



HOMELESS SERVICES NETWORK MINUTES

February 25, 2016 / 8:30am – 10:00am

Hope Haven Conference Center

ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

1) Ron Clark	Cardinal Innovations
2) Antoine Mitchell	Carolinas Care Partnership
3) Wes Boone	Charlotte Rescue Mission
4) Rebecca Pfeiffer	City of Charlotte
5) Branden Lewis	Community Link
6) Tameka Gunn	Community Link
7) Dr. Pat Krikorian	Florence Crittenton Services
8) Natalia Botella	Legal Services of Southern Piedmont
9) Tameka Bellfield	Lutheran Services of the Carolinas
10) Courtney Morton	Mecklenburg County Community Support Services
11) Erin Schroeder	Mecklenburg County Community Support Services: Shelter + Care
12) Carmen Goodman	Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services
13) Stephanie Shatto	Men's Shelter of Charlotte
14) Harry Mack	Salvation Army
15) Shaketa Wright	Salvation Army
16) Amber Snyder	Salvation Army
17) Pamela Jefsen	Supportive Housing Communities
18) Chris Prysock	The Relatives
19) Ashley Clark	UNCC Urban Institute
20) Mike O'Sullivan	Unitarian Church Universalist Church Advocacy Group
21) Liz Clasen-Kelly	Urban Ministry Center
22) Kirsten Sikkelee	YWCA Central Carolinas

GUESTS PRESENT:

23) Janice Blakeney	Public Library
24) Phyllis E. Finch	Victory Christian Center
25) Julia Hansen	Public Library
26) Kristen Belton	Social Work Intern at Salvation Army
27) Shakira Clarke	Time Out Youth

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & JANUARY MINUTES

- Meeting called to order by Chair, Liz Clasen-Kelly at 8:30am
- January meeting minutes were approved by vote with following clarifications:
 - Homelessness does not need to be verified to in order to get exemption for Food Stamps. For substance use, the condition can be untreated to receive exemption. DSS



will still ask the customer for verification for the condition and if the customer cannot produce one, DSS will and accept the client's statement.

- 2016 HSN Calendar was approved by vote (included on agenda).

VICTORIES

- Supportive Housing Communities had a successful fundraising luncheon this week (Pam Jefsen).
- \$440,000 received in State Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) will be used for emergency shelter, street outreach and rapid re-housing projects in the community. (Rebecca Pfeiffer).
- Peer Support Curriculum from Cardinal Innovations was approved (Ron Clark).
- Graduates from the YWCA's Getting Ahead program were invited to a listening session with members from the Opportunity Task Force and were able to share their own struggles related to economic mobility. Kirsten reflected that this kind of experience also serves as a reminder to us that we need to ask the people we are serving for their feedback and experiences. (Kirsten Sikkelee).
- Point-in-time Count was completed in January, mobilizing 153 volunteers to pull off the unsheltered count; all PIT data will be entered into and pulled out of HMIS for the first time. (Liz Clasen-Kelly).
- Work on the Housing and Homeless Data Dashboard will begin soon with goal for public release later in 2016. (Courtney Morton).

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Food Stamps Exemption Work**
 - Liz shared that HSN will follow up on this next month and will receive feedback from Stephanie Shatto, Pam Jefsen, and Alice Harrison.
- **Primary Election Season**
 - Liz passed out a document and reviewed the changes to our state Voter ID law which can impact persons we serve. Liz called attention to Option 3—use a provisional ballot if you do not have a voter ID and can explain why. Several reasons apply. Inform clients that even if they do not have a voter ID they can still vote with a provisional ballot. Early voting begins March 3rd and Election Day is March 15th. There is no same-day registration.
 - Rebecca Pfeiffer shared that Asheville has experienced difficulty obtaining state IDs for their clients and recommended that staff might need to advocate with state-level staff to explain voter registration rights.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS: WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW AND ON THE HORIZON?

