



Thursday, April 14th, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Physical – United Way of Denton County, 1314 Teasley Lane Denton TX 76205

Virtual – Zoom Video Conference Link Attached in Email

Agenda:

I.	Welcome	Chair	3 min.
II.	December Meeting Minutes	Chair	5 min.
	• VOTE – Approval of meeting minutes		
III.	Appointee 2022 - 2024	Chair	20 min.
	• Nominating Committee Selection		
	• Review Current Gaps for Suggestions		
IV.	Workgroup Updates		35 min.
	• Housing - Denton County Initiatives Recap Workshops	E. Lusk / T. Widmer	
	• Data	E. Lusk	
	• Denton County Homeless Coalition Update	D. Adams	
V.	Backbone Support Update	UWDC	15 min.
	• UWDC Homelessness Initiatives / Covid Response Update		
	• Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update		
	• Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update		
VI.	Public Comment	Chair	5 min.
VII.	New Business	Chair	5 min.
VIII.	Adjourn	Chair	2 min.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, June 9th, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Hybrid Meeting

Physical – United Way of Denton County, 1314 Teasley Lane Denton TX 76205

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Date: December 9th - 8 to 9:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting

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Agenda

Welcome

Mayor Gilmore welcomed the group at 8:03 AM.

October Meeting Minutes

Mayor Gilmore entertained a motion to approve minutes or make any modifications necessary. Dale Tampke moved to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell seconded approval. Unanimous vote, meeting minutes were approved.

New Appointee for the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team

Mayor Gilmore entertained a motion to replace his position on the DCHLT with a new appointee, City of Lewisville Councilmember Ronni Cade. Terry Widmer motioned for approval, Dale Tampke seconded. No comments were provided. Unanimous vote of approval.

New Co-chair representative Nominations

Mayor Gilmore entertained a motion to nominate a new co-chair representative. UWDC has no recommendations, at this time. UWDC will follow up with the current Treasurer, Valeria Foster and any other appointees interested. After discussion, Mayor Gilmore introduced a motion to discuss this topic at the next meeting of the leadership team. Dale Tampke motioned, Valerie Foster seconded. The motion was sustained, and the matter was tabled after a vote.

Current Appointee List for Updates

Elena Lusk reviewed one-pager that listed current appointees and vacancies. No comments were provided to dispute information currently available. Elena requested suggestions for personal connections that could become appointees to fill current gaps on the Leadership Team. Jeriahme Miller, Mayor Gilmore, and Dale Tampke stated they would discuss further with Elena regarding the municipal government openings, workforce/development, and healthcare openings.

COVID-19 Funding Response Update

Elena Lusk walked through current data for Covid related Homelessness Prevention programs. Items discussed; current timeline for responses to intervention requests being about 8 weeks from initial outreach to follow up, implementing a new application processing system for 2022 funding for ERA1/2

Workgroup Updates:

Housing

Terry Widmer discussed the housing workgroup updates. Terry brought up concerns regarding the housing workgroup; agency capacity and critical documents/ID collection. The strategic plan is being updated and the treatment team process for veterans has been reinstated. There is concern about clients who are on caseload but not actively seeking housing or resolutions as being factors in the limited capacity issues faced currently. No comments were provided.

Data

Madeline Fink discussed the dashboard for Oct. 2021. Discussion was had on overall rise in homelessness. The data workgroup has also been working on strategic planning.

Denton County Homeless Coalition

Daphne Adams discussed that the DCHC had been focusing on PIT count planning, Hunger & Homelessness Awareness week project, and Annual Service Provider awards. A Continuum of Care meeting was held the day before, and the utilization of ARP funds was the focus. The COC grant applicants were scored and sent to HUD for review for the yearly competition.

Ad Hoc COC Committee

Daphne Adams reported that the committee met twice. Once to discuss plans for how to determine which option would be best, and one more to discuss findings from research after the first meeting. The decision was made to stay in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care due largely to funding availability.

Backbone Support Updates:

UWDC Homelessness Initiatives

Elena Lusk stated that funding was extended for the ESG CV2 RRH grant to July 2022. Hope Rodgers and Megan Ball discussed that this is both of their last meeting with the team as they move on from UWDC to work for Texas Homeless Network and City of Denton.

