



**Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 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	2 min.
II.	COVID-19 Response Update	E. Lusk	5 min.
III.	Strategic Planning	E. Lusk	5 min.
IV.	Denton County Continuum of Care Exploration	E. Lusk / C. Douangdara	15 min.
V.	Emergency Housing Voucher Planning	H. Rodgers	10 min.
VI.	Extreme Weather Response for Homelessness	E. Lusk	5 min.
VII.	Workgroup Updates		25 min.
	• Housing	T. Widmer	
	• Data	M. Fink	
	• Ending Veteran Homelessness	E. Lusk	
	• Denton County Homeless Coalition Update	D. Adams	
VIII.	Backbone Support Update	UWDC	10 min.
	• Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update		
	• Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update		
IX.	Public Comment	Chair	5 min.
X.	New Business	Chair	5 min.
XI.	Adjourn	Chair	2 min.

**Next Meeting Date:**

**Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 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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**Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team**  
**Ad Hoc Committee Proposal: Denton County Continuum of Care Exploratory Committee**

**Purpose:** The proposed committee will explore the potential benefits and drawbacks of Denton County separating from the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC). Considerations include establishing a new Continuum of Care or joining a neighboring Continuum of Care.

**Background:**

- Continuum of Care (CoC) Program: A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a collaborative approach to planning and funding for services related to homelessness. “Continuum of Care” refers not only to Housing and Urban Development’s program, but also the geographical location covered by a CoC program, and the body of people that participate in homeless services within that geographic area, including service providers, advocates, local government officials, and community members. More information can be found [here \(linked\)](#) and [here \(linked\)](#).
- Current CoC – Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC): [Texas Homeless Network \(linked\)](#) is the Lead Agency, designated to carry out the activities of the CoC, including fiscal and compliance activities.
- Denton County’s CoC History: From late 1990’s/early 2000’s Denton County was their own Continuum of Care lead by Giving Hope, Inc. at the time. Giving Hope, Inc. managed four Continuum of Care funded programs that focused on housing and homelessness (Homeless Management Information System, two Transitional Housing programs, and Permanent Supportive Housing program). Denton County at the time was one of the few service areas outside of major metroplexes, and not included in those metroplexes Continuum of Cares, that was receiving funding and received pressure from US Department of Housing and Urban Development to merge with the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) for long term funding and participation opportunities.  
In July 2012, Giving Hope, Inc. staff negotiated with Texas Homeless Network (lead agency for TX BoS CoC) to join the TX BoS CoC but continue to maintain local control over the Homelessness Management Information System. After 1-2 years, due staff turnover and capacity at Giving Hope, Inc., Texas Homeless Network took on control of the Homeless Management Information System and continued operating the TX BoS CoC moving forward.  
Texas Homeless Network to date manages 215 counties in the TX BoS CoC coverage area. Denton County being a service area that has improved systems, processes, and services over the last 20+ years has excelled in the 215-county service area over counties that are just beginning to build out housing and homelessness processes more recently. With one agency over all coverage areas, all coverage areas in the CoC must operate at the same standard level for consistency, leading to stagnation in new developments and local control in Denton County.

**Considerations:**

- Cost Implications:
  - *Short-Term*
    - Data Migration to new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database
    - Implementation of new HMIS for Denton County providers
  - *Long-Term*
    - Ongoing cost of staff to manage CoC activities

- Impact to current or future federal/state funded programs in Denton County:
  - Potential renewal amount for Denton County CoC funded programs estimated at \$1.7M
    - Christian Community Action CoC Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
    - Denton County MHMR Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
    - Giving HOPE, Inc. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
    - United Way of Denton County Supportive Services Only for Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
  - Impact to State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding formula and how much funding would realistically be available to Denton County applicants
- Impact to regional planning: Potential for increase coordination with Dallas and Tarrant Counties
- Establish new or merge with an existing CoC: Consult with HUD and neighboring CoC's/counties to consider impacts of either approach. [CoC Merger Resources from HUD \(linked\)](#)
  - [Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance – Dallas and Collin Counties \(linked\)](#)
  - [Tarrant County Homeless Coalition – Tarrant and Parker Counties \(linked\)](#)

**DCHLT Action 8/12/2021:**

- VOTE to approve/not approve an ad hoc committee to explore the potential benefits and drawbacks of Denton County separating from the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC).
- APPOINT 3-5 members to committee.

## 2021 Emergency Housing Voucher Distribution

### Overview

The Denton Housing Authority (DHA) has partnered with United Way of Denton County (UWDC) to facilitate the distribution of 40 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to the following populations: households experiencing literal homelessness, survivors of domestic violence (DV), and households currently enrolled and housed through a Denton County Rapid Rehousing (RRH) or Permanent Supportive Housing program (PSH) in alignment with HUD's Moving On Strategy. Each EHV includes \$3,500 per household to assist with move-in costs (application fees, security deposits, landlord incentives) through DHA.