- **PART 1: CONTEXT**
 - Courtney Morton presented information about unaccompanied youth homelessness: including its definition, what it looks like in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, efforts underway to address it, and a new research effort to capture it called Voice of Youth Count. (Document that was distributed is attached.)



- **PART 2: YOUTH-SERVING PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE: CHRIS PRYSOCK, THE RELATIVES**
 - Youth often sleep outside the shelter’s door rather than go to an adult shelter.
 - Interventions for adults and youth are different.
 - Youth have barriers to accessing services because they have not been homeless “long enough”.
 - Youth shared with Chris that they need more education on services available to them in the community and do not feel safe in adult shelters.

- **PART 3: LGBTQ YOUTH-SERVING PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE: SHAKIRA CLARK, TIME OUT YOUTH**
 - LGBTQ youth want safe shelter stays. They are often at risk of sexual or physical assault and want to be in a space that feels more inclusive.
 - There is a need for more options for transindividuals. One change agencies can make is with their intake forms to be language-inclusive. Agencies can also display Safe zone stickers.
 - Time Out Youth conducted a Needs assessment in 2015 that included 51 surveys from survey providers and young people. They are currently in the writing process and plan to be done in March 2016. Their goal is to open an LGBTQ shelter.

- **PART 4: HSN MEMBER BREAKOUT DISCUSSION TO ENGAGE CONTENT AND MOVE TO ACTION**
 - HSN Members divided up into 4 breakout groups to discuss three questions:
 - What is one thing you learned from the presentations?
 - Based on what you heard today, is there action you would like to see your agency or our community take?
 - Any next steps needed?
 - The members present agreed to continue this conversation; Liz shared that the HSN Executive Committee would look at this when it meets the following week.

SUMMARY OF GROUP DISCUSSION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION STEPS
Need to look at funding cycles with Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) dollars with this population in mind.
Need for our community to support sheltering our youth in better, safer ways. We can look to other communities; there are solutions out there.
Need for more education and better communication around youth experiencing homelessness and specifically, LGBTQ youth.
Need to look at healthcare barriers.
Need to look at how we describe and talk about youth experiencing homelessness.
Need to look at previous and new potential partnerships such as ones that existed between DSS and agencies to help youth aging out of foster care transition to housing.
Need to better equip library staff with resources for intervention.
Need to improve partnerships/relationships with school system.



UPDATES FROM HSN AND NON-HSN COMMITTEES

HSN Advocacy Committee: Mike O'Sullivan shared progress on some of the committee initiatives:

- The meeting with Ann Clark, CMS superintendent, was postponed and will occur on Friday, February 26th. The goal is to discuss affordable housing for teachers and others working in the school system as well as on issues facing children experiencing homelessness.
- Continued discussion happening for an alternative site for the HRC when it closes at the end of March 2016. Peter Safir is working on the transition plan.
- Committee is exploring a new issue around changes in trash collection proposed by City Council, which may have a significant impact on households in apartments, and especially low-income households who may not be able to afford the increased fees for getting rid of their trash.

HSN Coordination of Services in Housing (COSH): No update.

Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg: Continuum of Care (CoC) Committee: Rebecca shared updates around Continuum of Care work:

- Demonstration project for rapid re-housing prioritization with families is targeted for March.
- CoC is awaiting notification of CoC dollar amounts awarded to our community; Charlotte-Mecklenburg submitted a request for over \$4 million dollars including permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing and transitional housing projects. Two bonus dollar projects were submitted that included a joint project between the Urban Ministry Center, Community Link and Supportive Housing Communities, and a project focusing on youth utilizing rapid re-housing.
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC) process is underway; goal is for our community to understand how many beds are available for shelter and housing; process will include checking with agencies to confirm that programs and project definitions match up with bed counts given.

CHALLENGES

- o None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- o None.

ADJOURN

- o Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.
- o Minutes submitted by HSN Secretary, Courtney Morton.

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 24, 2016