

## Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team

June 9, 2016

### Meeting Minutes

**Appointees Present:** Alice Mankoff, Angie Cadena, Barton Duffy, Chasz Parker, Chief Lee Howell, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Cynthia Harris, Herman Oosterwijk, Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Med. NCC, LPC, Kathy Srokosz, MS, RN, Mayor Chris Watts, Roy Metzler, Sandra Robinson, Sherri McDade, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer, Thomas Muir, Valerie Foster

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

**Guests Present:** Kim Yarbrough, Tyanna Parks, Kayla Kendall, Teddy Yan

**Appointees Absent:** Stephen Coffey

Mayor Chris Watts calls meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

#### **Welcome & Introduce New Appointees**

Mayor Chris Watts provided the welcome and introduced three new DCHLT appointees:

- Chief Lee Howell, Police Chief for City of Denton – representing UWDC Board
- Herman Oosterwijk – representing HSNT Board
- Jessica DeRoche, Med. NCC, LPC – representing Higher Education (NCTC)

#### **Nominating Committee Report**

Councilman TJ Gilmore gave a brief overview of the Nominating Committee meeting and presented the recommended 2016-2017 slate of officers. To offer stability, the committee extended their original scope to include a Past Chair. The following slate was presented:

- Chair: Mayor Chris Watts
- Co-Chair: Chasz Parker
- Secretary: Angie Cadena
- Past Chair: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Councilman Gilmore stated that all candidates were contacted prior to the meeting and confirmed their willingness to serve.

Mayor Watts requested a motion to accept the recommended slate.

Motion: Terry Widmer

2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindy Harris

Motion Approved

Councilman Gilmore recommended the following change regarding DCHLT appointees to the Bylaws and Charter on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

- Section 6.1 – Addition of 1-2 seats for Workforce/Business Development
- Section 6.1 – Increase number of total members to 15-23

Mayor Watts requested a motion to accept the recommended changes.

Motion: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

2<sup>nd</sup>: Councilwoman Keely Briggs

Motion Approved

Councilman Gilmore recommended the following change regarding the Secretary's signatory role to the Bylaws and Charter on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

- Section 6.6 – Addition of 'including the authority to be the representative signatory role on all board approved documents'

Mayor Watts requested a motion to accept the recommended changes.

Motion: Councilwoman Keely Briggs

2<sup>nd</sup>: Alice Mankoff

Motion Approved

### **Mission & Vision Committee Report**

Councilman TJ Gilmore presented the recommended Vision and Mission Statements. The following Vision Statement was presented to the group:

- Vision Statement:
  - i. Every person in Denton County has a place to call homes that is safe, affordable, accessible and supported by community resources.
- Mission Statement:
  - i. The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team fosters an effective and coordinated system of homelessness prevention and intervention, resulting in homelessness that is rare, brief and non-recurring through:
    1. Data-driven, fiscally responsible recommendations
    2. Innovative solutions around affordable housing, access to health care, adequate incomes and coordinated services
    3. Mobilizing, advocating and empowering public-private county-wide collaboration

#### 4. Community awareness and connections

The group discussed the intention of the Vision Statement as an ideal future state, and acknowledged that it would serve as a broader, less-specific goal statement. Councilman Gilmore pointed out that the Mission Statement is more granular, and would ideally serve to encompass the more detailed goals of the DCHLT.

Mayor Watts requested a motion to accept the Vision Statement.

Motion: Councilwoman Keely Briggs

2nd: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Motion Approved

Herman Oosterwijk suggested the language around healthcare be broken down to include physical and mental health care. The group discussed the addition of the term 'evidence-based' along with data-driven. Chasz Parker suggested the use of the term 'behavioral health care' to broader encompass mental health and associated needs such as substance. The group agreed this would be the best term to use. Roy Metzler requested listing 'community awareness' first to emphasize the need to raise awareness of homeless and housing needs locally.

Mayor Watts questioned the use of the word 'fosters' versus another term. Dani Shaw stated the discussion of the Mission and Vision Committee regarding this term, and the decision to use it based on the role of the DCHLT to support service agencies versus performing any direct service. After discussion, the group agreed to keep the 'fosters' in the statement.

The group discussed the use of the phrase 'rare, brief and non-recurring' versus a bolder term such as 'eradicate', as a realistic, achievable and impactful approach.

