



Thursday, December 13, 2018 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
United Way of Denton County, Inc. (1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)

Meeting Summary

Appointees/Ex-Officios Present: Alice Mankoff, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Courtney Cross, Cynthia Harris, Dani Shaw, Gary Henderson, Josh Ashford, Kathy Srokosz, MS, RN, Mayor Thomas Muir, Mary Jones, Monica Glenn, Roy Metzler, Terry Widmer, Valerie Foster

Appointees Absent: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Kristi Bledsoe, Leroy Schuetts (regrets), Mayor Chris Watts (regrets), Prit Patel, Stephen Coffey

Guests: Sarah Kuechler (City of Denton), Sonia Redwine (United Way of Denton County), Katherine Gonzales (United Way of Denton County), Alyssa Mostaffa (United Way of Denton County), Tyheshia Scott (Giving Hope), John Montoya (Habitat for Humanity of Denton County), Kathryn Stream

Welcome & Consideration of October 2018 Minutes

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve October 2018 minutes.

Motion: Dr. Mary Jones
2nd: Cncl. Keely Briggs
Motion was approved.

DCHLT Year in Review

Courtney reviewed the progress of the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team during 2018:

- JAN 2018
 - 2018 Point-In-Time Count
- FEB 2018
 - UWDC Backbone Support provided an update to Denton City Council; DCHLT Data Workgroup joins the Built-For-Zero data collaborative
- MAR 2018
 - UWDC released a community impact grant funded by a \$250k allocation from the Denton Housing Authority
- APR 2018
 - DCHLT collaborates with Fort Worth VA to identify Veterans experiencing homelessness for 10 new HUD-VASH vouchers



- MAY 2018
 - Denton County Homeless Coalition launches Denton County Barriers Fund (with UWDC as fiscal agent) to support DFDC
 - DCHLT Backbone Support presented to Lewisville City Council and requested support for a Housing Navigator salary position
- JUN 2018
 - DCHLT Backbone Support presented to Denton City Council and requested support for a Housing Navigator salary position
 - DHA Supportive Services Community Impact funding awarded to Christian Community Action, Denton County Friends of the Family and Giving Hope, Inc.
- AUG 2018
 - UWDC Backbone Support Attended the Annual Affordable Housing Seminar
- SEP 2018
 - DCHLT launches Shelter Planning Workgroup to assess current environment and recommend improvement priorities for shelter in Denton County
- OCT 2018
 - DCHLT launches Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard
 - City of Denton, City of Lewisville and a private donor contribute funding to hire a Housing Navigator to support housing search and placement for Denton County housing nonprofits
 - Denton Mayor Chris Watts signs on to Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness & DCHLT adopts the goal into its strategic plan
 - 4th Annual Denton County Homeless Veterans Stand Down
- NOV 2018
 - UWDC Hires Alyssa Mostaffa as Housing Navigator
- DEC 2018
 - First Community Planning Meeting held for Ending Veteran Homelessness
 - DCHLT Shelter Planning Workgroup developed a summary report of their findings and recommendations for the DCHLT and Denton City Council.

Workgroup Updates

Data Workgroup

Courtney presented the online [Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard \(linked\)](#). Data will be updated on the 15th of the month. Appointees discussed the student homelessness data reported by the Texas Education Agency. Katherine Gonzales reviewed plans to add to the dashboard over time and include System Performance Measures.

Katherine updated appointees of a recent Diversion training hosted by the Texas Homeless Network and OrgCode Consulting. The goal of diversion is to assist households in tapping into their natural resources for 14 days before entering them into Coordinated Entry. This approach will also allow the community to start collecting more accurate 'at-risk' data through identifying households that have been prevented from experiencing homelessness.

Housing Workgroup



The workgroup continues to meet every two weeks for case conferencing. During these meetings case managers share resources, collaborate to develop housing plans and identify hard-to-reach wrap around services their clients need. The workgroup recently hosted guests from substance-use facilities to learn about services offered and how people experiencing homelessness might access them.

Workgroup discussions have also raised subjects that have caused individuals to assess their policies around practices such as trespassing clients from their facilities, and how clients can maintain communication with and accessibility to providers in difficult situations. Councilman Gilmore noted the value in being able to identify systemic barriers through case conferencing and consistent communication.

Our Daily Bread and the Monsignor King Outreach Center hired a shared Housing Case Manager to assist clients with their housing plans, which will also improve case conferencing.

