



**Thursday, April 8th, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference**

Agenda

I.	Welcome & Consideration of February 2021 Minutes	Co-Chair	2 min.
II.	COVID-19 Response Update	G. Henderson / E. Lusk	10 min.
III.	City of Denton Affordable Housing Study	D. Shaw	25 min.
IV.	Workgroup Updates		30 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denton County Homeless Coalition • Housing • Data • Ending Veteran Homelessness • Healthcare Collaborative • Affordable Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Adams T. Widmer M. Ball / M. Fink / S. Coffey E. Lusk E. Lusk G. Henderson / E. Lusk 	
V.	Backbone Support Update	UWDC	10 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update • Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update 		
VI.	Public Comment	Co-Chair	5 min.
VII.	New Business	Co-Chair	5 min.
VIII.	Adjourn	Co-Chair	2 min.

**Next Meeting Date:
Thursday, June 10th, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Zoom Video Conference**





Thursday, February 11th, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference

Appointees/Ex-Officios Present: Alice Mankoff, Andy Folmer, Angie Cox, Ashleigh Feryan, Beckie Wach, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Dale Tampke, Dani Shaw, Emily Taylor, Gary Henderson (ex-officio), Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Jill Adams, Kathy Srokosz, Lyle Dresher, Michelle Conner, Pat Thomas, Preston Pohler, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer, Mayor Thomas Muir, Councilperson TJ Gilmore, and Valerie Foster.

Appointees Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Dewayne Brawner, Mayor Gerard Hudspeth, Jeriahme Miller, Jim Mustain, John Manganilla, and Sheryl English.

Guests: Amanda Adams (United Way of Denton County), Amanda Bergstrom (Mayhill Hospital), Anna Lacey (United Way of Denton County), Areum Yeo, Cierra Stanko (Congressman Burgess' Office), Courtney Cross (ex-officio - City of Denton), Daphne Adams (Christian Community Action), Elena Lusk (United Way of Denton County), Erin Daggs (United Way of Denton County), Hope Rodgers (United Way of Denton County), Jack Traeger (Legacy Multifamily Development – Presenter), Leia Atkinson (United Way of Denton County), Mary Jones, Megan Ball (United Way of Denton County), Olivia Williams (United Way of Denton County), Sarah Kuechler (City of Denton), and Shanan Spencer (United Way of Denton County).

Welcome & Consideration of December 2020 Minutes

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve December 2020 Minutes.

Motion: Dale Tampke

Second: Jill Adams

Motion was approved.

Appointee and Officer Updates

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore introduced Valerie Foster as the new Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team's Secretary. Valerie gave the group an introduction on her involvement in homelessness initiatives in Denton County including being an appointee on DCHLT since its inception and heavily involved in students experiencing homelessness in Sanger ISD and TEA.

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore introduced each new selected appointee (Mayor Gerard Hudspeth – Representing City of Denton, Dani Shaw – Representing City of Denton, Dewayne Brawner – Representing City of Aubrey and Pat Thomas – Representing Denton Affordable Housing Corporation) for approval to the DCHLT and requested a motion for approval for their appointee positions.

Motion: Terry Widmer. Second: Dale Tampke. Motion was approved.

Each representative in attendance introduced themselves to the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team.

COVID-19 Response Update

Gary Henderson presented an update on Denton County non-profits (United Way of Denton County, Grace Like Rain, Interfaith Ministries, Metrocrest Services, Christian Community Action, Denton County Friends of the Family, Next Steps The Colony, Giving Hope Inc., Salvation Army of Denton and Lewisville) working together with the system built many years ago with the start of the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team to be able to deploy



\$7,703,920.76 into the community to keep people in their homes in 2020 into 2021 through the Covid Relief and Recovery Program. Gary walked through the data for the program with the municipality breakdown, the weekly breakdown of households served and the amount deployed each week as well as the request type breakdown. Highlighting the ability to do all of the work coming from the collaboration built over time and the funding from City of Denton, City of Lewisville, PACCAR Foundation and the Denton County Commissioners Court.