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update

Dr. Lisa Elliot will be the new chair of the BHLT as reported by Terry Widmer. The work groups have also been restructured. Jail diversion work group has been hibernated. Veteran workgroup may be hibernated as well based on strategic goals being met. There is consideration of a Substance Abuse workgroup alongside Suicide Prevention workgroup in the future.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update

Olivia Mata-Williams reported that a new grant had just been written and submitted regarding workforce and housing insecurity. The target population is the eviction prevention recipients. The goal is to help this population mitigate barriers alongside going back to work.

Public Comment

Dani Shaw stated that City of Denton staff will be presenting on their Affordable Housing Strategic Toolkit City Council soon. City of Denton staff will connect with City of Lewisville for their study.

New Business - No new business was introduced.

Meeting Adjourned – Bobbie Mitchell motioned, and Dale Tampke seconded.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

December 2021 – March 2022

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 8 times between December 2022 to March 2022 for Case Conferencing. During each case conferencing meeting, members discussed clients that each agency is actively working with, including client strengths, barriers and housing-focused next steps, as well as received updates on available homelessness prevention funding and programming in Denton County. Workgroup members are provided an opportunity to report clients who have gained housing during each meeting to maintain quality communitywide data, as well as receive training and guidance on how to document a client's "housed" status in HMIS.

In the month of February UWDC staff approached the topic of impact of weekly Case Conferencing. The goal was to determine if agencies were finding it beneficial and to determine if there were any changes needed. This was driven by the attendance and participation rate continuing to decline in 2021. After discussions with municipality staff, chairs of workgroups, and agency staff, Case Conferencing in March 2022 would be canceled and replaced with workshops to rebuild and refresh processes.

The workshops created were designed to review how the housing crisis response system was built and where we it is currently. UWDC hosted 2 workshops for staff directly working with clients in Denton County. The 1st was to review and explain what is the DCHLT, workgroups, CE, HMIS, etc. and where were these built out of. Also to have an open dialogue from agencies on what was not working for them in regard to housing or community collaboration. The 2nd workshop was designed to take the info provided on what was not working and questions provided by local agency staff and rebuild how we want the Workgroup to function in 2022 and on. Items discussed were anywhere between when and where should we meet up to how should we be able to show progress in housing through the meetings.

Pairing with both workshops provided to agency staff, UWDC hosted one workshop for Program Managers or Directors at the agencies. The purpose was to walk through the history similarly to the first workshop but also to communicate what their staff heard and said so that all parties have the same information as we rebuild and refresh the Housing Workgroup.

Housing Workgroup will meet Monday's from 3-4 PM with a hybrid option either in person at United Way of Denton County or virtually via Zoom for 90 days. Group will revisit in June whether or not hybrid will continue to be an option. Each meeting will provide time to do a quick training, talk about clients with the longest length of homelessness, talk about clients with the shortest length of homelessness, clients agencies want to speak about specifically, and time to follow up from the previous meeting.

- 1st Monday – General CC
- 2nd Monday – Veteran CC
- 3rd Monday – General CC
- 4th Monday – Veteran CC

Short-term action items

- Seek feedback from workgroup members to update Workgroup Strategic Plan

Accomplishments

- Refresh and rebuild the workgroup to work best for all moving forward in April 2022 and on.

Concerns

- Service provider capacity to conduct follow up on action items identified in Case Conferencing
- Barriers to obtaining critical documents for clients due to continued COVID closures and restrictions (i.e. DPS and SSA offices)

Next Meeting Dates

April 18th, April 25th, May 2nd, May 9th, May 16th, and May 23rd.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

December 2021 – March 2022

The data dashboard has been updated with data from December 2021, January 2022, and February 2022. As of February 2022, there are currently 640 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. There has been a steady rise in households since June 2021. The 640 total number for December breaks down into:

- 73 families
- 567 individuals
- 33 fleeing domestic violence
- 41 Veteran households
- 209 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

The number of new assessments recorded in February 2022 was 69. Overall, the number of new assessments per month had been trending upward since June 2021, but December was an exception.

