Appointees/Ex-Officios Present: Alice Mankoff, Barton Duffy, Chasz Parker, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Courtney Cross (Ex-Officio), Cynthia Harris, Dani Shaw (Ex-Officio), Gary Henderson (Ex-Officio), Jessica DeRoche, Jessica Peters (Ex-Officio) Kathy Srokosz, Monica Glenn, Sandra Robinson, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer, Thomas Muir, Valerie Foster

Appointees Absent: Chief Lee Howell, Herman Oosterwijk, Isabel Rodriguez, Mayor Chris Watts, Roy Metzler, Sherri McDade

Guests: Nick McRae, Linda Choi, John Cabrales, Chris Martin

Welcome & Consideration of February Minutes

Co-Chair, Chasz Parker, called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Chasz requested a motion to approve February meeting minutes.

Motion: Terry Widmer
2nd: Commissioner Mitchell
Motion was approved.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Jessica DeRoche provided an update on the final DCHLT Strategic Plan. She informed the group that the format of each strategic goal is such that each objective is meant to inform the next, and that the goal of strategic plan is to emphasize the policy, funding-oriented, process focus of DCHLT workgroups versus a program development or implementation focus.

Jessica noted the supplemental material at back of packet for reference throughout the discussion:

- Comprehensive Definition of Homelessness: this definition has been further consolidated to outline four clear categories, including the addition of an explanation of 'cost burdened' under CATEGORY 2: At-Risk; Coordinated Entry will initially address CATEGORY 1: Chronic/Literal Homeless
- System Performance Measures – The Texas Homeless Network has indicated these will become increasingly important to HUD; these measures will help us as a community more accurately determine gaps and the effectiveness of programs
- Housing Terms

Jessica reviewed the Housing Workgroup's Strategic Goal to Increase Access to Housing for Residents of Denton County:

- Objective 1: Identify unmet housing need
  - Jessica notated the consistent use of 'housing types' throughout strategies and metrics, and that this is one of the first times we've categorized housing types in this way to be more comprehensible to the public.
  - The intention of the metric to 'identify occupancy rates' under metrics is to go beyond census data and develop a more accurate picture of overall availability of units throughout the county. The workgroup will likely partner with local universities to achieve this.
- Objective 2: Expand housing capacity
  - The overall purpose of this objective is to determine how to increase access to what already exists and possibly even add to our current stock.
  - Additionally, the workgroup will explore tactics such as networking with landlords and the establishment of 'landlord risk mitigation funds'.
- Objective 3: Foster housing stability
  - Courtney notated the alignment of the metric to analyze household income paid towards housing with both City of Denton and City of Lewisville long term planning.
    - Aligns with the first 'Housing and Neighborhoods' goal in the Denton 2030 Plan:
      - "Develop and maintain a housing stock that meets the needs of all residents with a diverse array of choices in type, cost, and location."
    - And the #5 'Big Move' in Lewisville's 2025 Plan - Create New Neighborhood Choices.
      - "Provide expanded neighborhood choices to make Lewisville the location of choice for all ages and incomes."
      - "Concentrate future loft and mixed-use residential choices near Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) stations."
      - "Support new neighborhoods for those desiring more upscale housing by considering Castle Hills and Town of Hebron area (150+ acres) annexations."
  - Jessica noted the metric to assess case management capacity, and how this is key for funders and long term planning for capacity of local agencies to promote housing stabilization.
- Objective 4: Influence public policy
  - The DCHLT and the Housing Workgroup will advocate and support on-going housing initiatives at all levels of government.
  - Additionally, the group will explore the role/need for student housing as it relates to the future of housing ability in the county.
- Objective 5: Seek funding
  - The goal is to seek funding to support the development, implementation and maintenance of processes and tools that will increase access to housing.

Jessica reviewed the Data Workgroup's Strategic Goal of Continuous Improvement of Homelessness Data Management in Denton County:

- Objective 1: Implement a Coordinated Entry Process in Denton County
  - Goal here is to implement necessary processes while also making note of necessary 'equipment and personnel' needed to maintain and expand processes.
  - Dani and Gary notated the support needed from the DCHLT and agency boards for the successfully implementation of this process.
- Objective 2: Determine Housing Need
  - The Data Workgroup will contribute and align its work closely with the Housing Workgroup to determine gaps and make policy recommendations.
- Objective 3: Develop and Maintain a Data Dashboard
  - This tool will hold us accountable as a community to regularly review our data and the effectiveness of local programs to achieve desired goals related to the System Performance Measures, as well as other goals set by the community.
  - Additionally, this will allow for increased community awareness of the efforts being made to improve Denton County's local housing crisis response system.
- Objective 4: Seek Funding
  - The goal is to seek funding to support the continuous improvement of homelessness data management in Denton County.

Courtney reviewed the strategic goal of Backbone Support to support the mission and vision of the DCHLT, and to support the strategic goals of the workgroups. Courtney reviewed a workplan template workgroups will use to track their progress. Additionally, Backbone Support will increase community awareness and connection by organizing regular presentations throughout the community, and collaborating closely with the Denton County Homeless Coalition and other regional homelessness initiatives throughout the North Texas region.

Jessica asked for comments and feedback from appointees.

- Commissioner Mitchell stated the importance of getting in front of elected bodies because meetings are televised and communicated to a larger audience.
- Councilwoman Briggs asked about the successful implementation of HMIS at agencies throughout the county. Gary stated that governing boards can pass resolutions in support of HMIS.
- Jessica Peters stated how this strategic plan will also serve as a helpful tool for the Denton County Homeless Coalition as they set goals for the new year.

Chasz requested a motion to accept the DCHLT 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.

Motion: Valerie Foster
2nd: Alice Mankoff
Motion was approved.