Dani Shaw, Elena Lusk, and Gary Henderson gave updates on grants written/awarded towards the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021 to be able to supplement a similar program for 2021. Gary walked through a flow chart built by United Way of Denton County to explain each program.

Denton County Commissioners Court was awarded just over \$20 million dollars in stimulus funding for a similar program in 2021, United Way of Denton County is working with their staff and attorneys to deploy those funds similarly to the Covid Relief and Recovery Fund.

City of Denton was awarded around \$1.5 million for ESG CV1 and have deployed those funds to Christian Community Action, Grace Like Rain, Giving Hope and Salvation Army for Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, and Street Outreach. ESG CV1 dollars are from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and must be spent by July 31st, 2021.

United Way of Denton County as awarded \$3.3 million for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing. United Way will be procuring from agencies for Homelessness Prevention funding and will keep the Rapid Rehousing program in house. The ESG CV2 funding must be spent by March 31st, 2022.

City of Denton and City of Lewisville were both awarded Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP) funding, at an amount of around \$330,000 combined. Both municipalities are working with United Way of Denton County to deploy those funds and have them allocated before July 31st, 2021.

United Way of Denton County will be applying for Texas Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (TEMAP) in the coming months that will hopefully bring on missing mortgage assistance to the community.

Legacy MultiFamily Development Presentation

Jack Traeger presented to the Leadership Team on a proposed multifamily affordable housing complex on McKinney Street, Legacy at Denton Apartments, for a letter of support in their housing tax credit application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Mr. Traeger walked through awards they have won in the past for their developments and their history of previous builds. The project in Denton is 16.1 acres and will be 6 two to three story buildings with 232 units in the development, as well as community pool, playgrounds, dog parks and various other community resources. Location proximity and design were discussed for ease of access to resources and public transportation while having a safe and presentable surrounding.

Dani Shaw assisted in clarification that the letter of support will not be directed to the City of Denton but to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell inquired what the price range would be on the units in the property, Mr. Traeger explained that the property will have designations that follow: 10% of units for households 30% AMI or below, 20% of units for households at or below 50% AMI, 50% of units for households at or below 60% AMI and 20% of units at market rate. 1 bedroom's will be \$430-\$915, 2 bedroom will be \$512-1100 and 3 bedrooms will be \$584-1286 dependent on income level for households. Gary and Jack walked through the importance of letters of support from groups like the Leadership Team for TDHCA.

Elena Lusk gave an update on Legacy Multifamily Development's connection to United Way of Denton County's Housing Navigator. Both Mr. Traeger and Amanda Adams briefly discussed the need for this development in Denton County and their hope for a connection in the future if the development is approved.

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore requested a motion to approve a letter of support for Legacy Multifamily Development. Terry Widmer motioned. Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell seconded. Motion was approved.



Workgroup Updates

Data

Megan Ball presented data from the Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard from end of January 2021; 284 households experiencing homelessness, 29 households are Veterans, 88 households are experiencing chronic homelessness, and 9 of the households were actively fleeing domestic violence while experiencing homelessness. Megan discussed the reduction in numbers between December and January, during Covid households were not moved to inactive because of the inconsistency in data reporting due to the high demand agencies were seeing in services during that time. A clean up occurred in December 2020 to move a large amount of people who had not accessed services in 90 days to inactive.

The Data Workgroup met in February and discussed the System Performance Measures listed on the dashboard and how to incorporate more into the dashboard in the coming months. The data workgroup will begin meeting monthly again and will see each other again in March.

Housing

Terry Widmer provided a Housing Workgroup update. The Housing Workgroup decided recently to begin meeting weekly as opposed to biweekly and one meeting will continue to be Veteran focused. The case managers are diligently working on reviewing the Housing Priority List and making sure it is up to date while also beginning to focus on a possible 100 Day Challenge for Veterans soon. A win for the housing workgroup that was celebrated recently was the a streamlined path to the DPS for ID's for people. With the help of Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell and United Way of Denton County, a partnership with the DPS was formed to find a path for households experiencing homelessness to gain access to their ID quicker for employment and/or housing.