Denton County school districts' data has also been updated for February 2022. The two largest school districts reported the following numbers:

- Denton ISD: 712 in February 2022
- Lewisville ISD: 789 in February 2022

Rapid Re-Housing continues to be the highest need regarding housing program types for our community currently with 50.5% of households on the Housing Priority List as of February 2022 scoring in that housing intervention range. Permanent Supportive Housing need is still following closely behind with 44.2% scoring in the PSH housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown:

- Diversion Services – 34 households (5.3%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 323 households (50.3%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 283 households (44.2%)

The data workgroup met in December to review the year 2021 and make plans for 2022. Most of the December meeting was spent on Strategic Planning, beginning with a review of strategic goals and metrics established in 2018. The workgroup determined that many of the past data-related strategic planning metrics, such as metrics related to Case Conferencing, HMIS, and HPL maintenance, had been met or were in progress. Other metrics, such as the goal to develop an average individual cost of chronic homelessness in Denton County, are set to be researched and examined in 2022.

The data workgroup agreed to meet virtually every other month in 2022 (as opposed to every month in 2021). The group established 3 items to focus on in 2022 meetings:

- Continuous improvement of the Data Dashboard, with more research and better sources for comparative community data
- A review and brief analysis of the current dashboard data at each meeting
- Ongoing communication with Texas Homeless Network on data best practices and changes related to Coordinated Entry and the VI-SPDAT assessment

The annual Point in Time (PIT) Count was held on January 27, 2022. Though there were many challenges due to staffing shortages and COVID-19 concerns, the count was carried out successfully. Results of the PIT Count are expected from THN around May of 2022. When the results are posted, UWDC will focus on checking the data for accuracy and building a comprehensive report to present to the community.

Previous Homelessness Data Management Specialist at UWDC left UWDC for new position at partner agency. UWDC is currently training the new staff person in this position.

Short-term action items

- Train new staff person in Homelessness Data Management Specialist.
- Update Data Dashboard for March 2022.
- Plan and hold next workgroup meeting on May 2022.
- UWDC Homelessness Initiatives staff will research community data sources for the dashboard.

Accomplishments

- Goals and items of focus have been set for the workgroup in 2022.
- Monthly HMIS trainings have been held in December 2021, January 2022, and February 2022.
- PIT Count was completed successfully on January 27, 2022.

Concerns

- Overall homelessness numbers are high, with 640 households on the HPL compared to 261 in the same month in 2021, and 378 in 2020. More research is needed to determine the causes of this increase. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely a contributing factor, and we are still learning the full extent of its impact.
- Data accuracy from agencies utilizing HMIS continues to be a concern UWDC staff supports in resolving.

Next Meeting Dates

May 2022

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

December 2021 – March 2022

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met 4 times from December 2021 to March 2022.

The group discussed:

- The Coalition was updated on current funding for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in Denton County; including funding for ESG CV1, ESG CV2, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and THN's Barriers Fund.
- The Barriers Fund has assisted 397 households since its inception. Average cost per request as of March 2022 is \$484.66. The Barriers Fund is open to Denton residents and Lewisville residents.
 - UWDC currently working on social media campaigns for both 400 households served in April 2022 and 4th year in operation for May 2022.
- The DCHC meetings have continue to incorporate agenda spots to discuss volunteer and/or donation opportunities in the community for community knowledge on how to get involved.
- Denton County's Point in Time Count was held January 27th, 2022.
 - 65 volunteers surveyed people from 5 AM to 8 PM throughout the County. The PIT Count was very strongly local agency run in 2022, 47 of the volunteers worked at a local agency in Denton County. Many volunteers were unavailable after registration because of Pandemic related concerns.
 - Bus passes, hygiene bags, duffle bags, and donated blankets were handed out to survey participants.
 - Currently waiting on results being confirmed from Texas Homeless Network, but currently the number of surveys collected in Denton County was higher then ever in Denton County. Showing an increased need in Denton County while also showing an increased collaboration in agencies in being able to identify everyone during a Pandemic and impending freeze.
- Denton County's first ever Homelessness Memorial was planned for the last 6+ months and held in March. Nearly 60 people who had passed away were memorialized and 150+ people were in attendance at Quaker Town Park. New agencies collaborated in making the event happen and all food/activities/drinks were donated from local partners.

Short-term action items

Plan future donation opportunities for Barriers Fund.

Accomplishments

Point in Time Count successfully completed.

Denton County's First ever Homelessness Memorial completed.

Concerns

Donations to the Barriers Fund for household outside of the City of Denton and City of Lewisville.

Next Meeting Dates

April 27th, 2022.

DCHLT Denton County Homeless Coalition Workgroup December 2021 – March 2022