Council to End Homelessness in Durham  
Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2011  
Genesis Home

**Attendance:** Patrice Nelson (UMD), Stephanie Williams (TDC), Lloyd Schmeidler (DAHC/TYP), Terry Allebaugh (HNH), Brenda Tillman (DHA), Jackie Love (DPS), Tracey Dryden (TROSA), Joyce Stancil Williams (CASA), Shawn M. Ross (Indigo Consortium=IC), Kenneth Hargrove (ESC), Tasha Melvin (GH), Joi Stepney (HNH), Jack Preiss (DAHC), Ryan Fehrman (GH), Sonia Ensenat (CHIN), Lorisa Seibel (DAHC), Bob Williamson (DVAMC), Peter Donlon (UMD), Sharon Elliott Bynum (CAARE), Joy Hager (VOA), Maria Davis Dorsey (DDI), and Lanea Foster (DAHC/TYP). Organizational affiliations in parentheses.

**Welcome & Call to Order:** Patrice called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM and welcomed everyone.

**Introductions:** All present introduced themselves.

**Minutes** of the February 17, 2011 meeting: Terry moved approval, and Ryan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without amendment.

**Family Homelessness:** Catherine shared information about “ways to improve our combined service to homeless families in Durham” Families are on a waiting list at UMD. Family size is up substantially at IHN.

   The gaps in coverage include: a lack of adequate space, the ability to shelter large families, emergency shelter for families with mental health issues, transitional housing, space for couples without children, pregnant women, gay couples, teenage parents, permanent supportive housing for people without disabling conditions, and shelter for transgender persons.

   Ideas for best practices: **formalized budgeting/finance programs, e.g. Ready to Rent, Benefits Bank, prioritize homeless families for Section 8 housing**, Circles of Support or other family mentoring/support programs, an Aftercare program providing case management after leaving shelter, utilization of Duke’s Center for Child & Family Health for parenting skills, a “Wheels to Work” program, trauma informed service, providing a mental health assessment at arrival, the use of assessments in general, and use of Housing First model. (Bold items were chosen as those the work group wanted to focus on.)

   UMD is using a senior class from the NCCU MA social work program to help develop a Ready to Rent and After Care program over a couple of years. There is probably enough expertise within Durham to develop a Durham-based “Ready to Rent” program for the entire community.

   Housing for New Hope’s HPRP program has housed 47 families in the last year. We are on track to use all of the money by the end of the 2011 calendar year. How are we going to sustain these efforts? Can we have further conversation with DSS about efforts to help homeless families?
Housing First/Housing Plus: what about families with no income? How does that work? Without income, Housing First/Housing Plus requires a long term subsidy from somewhere. HF/HP started with chronically homeless individuals. HF/HP = rapid rehousing.

Prioritizing homeless families for Section 8 housing: Is in process.

Benefits Bank: Connect Inc. is no longer coordinating the NC Benefits Bank. Does not directly impact operations of programs offering Benefits Bank.

Circles of Support update: Tasha provided an update. Since August, four Circles of Support have formed. Three information sessions have been held. A training has been held, most attendees were participants of active Circles. Thirteen housing referrals have been received. Funding: two funding sources have been identified. Genesis Home is starting a new donor-advised fund at Triangle Community Foundation to provide for client needs.

RBA Housing Measures: Lorisa distributed a handout offering possible measures to continue to track the community’s progress on housing issues. How can we measure our progress on reducing and ending homelessness? Three proposed measures on homelessness are the Point in Time Count number, the number of permanent supportive housing units, and the percentage of homeless people who move from a shelter into housing within 30 or 60 days. Discussion focused on how to move people through the homeless service system more quickly and the difficulties associated with accomplishing goals for rapid rehousing.

City of Durham Housing & Public Services Budget: Lorisa reported on the City staff’s proposed housing strategy that was presented to the City Council on March 10. City Council likely will make decisions about funding for housing and services for homeless people at their May 2, 2011 meeting. The staff recommendation includes using $1.75 million over four years from the general fund to complete work in Southwest Central Durham and Northeast Central Durham. Staff acknowledges that the City does not yet have clear housing goals. The funding strategy includes a proposal to designate $250,000 from the “penny for housing” for affordable housing development and allowing these funds to carry over from year to year until enough money for a project is accumulated. Ryan invited everyone to a meeting on Saturday, March 19 at Williams Square for a further discussion of these issues and the impact of the City’s proposed use of CDBG & HOME funds. Critical decisions will be made at different levels of government this year that will have long term impacts.

HEARTH Implementation Clinic: Lloyd distributed information about the May 11-12 HEARTH Implementation Clinic and thanked those who have provided information and encouraged everyone to complete an online survey about Durham’s service system.

Point In Time Count: A Press Conference is scheduled for March 28, 2 PM at City Hall. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Announcements:
• TYP is moving from DAHC after April 1. Dept. of Community Development is planning to take over the leadership of the TYP. The Durham Center will continue to provide services.
• There will be a free Health Fair: March 19, 9:30 to 12:30 PM at First Baptist Church.
• All are invited to participate in an Advocacy Meeting with an aide to Senator Hagan in her Raleigh office on March 22, 10 AM. The goal is to encourage Senator Hagan to support full funding of the McKinney-Vento Act.
• UMD’s www.playspent.org continues to be available online and is being well received literally around the world.
• Discussions about developing a day services center at UMD continue. Thanks to those who did write a letter of support.
• There will be a Homeless Veterans Stand Down in Raleigh at the South Wilmington St. Shelter, March 24, 7:30 AM to 3 PM.

Adjournment: Patrice adjourned the meeting at 11:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lloyd Schmeidler