrap-around services for households with severe service needs

Understanding of program-specific processes and flexibility of funds to assist households for extended periods as needed

Next Meeting Dates

February 25th, March 11th, March 25th

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Organizations Present at December 10th Planning Meeting: United Way of Denton County, Fort Worth VA, City of Lewisville, Salvation Army Denton & Lewisville, City of Denton, Christian Community Action, Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, Denton County MHMR, Crossroads of Hope Veterans Community, Our Daily Bread, Denton County Veterans Service Office, Denton County Veteran Treatment Court, Denton County Veterans Coalition, Texas Homeless Network, Giving Hope, University of North Texas, Denton County Friends of the Family, Congressman Michael Burgess's Office

Several organizations providing services to Veterans met for the first community-planning meeting. The group reviewed community progress towards the improvement of access and quality of mental health and housing assistance resources for Veterans in Denton County.

Courtney Cross and Sophia Checa (Texas Homeless Network) reviewed what an end to Veteran homelessness means, and the benchmark criteria for success in reaching that goal:

> *An end to Veteran homelessness means that the community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness among Veterans is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.*
>
> - *Specifically, the community will have the capacity to:*
> - *Quickly identify and engage Veterans at-risk of and experiencing homelessness.*
> - *Intervene to prevent the loss of housing and divert Veterans from entering the homeless service system.*
> - *Provide immediate access to shelter and crisis services, without barriers to entry, while permanent stable housing and appropriate supports are being secured.*
> - *When homelessness does occur, quickly connect Veterans to housing assistance and services—tailored to their unique needs and strengths—to help*

Attendees engaged in an actor-mapping exercise to identify existing resources available to Veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the following areas: outreach and shelter, housing resources, prevention, and housing stability supports.

The workgroup will reconvene in the new year to identify and prioritize next steps, develop a logic model and develop a timeline for implementation.

Short-term action items

Prioritization of next steps and timeline development

Accomplishments

Attendance and collaboration of providers

Concerns

Timely implementation and consistent tracking of progress towards goal

Next Meeting Dates

February/March 2019