Mayor Watts requested a motion to accept the following Mission Statement:

- The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team fosters an effective and coordinated system of homelessness prevention and intervention, resulting in homelessness that is rare, brief and nonrecurring through:
  - Community awareness and connection
  - Data-driven, evidenced-based, fiscally responsible recommendations
  - Innovative solutions around affordable housing, access to primary and behavioral health care services, adequate incomes and coordinated services
  - Mobilizing, advocating and empowering public-private community-wide collaboration

Motion: Terry Widmer

2nd: Cynthia Harris

Motion Approved

#### **Backbone Support Update**

Gary Henderson informed the DCHLT of UWDC's hiring of a new Director of Health and Mental Health. Alex Reed will start June 20<sup>th</sup>, and will serve as backbone support to the DCBHLT. He also informed the group of the shift in backbone support leadership of the Housing Workgroup to the DHLT, but that the workgroup will report to both leadership teams moving forward.

Courtney informed the group of the addition of the DCHLT to the UWDC website, where they can access previous agenda, minutes, etc.

### **Housing First Presentation**

Chasz Parker presented on Housing First, and gave a comprehensive explanation of modern homelessness. Chasz has over thirty years working with homeless populations throughout the United States. He presented the difference between individual and structural explanations of homelessness, and the genesis of homeless policy stemming from the Reagan Administration in the 1980s.

Homelessness is caused by a lack of affordable housing, and a growing need for supporting behavioral and mental health services. Chasz outlined the evolution of policy approaches to homeless funding including homeless shelter, transitional housing programs and eventually Continuums of Care (CoCs). He discussed the various federal plans to end homelessness over the past thirty years: shelters, homeless prevention, permanent housing, rapid re-housing and eventually Housing First (HF).

Shifting away from the traditional model of requiring an individual access services and achieve sobriety prior to entering a housing program, HF seeks to 'wrap supportive services' around chronically homeless individuals while simultaneously placing them in housing (i.e., permanent supportive housing). Various localized examples of this have proven successful in communities throughout the United States, proving to have reduce costs and homeless recidivism associated with these individuals.

Chasz expressed some concern regarding the true cost-savings of HF models, and the danger in applying an approach that has proven successful with a few sub-populations in a small number of communities to nationwide homeless populations and programs. He highlighted the federal government's tendency to adopt a policy 'du jour' and assume one size fits all.

Chasz ended his presentation by highlighting six 'C's' of homelessness necessary to consider when seeking community-wide solutions:

- Complexity of homelessness
- Community uniqueness
- Capability of service providers
- Capacity of government entities
- Capital availability and access

### **Work Group Updates**

Terry Widmer reviewed the work of the Housing Workgroup thus far. Terry mentioned the workgroup's relationship with the Denton County Homeless Coalition, and the Landlord Forum that was recently held

to bolster communication between local landlords and service providers seeking housing for their clients. She gave an overview of the current low-barrier, transitional pilot project. A grantor has provided funds to cover the rental costs of up to ten apartment units, and has commissioned the workgroup to create a collaborative, intensive, twelve-month case management program model. The workgroup will have a workday to hammer out pilot details June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Courtney informed the group of the appointment of Stephen Coffey as Chair of the Data Workgroup. Members are currently being recruited, and the first meeting will be scheduled and take place before the July DCHLT meeting.

The consumer workgroup has not yet launched, and workgroup chair recommendations are currently being accepted.

### Goals/Metrics

Mayor Watts prompted DCHLT members to propose goals and metrics for the team moving forward. After discussion, the following goals were established for the Data Workgroup:

- 6-90 Days:
  - Define the meaning of 'homelessness' for Denton County (combining varying federal definitions)
  - Establish baseline measurements for Denton County (current number of homeless and current availability of housing/resources)
- 6-12 months
  - Identify and map current gaps in Denton County

### Administrative Updates

Courtney informed the team of the updated roster and structure to reflect new appointees.

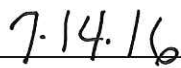
**New Business:** No new business was recorded.

**Public Comments:** No public comments were received.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:36 a.m.

**Next Meeting: August 11, 2016 @ 8:00 a.m.  
United Way of Denton County Office**

  
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Secretary

  
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Date