Workgroup Updates

Terry Widmer provided an update on the DCHLT Housing Workgroup. The workgroup finalized their strategic goal at the February meeting. The next meeting is Monday, March 20th, and the workgroup will begin working towards its objective to expand housing capacity by networking with private landlords. Jeff Coffey is a local private property owner and has offered his insight and expertise to this process. Additionally, the workgroup will begin to formulate a workplan and assigning tasks to members.

Terry also provided and update on the Denton Supportive Housing Pilot. The Denton Community Health Clinic has had to retract their commitment to provide case management due to financial reasons. Given the DCHLT's recent vote to prioritize Veterans for Coordinated Entry, the Denton Supportive Housing Pilot Review Team agreed to also prioritize Veterans for the pilot. UWDC Veteran Community Navigators will work with their team of BSW and MSW interns to provide intensive case management for Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness who are also affected by a behavioral health disorder. The pilot implementation team is attempting to follow local CE process as closely as possible in its referral process, and has seen initial success communicating the requirement that providers direct their clients to Front Doors if they would like for them to be considered for the program. The group has also been working through crucial data-sharing requirements.

Terry notated the ways in which the pilot implementation process has highlighted the many barriers faced by clients as well as private landlords in housing people experiencing homelessness. Alice Mankoff commended Terry for her work and leadership during this process.

Stephen Coffey provided and update on the Data Workgroup. The DCHLT Data Workgroup and the DCHC Coordinated Entry Steering Committee met to collaborate on the group's strategic goal, objectives, and strategies to further the implementation of Coordinated Entry throughout Denton County. The group discussed HUD required systems performance measures and how to integrate established best practices into the workgroup's strategic planning. The group established three main objectives around implementing Coordinated Entry throughout homeless service and housing providers, continuous evaluation of System Performance measures, and determining the housing need throughout Denton County. Members discussed the importance of establishing agency roles with the implementation of Coordinated Entry, which agencies will me administering the CE process and which agencies will be getting people experiencing homelessness housed. Other conversations were facilitated regarding the importance of data for improved system performance measures and determining housing need throughout Denton County, and the necessity of a uniform process to input and share data. Strategic planning will continue in the upcoming meeting focusing on direct service providers and how to best support these agencies with the further implementation of Coordinated Entry.

Stephen mentioned the recent Data & Draughts meetings intended to assess available and needed data, and to initiate discussions around how to develop a data dashboard from multiple data sources.

Courtney provided an update on Denton Data Day which took place at the Denton Stoke Coworking Center Saturday, March 4th. Attendees assisted in data visualization and creating a mock web-interface that would assist in streamlined, real-time data entry during annual homeless censuses.

Courtney presented graph utilizing HMIS data regarding Salvation Army Denton Shelter exit destination information. According to a report run on unduplicated clients who accessed and exited the Salvation Army Denton Shelter in 2016, approximately 40% of people who stayed at the shelter exited back to a place not meant for habitation. This is one of the first times we have been able to paint a picture of the gaps in our current system using data, and this shows us the high need for permanent housing solutions for people leaving emergency shelter.

Courtney reviewed the Coordinated Entry process flow currently being developed by the workgroup. Backbone support has worked with UNT students to map current processes within agencies, and next steps are to determine how we can support agencies to adjust existing intake processes to adapt to the Denton County CE process.

Courtney provided an update of the Community Conversations Workgroup. Backbone support continues to develop materials for community conversations (conversations guides and facilitator materials, surveys and a list of groups to speak with). Next steps include setting dates and times for meetings with community groups.

Speakers Bureau

Courtney reviewed the updated Speakers Bureau slides, which included more data on Denton County's homeless population than prior versions. After discussion, the group agreed to include 2-3 case studies in order to illustrate the data points presented.

Valerie inquired as to whether or not it was possible to access data regarding homelessness and housing needs of college students. She also notated recently based closing in neighboring communities that has resulted in an influx of people seeking housing and employment in the North Texas region.

Backbone Support Update

Gary provided an update on Denton County Days at the Texas Capitol. Over 150 individuals represented Denton County across a variety of areas. UWDC led three nonprofit groups with focus areas of education and workforce development, mental health and homelessness. The homelessness team targeted TDHCA Board members to advocate for a Denton County representative to be appointed to the TDHCA board of directors. Backbone Support is working with the City of Denton's state legislative consultants to submit a name to the governor's office. The DCHLT will be consulted before any final names are submitted.

Courtney informed the group of the new 'Dallas Area Partnership to End Homelessness'. The City of Dallas is launching a 23-member appointed body to end homelessness. The inter agency coalition will promote accountability and coordination of services, and intends to seek increase funding for housing

and homelessness in Dallas County. Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins urged the faith community do more to end homelessness, and the community to get involved.

The DCHLT might consider reaching out to collaborate in terms of long-term planning for both groups/counties. Courtney will send more information when as it becomes available.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Update

Jessica Peters provided an update on Denton County Homeless Coalition. The coalition has begun its own strategic planning, and Jessica notated the role the coalition can play in education local organizations – especially churches – in local CE processes.

Jessica also mentioned she will ask coalition steering committee members to contribute case studies for DCHLT speakers bureau presentations.

New Business/Public Comments

Chasz asks for new business. Guest Barbara Ross urged attendees to contact federal elected officials to preserve federal funding for crucial housing related programming at the municipal and state levels. Appointees discussed the need to draft letters of support and send from their respective agencies to maintain HUD funding.

Chasz requested a motion to draft letters of support for the maintenance of federal funding to support local housing programs.

Motion: Stephen Coffey
2nd: Councilman Gilmore
Motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:30 a.m.

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Next Meeting:
Thursday, April 13, 2016 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | UWDC

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Secretary   Date