A portion of the Housing Workgroup is continuing to meet for Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures update. A concern the Workgroup is noticing lately is making sure to spend all of the new funding available in time.

Denton County Homeless Coalition

Daphne Adams provided an update on the Denton County Homeless Coalition. Texas Homeless Network decided that they would not be encouraging or requiring an unsheltered count for the 2021 Point In Time Count due to safety concerns for all involved. The Coalition did continue on to support a sheltered count for people staying in shelter and in hotels paid for by agencies on the day of the count. The Coalition has been working on strategies for a grievance process for housing and homelessness services in Denton County. United Way of Denton County staff is working on collecting a list of grievance policies from all Denton County agencies working in housing and homelessness in order to have a full list for clients and community members to reference in the future. Agencies are also working constantly on not duplicating efforts or funds across Denton County currently in the variety of funding available.

Health Care Collaborative

Elena Lusk provided an update that United Way of Denton County staff was currently working with Texas Health Presbyterian in Denton on formulating processes for better discharge planning in the future for people experiencing homelessness. With this first step made with THR in Denton, Elena was looking to see who on the Leadership Team would be interested in the Healthcare Collaborative when it is launched. Leadership Team members interested in being involved once the collaborative has launched are Dale Tampke, Michelle Conner, Isabel Rodriguez, and Courtney Cross (ex-officio).

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Elena Lusk provided an update on Ending Veteran Homelessness in Denton County. Previously both the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team and Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team have agreed to continue on with their goal to end Veteran homelessness in Denton County, with support from workgroups under both Leadership teams. Elena described Denton County having 2-3X's the amount of Rapid Rehousing programs in



Denton County, more HUD-VASH vouchers online and more Housing Choice vouchers online and proposed that the Leadership team may want to encourage capitalizing on this opportunity to have a 100 Day Challenge before July. Elena briefly explained what a 100-day challenge is and the proposed timeline being April, May, and June. The Veteran Workgroup under DCBHLT supported this initiative as well as the Coalition and the Housing Workgroup.

Backbone Support Update

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

Shanan Spence provided an update on the activities the Behavioral Health Leadership Team is engaging in. Shanan spoke on connecting mental and behavioral health needs while in the process of housing. United Way of Denton County is working on exploring funding opportunities for Mental Health Navigators to provide some support in Denton County under the DCBHLT. Additionally, DCHLT and DCBHLT backbone staff at UWDC are exploring options of supportive housing environments and funding to support those projects in the future that connect both housing, mental health and workforce development as well.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team

Olivia Williams provided an update on Workforce Success Leadership Team. Olivia is currently working on funding opportunities that build on the initiatives all Leadership teams (Behavioral Health, Workforce Success and Homelessness) are involved and potentially bringing them closer to each other to collaborate more. Olivia provided a data and study update completed in Lewisville on employers affected during Covid-19 and are walking through that information to create possible workgroup or team to create strategies of change around items discussed in the future. As well as speaking on how we make all Leadership teams information collaborative and intuitive to the community at large.

Public Comment

Gary Henderson congratulated City of Lewisville Council on bringing on funding for mental health, food insecurity, and mortgage assistance. As well as thank you to Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell and Denton County on the ID barrier being broken and the success of the Denton County vaccinations at Texas Motor Speedway.

New Business

Courtney Cross announced that The City of Denton has allocated \$800,000 to extend their hotel program to encourage and allow for social distancing for people living in unsheltered or in an emergency shelter previously during this time. The City of Denton is working with The Junction and other Denton County non-profits on new processes and plans for the hotel after the funding switch. Gary Henderson congratulated Emily Taylor and The Junction staff and board for a smooth transition of merging Our Daily Bread and Monsignor King Outreach Center amidst a Pandemic. Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Terry Widmer, and Councilperson Chair TJ Gilmore congratulated all of Denton County on their successes and work during these challenging times.

