



**Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team  
Meeting Minutes | Thursday, August 10, 2017**

**Appointees/Ex-Officios Present:** Alice Mankoff, Chief Lee Howell, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Courtney Cross (Ex-Officio), Cynthia Harris, Dani Shaw (Ex-Officio), Gary Henderson (Ex-Officio), Mayor Chris Watts, Roy Metzler, Sandra Robinson, Terry Widmer, Valerie Foster

**Appointees Absent:** Barton Duffy, Chasz Parker, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Herman Oosterwijk, Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Jessica Pool (Ex-Officio), Kathy Srokosz, Monica Glenn, Sherri McDade, Stephen Coffey, Thomas Muir

**Guests:** Eileen Hall (on behalf of Cindy Harris, Giving Hope), Brenda Jackson, Sarah Kuechler, Chris Martin, Sonia Redwine, Katherine Gonzales

**Welcome & Consideration of June Minutes**

Chair Mayor Watts called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He requested a motion to approve June meeting minutes.

Motion: Councilman TJ Gilmore

2<sup>nd</sup>: Chief Lee Howell

Motion was approved.

**2017-2018 DCHLT Officers**

Mayor Watts presented the 2017-2018 slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee:

Chair – Mayor Chris Watts

Co-Chair – Chasz Parker

Secretary – Councilman TJ Gilmore

He requested a motion to accept the recommended 2017-2018 slate of officers.

Motion: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

2<sup>nd</sup>: Valerie Foster

Motion was approved.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Update**

Dani Shaw provided an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) update. She reviewed final score submission information, the ESG application and award approval timeline, and implications for Denton County's Housing Crisis Response System.

Last year's ESG Collaborative application ranked 8 of 16, and this year ranks 3 of 19. There are places within the application the collaborative may lose points (the Texas Department of Housing and





Community Affairs utilizes a self-score application process), but at this point in time the collaborative remains cautiously hopeful about its placement. The collaborative consciously lowered the number of people it committed to serving in light of current capacity, realizing that the need will remain greater, but increased accurate data on households served will allow for concrete applications for increased funding regarding ESG and other grant funding.

The current ESG application is for 2 years of funding (2017-2019).

## **Workgroup Updates**

### *Data Workgroup*

Courtney Cross provided an update on the Data Workgroup. The workgroup is finalizing the Denton County Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures for final approval by the Texas Homeless Network. Backbone support developed an 'Eligibility Matrix' with feedback from the workgroup. This is a tool for Front Door assessing providers to be able to determine best referral options and availability of resources. This will be available on UWDC website with hyperlinks to various housing interventions. Additionally, the workgroup has finalized its prioritization standards, and backbone support is currently assisting agencies in incorporating these standards into their daily operations.

Use of the common assessment tool known as the VI-SPDAT has increased by over 1000% in 2017. These are usually done once for most people who present at an agency, and are updated periodically if enough time has passed, or if an individual or family's circumstances have changed significantly since their last assessment. As of Q2 2017, we have been able to identify the majority areas of need, which will inform the DCHLT Housing Workgroup as they make policy and funding recommendations.

The workgroup continues its education efforts to promote CE among housing agencies, additional service providers, and the faith and business communities. The next phase of CE implementation includes bringing the Sanger Crisis Center on to HMIS. Additionally, the group continues to develop its data dashboard, working with the Texas Homeless Network and local volunteers to accurately export and analyze our homelessness data.

### *Housing Workgroup*

Terry Widmer provided an update on the Housing Workgroup. The second Denton Supportive Housing Pilot has been housed. We are working with the Salvation Army Shelter to negotiate an extended stay option for pilot participants as they wait for units to become available with Denton Affordable Housing Corporation. We have been able to partner well with Youth & Family Counseling to provide more intensive therapy to participants suffering from substance use disorder.

The workgroup has been able to utilize preliminary data coming from Data Workgroup and CE implementation to determine performance goals as a county, and how we will reach them. The workgroup is planning a Landlord Forum for Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The is to share resources between nonprofit and landlord/property manager communities. The workgroup is also planning a soft-



launch of the landlord outreach efforts they've been developing, closely modeling Austin's homeless coalition's successful implementation of a similar model. A survey will be administered to landlords and property managers attending the forum to gather helpful information to begin building a landlord database and identify those landlords that would be willing to participate in pilot landlord outreach efforts.

Mayor Watts inquired as to the geographic target of the forum, and Courtney informed him that backbone support is seeking a Corinth location for the forum

Moving forward, the workgroup plans to increase discussion of housing policy and ways in which data from CE implementation and landlord outreach, along with additional research, to develop policy and funding recommendations to the DCHLT.

*Workforce Development Workgroup*

Courtney Cross informed the group that stakeholders were being contacted, and that the Workforce Development workgroup will meet the last week of September 2017.

*Community Conversations Workgroup*

Courtney informed the group that backbone support continues to meet with interns and volunteers to develop information and conduct feedback sessions throughout the community.

**Denton County Homeless Coalition Update**

Courtney Cross provided the Denton County Homeless Coalition update. Councilmen TJ Gilmore and Neil Ferguson attended the August General meeting in Lewisville. A subcommittee is developing the framework for the approved 'Barriers Fund', as well as direct donation options. Planning for the 2018 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count will begin August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Backbone Support Update**

Courtney provided an update of her presentation to Denton City Council, requesting sustained support of the DCHLT backbone support position, as well as CE and landlord outreach initiatives. Council will provide final approval in September.

Courtney and Dani will present to the Denton Main Street Association in August to provide information and solicit support for homelessness initiatives through the homeless coalition's Barriers Fund. Councilman Gilmore will connect Courtney with the Main and Mill Historic District Association in Lewisville.

**New Business/Public Comments**

The Chair made a request for any new business.





Roy Metzler informed the group that the Monsignor King Outreach Center passed inspection, and will host a grand opening with tours August 28<sup>th</sup>. Capacity will increase from 40 to 95 beds (with the plan to initially expand to 60), and the shelter will go from one working shower to twelve.

Brenda Jackson informed the group that Our Daily Bread is celebrating 17 years and 800,000 meals served.

Chris Martin notified attendees of the Denton County Homeless Veteran Stand Down October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell mentioned her discussions with the Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA), and says they are willing to negotiate a stop with the Monsignor King Outreach Center.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:00 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | UWDC**

  
Secretary

10/12/17  
Date