Ad Hoc Committee

The Ad Hoc Committee met in November and hosted two guests: Charlie Price with the Development Corporation of Tarrant County, and Marty Mascari with the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The focus of the meeting was to discuss affordable housing development and accessibility regionally.

Charlie shared his experience developing affordable housing in Tarrant County and the ways in which his office maintains a tight budget and revenue to continue to refurbish or develop new affordable housing units.

Marty shared information about Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and the Amy Young Barrier (AYB) Removal Program. Both are available pots of money in our region through TDHCA, and potential low-hanging fruit to increase funding for housing. Neither program comes with administrative funding, so they can be difficult to administer and manage. TBRA acts similar to a Housing Choice Voucher through a local housing authority, and can provide up to 24 months of assistance. The AYB program can provide funding for home modifications up to \$20,000 per household (households must be income-qualified). Habitat for Humanity of Denton County is considering applying for AYB funding in the future.

The committee directed backbone support to collect data of anticipated workforce housing need in Denton County, and UWDC staff informed the group of their plan to collaborate with local universities to accomplish this task.

Shelter Planning Workgroup

Courtney Cross presented the findings and recommendations of the Shelter Planning Workgroup. The workgroup met four times between September and December to assess the current environment, survey the local sheltered and unsheltered homeless population and make recommendations for improved accessibility and quality of shelter services. A summary report was provided prior to the meeting and review in detail during the meeting.

Workgroup members and agreed upon the following recommendations for the DCHLT, and DCHLT backbone support will bring the recommendations along with city staff to Denton City Council December 18th.



1. Improving Current Environment
 - a. Lower Barriers to Shelter
 - b. Transportation – increase transportation to shelter and other services
 - c. Increase Communication/Training – to people accessing services, to people providing services, and to the community at large
2. Expand Service Level
 - a. Day shelter/increased hours during the day
 - b. Make shelter available more nights during the week

Workgroup member Tyheshia Scott (Executive Director of Giving Hope) noted that Lewisville survey participants identified transportation as a primary need in order to get to shelter in Denton.

The workgroup plans to continue to meet to further analyze findings and explore opportunities for improvement.

Shelter Planning Workgroup

UWDC backbone support convened community partners providing services to Veterans to discuss the goal to end Veteran homelessness by 2020. The group met December 10th to review community progress, discuss what an end to homelessness means and to map the current system of housing and supportive services provided to Veterans in Denton County. The group will convene again after the new year to identify and prioritize next steps and develop an implementation timeline.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Update

Mary Jones reviewed Barriers Fund activity and promoted the ‘Home for the Holidays’ campaign and the 2019 Point-In-Time Count.

Barriers Fund – Barriers Fund impact data will be regularly updated on United Way’s website: <https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/barriers-fund>.

2019 Point-In-Time Count – The Coalition is planning for the count, currently recruiting volunteers and collective incentives.

Backbone Support Update

Housing Navigator Update – UWDC hired a Housing Navigator November 8th to support the Doors for Denton County landlord outreach initiative.

UWDC backbone support submitted a Letter of Inquiry for Independent Bank’s 2019 Community Grant cycle to support the Barriers Fund.

ESG Update

Dani Shaw updated the group on a recent Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) monitoring from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). TDHCA had a few findings that will require agencies to repay funds to the agency due to client ineligibility. Dani discussed the uncertain future of



ESG, as TDHCA has not yet released any information regarding future funding applications. Challenges moving forward will be maintained collaboration between organizations applying for funding in terms of setting and tracking grant performance metrics. Potential implications include increased competition between organizations.

Gary Henderson asked the best way for the DCHLT and ESG partner agency governing boards to support the collaborative. Dani stated the need to ensure staff are properly trained throughout the grant year (considering staff turnover at ESG agencies), and an increased understanding the need for efficient habitability checks and Fair Market Rent calculations.

Cindy Harris and Tyheshia Scott commented on the potential for the Housing Navigator to free up the time of case managers to be able to more closely monitor grant requirements.

New Business

The Chair requested new business from the group. Cindy Harris provided an update on a Giving Hope client who recently completed a certificate program through NCTC as part of the Denton Housing Authority's impact grant managed by UWDC. The client is a single mother of three and will be taking her pharmacy technician licensing exam soon.

Next Steps:

Chair requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Motion: Josh Ashford
2nd: Dr. Mary Jones
Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

**Thursday, April 11, 2018 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | United Way of Denton County, Inc.
(1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205)**

Secretary

Date