Emergency Housing Voucher Allocation		
Population	Referral Source	#
Literal Homelessness	Denton County Housing Priority List (Top 20 as of 7/8/21)	20
Survivors of DV	Denton County Friends of the Family (Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing)	4
Moving On - RRH	Christian Community Action, Giving Hope Inc., Grace Like Rain, Our Daily Bread, Recovery Resource Council (SSVF Program), The Salvation Army of Denton, United Way of Denton	10
Moving On - PSH	Denton County MHMR, Giving Hope Inc.	6
<b>Total:</b>		40

### Process and Timeline

**Literal Homelessness:** UWDC began conducting outreach to the top 20 households on 7/8/21 and will continue until 20 households have confirmed their acceptance. 5 contact attempts utilizing multiple methods (i.e., phone, email, street outreach) are completed within 10 business days for each household before moving on to the next highest scoring household; households who cannot be contacted will remain on the Housing Priority List. UWDC will begin sending completed referrals for the top 20 households to DHA by 7/30/21 for intake.

**Survivors of Domestic Violence:** UWDC submitted a request for referrals to Denton County Friends of the Family on 7/20/21 with a submission deadline of 8/2/21. Upon submission, UWDC will conduct outreach to these referrals to complete their DHA Referral Form and send to DHA for intake.

**Moving On:** [Moving On \(linked\)](#) is a strategy identified by HUD to create vacancies in existing RRH and PSH programs. Households who may benefit from Moving On may no longer need intensive case management and other supportive services, but still need a long-term rental subsidy to prevent a return to homelessness, such as households living on a fixed-income (e.g. SSI, SSDI, VA Benefits, etc.).

UWDC submitted a request for referrals to Denton County RRH and PSH programs on 7/20/21 with a submission deadline of 8/2/21, where RRH providers may refer up to three households and PSH providers may refer up to five households, and agencies with both RRH and PSH may submit the maximum number for each category.

All households referred for a Moving On EHV will complete a third party Self-Sufficiency assessment selected by Texas Homeless Network with UWDC's Homelessness Outreach Coordinator by 8/16/21. Households with the highest levels of self-sufficiency will be selected for an EHV; the final selection process will be deidentified and based on assessment scores alone. Households selected for an EHV will be referred to DHA for intake following their acceptance.

# DCHLT Workgroup Reports

## DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

### June 2021 – August 2021

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 7 times between June 11<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup> where 4 meetings were Veteran-specific and 3 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, 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.

During the Veteran-specific meetings prior to the end of the 100 Day Challenge (July 10<sup>th</sup>), workgroup members reviewed and provided updates on progress made working on teams of service providers to work with each Veteran on the HPL, where each team includes a combination of an outreach worker/CE Assessor, a Veteran-specific service provider, and a housing-focused service provider. Members also identified the supportive services needed for each Veteran, tailored to their unique needs (e.g. health and mental health care, benefits assistance, social support, etc.) as well as identify the housing-based program best suited for their needs.

During the General meetings, members discussed barriers, strengths and next steps for households on the HPL, with a focus on households with no recent Case Conferencing notes to ensure that all households actively seeking services have a housing plan in place.

In the first July General meeting, workgroup members reviewed and updated portions of Denton County's Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures, including sections regarding Reassessments, Outcomes of Referrals, Contact Attempts, and Prioritization, and will continue to review and update the document in future meetings. Additionally, workgroup members received updates on the distribution and allocation of 40 Emergency Housing Vouchers. In the second July Veteran meeting, workgroup members voted on the frequency of Veteran-specific meetings following the close of the 100 Day Challenge; workgroup members voted to change the Veteran-specific meeting schedule from twice a month to once a month (fourth Monday of the month), with additional meetings as needed.

### Short-term action items

- Continue to update, revise and improve Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures through monthly meetings with providers.
- Continue to support, conduct outreach, and overcome barriers to housing for individuals on HPL.