Adjournment

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell motioned. Terry Widmer seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, April 8th, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Zoom Video Conference



DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

February 2021 – April 2021

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met in February and March 2021. The group discussed:

- Data from the data dashboard was presented and discussed.
- The Coalition was updated on current and future funding for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in Denton County; including opening/planned opening of ESG CV1, ESG CV2, TERAP from City of Denton, TERAP from City of Lewisville, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and THN's Barriers Fund.
- The Barriers Fund has assisted 283 households since its inception. All reimbursements needed for 2020 were turned in and the Barriers Fund has continued to stay open for City of Denton and has opened a couple of times for locations outside of the City of Denton.
- An update on the outcomes of the PIT Count was discussed.
 - The PIT Count was conducted for sheltered people only.
 - A small group of around 10 staff at United Way of Denton County and the agencies with shelter options (The Junction, Salvation Army of Denton, Grace Like Rain, Denton County Friends of the Family and Journey to Dream) participated in collecting sheltered surveys on the day of.
 - United Way of Denton County staff provided the outreach team in Denton some of the donations given during the PIT Count so that people living unsheltered who were not surveyed were still able to receive items.
- The Coalition moved forward with recommendations to collect grievance policies from all agencies in Denton County in homelessness/housing in order to have a collective list for clients and community member to reference in the future. After this list is collected the Coalition may revisit having an appeals process for people who are unsatisfied with agency processes.
- Ending Veteran Homelessness updates occurred, including how to get involved a launching of a refreshed website and social media posts will be shared through the Coalitions Facebook page.
- Homelessness Awareness Day will be April 7th and the Coalition has a couple of members attending. It is a virtual event put on by Texas Homeless Network as an advocacy opportunity to talk to local representatives about homelessness in Denton County. Anyone in attendance was encouraged to participate.

Short-term action items

Update and implement potential Grievance policy.

Accomplishments

100 Day Challenge has started!

Concerns

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

Next Meeting Dates

April 28^h

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

February 2021 – April 2021

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 7 times between February 11th and April 8th, where 3 meetings were Veteran-specific and 4 were General. During each case conferencing meeting, members discussed clients that each agency is actively working with, including client strengths, barriers and housing-focused next steps. Additionally, members have an opportunity to ask HMIS-related questions at each meeting.

In February, workgroup members received community resource updates, including UWDC's Virtual Volunteer Income Tax Prep program and available 2021 Eviction Prevention resources. The February 15th was cancelled due to the winter storm.

In March, workgroup members, specifically ESG CV1 recipients, received guidance from City of Denton staff on Rapid Rehousing prioritization standards and expectations during the General meetings. UWDC staff worked with the City of Denton to assign the 30 RRH households to receiving agencies, and identified a clear plan for each agency and client. Additionally, 2 Veteran-specific meetings were held in March to support our goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness and its accompanying 100 Day Challenge. During the Veteran-specific meetings, providers worked together to identify teams of service providers responsible for conducting outreach to each Veteran. Teams include a combination of a street outreach worker and a housing-focused case manager and/or a Veteran Community Navigator.

In March and April, workgroup members received information regarding the Dallas Housing Authority's current open enrollment for voucher programs and were encouraged to share this information with their clients. Additionally, at the request of the Denton Housing Authority, workgroup members were asked to conduct outreach to their clients who are currently on Denton Housing Authority's Housing Choice and Mainstream voucher waitlists so their clients can contact the Housing Authority to complete necessary intake paperwork.

Short-term action items

- Support and facilitate Denton County's 100 Day Challenge (April 1st, 2021 launch date).
- Continue to update, revise and improve Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures through monthly meetings with providers.