### Accomplishments

- Completion of 100 Day Challenge
- Strong communication amongst RRH providers; RRH recipients requesting additional referrals from providers during Case Conferencing as space becomes available in each program

### Concerns

- Increased Inflows into Denton County's Housing Priority List and quality of new Coordinated Entry assessments
- Utilization of all available RRH funds

### Next Meeting Dates

August 16<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, September 20<sup>th</sup>, September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>

# DCHLT Workgroup Reports

## DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

### June 2021 – August 2021

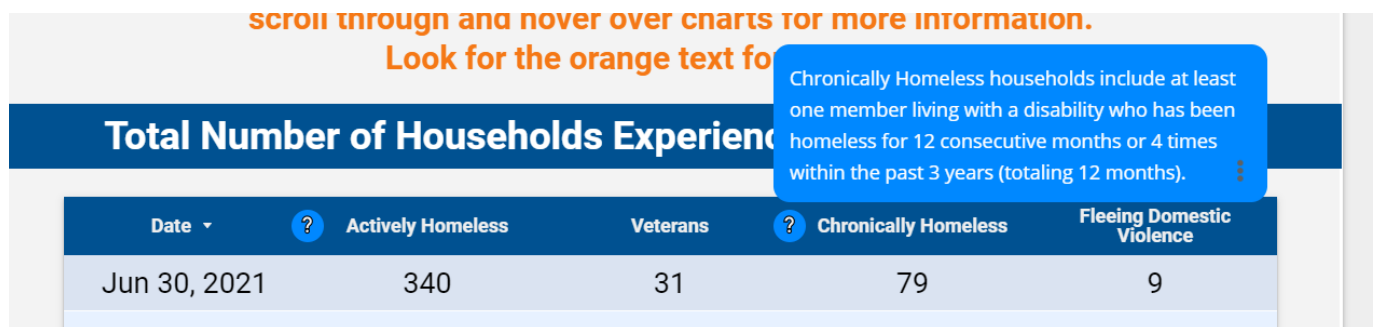
The data dashboard has been updated with June 2021 data and will be updated with July data at the beginning of August. As of June 2021, there are currently 340 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. That number breaks down into:

- 34 families
- 306 individuals
- 31 Veteran households
- 79 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

Rapid Re-Housing continues to be the highest need regarding housing program types for our community currently with 54.7% of households on the Housing Priority List as of June 2021 scoring in that housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown for June 2021 is:

- Diversion Services – 33 households (9.7%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 186 households (54.7%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 121 households (35.6%)

The data workgroup met in July to review some layout changes to the Data Dashboard proposed by Madeline Fink. The workgroup gave their feedback on the changes and approved or modified them as needed. Some of the changes included adding small “information bubbles” that dashboard readers can scroll over for more information. Madeline will be adding these changes to the dashboard along with the July data updates. Below is an example of the “information bubbles” to be added to the dashboard.



The workgroup also continued the discussion around the addition of more racial equity elements to the dashboard, including the possibility of a separate dashboard that only covers racial equity. The workgroup proposed two different ways to organize the racial equity elements, which Madeline will create prototypes of to present to the workgroup again at the next meeting. The expansion of the racial equity section of the dashboard is an ongoing project that will be continuously discussed.

In addition, the workgroup discussed the possibilities of using programs other than Excel to better organize the HPL and related homelessness data. Madeline will be meeting with workgroup member Oliver Davidson to discuss these ideas further.

### Short-term action items

- Plan next meeting for September 8, 2021.
- UWDC Homelessness Initiatives staff will make layout changes to the dashboard and prepare prototypes of the racial equity section to present to the workgroup at the next meeting.

## Accomplishments

- Visual/layout changes are set to be made to the dashboard soon

## Concerns

- There is a concern that with large numbers of new staff being added to agencies that use HMIS, the database and the CE process is not always being used appropriately, resulting in clients who are not experiencing literal homelessness being added to the HPL, or client data being entered incorrectly
  - UWDC staff has scheduled one-on-one meetings with agencies during the month of August to review HMIS procedures, go over CE, and answer any staff questions

## Next Meeting Dates

September 8, 2021 (Summer meeting break during August)



# DCHLT Workgroup Reports

## DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

### June 2021 – August 2021

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met in June and July 2021. The group discussed:

- Data from the data dashboard was presented and 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 333 households since its inception. There are current plans in the works for fundraising opportunities for the Barriers Fund moving forward. The Barriers Fund is open to Lewisville residents, Denton County Veterans, and Atmos Customers in need.
- A committee of DCHC members has been meeting to plan the annual data reveal for 2021 PIT Count numbers and more information will be shared in the future. There are currently plans to host a Denton and Lewisville in person reveal.
- The DCHC meetings have recently reincorporated agenda spots to discuss volunteer and/or donation opportunities in the community for community knowledge on how to get involved.
- Hope Rodgers from UWDC provided a brief update on current Emergency Housing Voucher processes that UWDC, Denton Housing Authority, and Texas Homeless Network developed to deploy 40 housing vouchers to households experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Ending Veteran Homelessness updates occurred following the end of 100-Day Challenge and community celebration in late July. 11 Veterans were housed in the 100-Day Challenge from April-July.

### Short-term action items

Host annual data report and Barriers Fund fundraiser.

### Accomplishments

Barriers Fund fundraising under way and data report coming soon.

### Concerns

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

### Next Meeting Dates

August 25<sup>th</sup> 2021