Accomplishments

- Top 30 RRH households assigned to ESG CV1 recipients; all families on HPL assigned to Grace Like Rain regardless of placement in top 30 households.
- Housing-focused and/or Veteran-focused service provider teams assigned to each active Veteran on HPL

Concerns

- Utilization of all available RRH funds

Next Meeting Dates

April 12th, April 19th, April 26th, May 3rd

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

February 2021 – April 2021

The data dashboard has been updated with March 2021 data and will be updated with April data at the beginning of next month. As of March 2021, there are currently 267 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. That number breaks down into:

- 14 families
- 253 individuals
- 18 Veteran households
- 80 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

Rapid Re-Housing is the highest need regarding housing program types for our community currently with 47.6% of households on the Housing Priority List scoring in that housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown for March 2021 is:

- Diversion Services – 25 households
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 127 households
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 115 households

The data workgroup met in March to discuss the addition of a System Performance Measure to the data dashboard. The System Performance Measure addressing the length of time experiencing homelessness was added to the data dashboard in March, which shows the average length of time, in days, of the those that were housed each month. The data workgroup discussed displaying the average length of time experiencing homelessness over the last 90 days to include data that dates to 2019.

The workgroup is continuing to explore the idea of the following: adding a program type breakdown of exits on the dashboard (# of people through RRH, # of people through PSH, # self-resolved, etc.) and analyzing the cost analysis of someone experiencing homelessness, chronic homelessness, being housed through various types of housing programs/exits. Both ideas are currently being researched by UWDC staff.

Short-term action items

- Plan next meeting for April 14, 2021.
- UWDC staff bring back data for the average length of time experiencing homelessness over a 90-day period and ideas for how to display the data on the dashboard.

Accomplishments

- Have maintained monthly meetings
- Additional System Performance Measure now being displayed on the data dashboard.

Concerns

- Data management during COVID-19 Pandemic has continued to create difficulty with consistently tracking data, so the concern is households being missed, information not being submitted, and for uncollected data.
 - UWDC staff continues to assist agencies to remedy this by reaching out with individualized support.

Next Meeting Dates

April 14, 2021

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

February 2021 – April 2021

With encouragement from the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team's Veteran Workgroup, Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team, Denton County Homeless Coalition, Housing Workgroup and all providers involved with the groups, a 100-Day Challenge was planned for and launched April 1st. The challenge will be to house all Veterans experiencing homelessness in Denton County within 100 days. The challenge will run from April 1st to July 10th.

Weekly meetings began occurring in March after determining having a separate community wide meeting would be helpful outside of the Housing Workgroup meetings. During the weekly meetings community partners worked on all the beginning steps on making sure aspects of planning were laid out. The following items happened from March - April for the Challenge:

- A website layout refresh for better community member comprehension - www.unitedwaydenton.org/end-veteran-homelessness
- Assignment of a care team for each Veteran on the Housing Priority List with a housing focused case manager, a Veteran Community Navigator, the Housing Navigator and either a Street Outreach or Emergency Shelter staff member.
- Community involvement ideas launched including,
 - Landlord Engagement sign up - www.unitedwaydenton.org/opening-doors-denton-county
 - Welcome Home Kit instructions - <https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/sites/unitedwaydenton.org/files/100%20Day%20Challenge%20-%20Welcome%20Home%20Kits%20w%20%23.png>
 - Furniture moving crews - www.unitedwaydenton.org/form/100-day-challenge-furniture-move
 - And more!
- Client facing flyer on the objective the 100-day challenge.
- Apartment outreach to all Denton County apartment complexes via phone and email.
- Graphics for the community to share - www.facebook.com/PointInTimeCount/
- A newsletter sign up - www.unitedwaydenton.org/100-day-challenge

Four Veterans were housed in February and March and four Veterans were identified during that time. There are currently 17 Veteran households on the HPL as of end of March 2021.

Short-term action items

Mid-way Kick off event

Landlord Engagement Activities

Accomplishments

Veterans are already entering into housing less than 1 week into the 100 day challenge.

Concerns

Sufficient housing locating and wrap-around services for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Next Meeting Dates

April 13th, 20th and 27th.