



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

Agenda

I.	Welcome & Consideration of December 2020 Minutes	Chair	2 min.
II.	2020 – 2021 Appointee Updates	Chair	10 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announce newly appointed Secretary position – Valerie Foster • VOTE – Approve the following new appointees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mayor Gerard Hudspeth – Representing City of Denton ii. Dani Shaw – Representing City of Denton iii. Dewayne Brawner – Representing City of Aubrey iv. Pat Thomas – Representing Denton Affordable Housing Corporation 		
III.	COVID-19 Response Update	G. Henderson / E. Lusk	10 min.
IV.	Legacy MultiFamily Development Presentation	J. Traeger	15 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOTE – Approve signing a letter of support on behalf of DCHLT for City of Denton 		
V.	Workgroup Updates		30 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Housing • Denton County Homeless Coalition Update • Healthcare Collaborative • Ending Veteran Homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Ball T. Widmer D. Adams E. Lusk E. Lusk 	
VI.	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 		
VII.	Public Comment	Chair	5 min.
VIII.	New Business	Chair	5 min.
IX.	Adjourn	Chair	2 min.

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





Thursday, December 10th, 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, Dale Tampke, Dani Shaw (ex-officio), Emily Taylor, Gary Henderson (ex-officio), Jeriahme Miller, Jessica DeRoche, Jill Adams, Jodi Vicars-Nance, John Manganilla, Kathy Srokosz, Councilperson Keely Briggs, Lyle Dresher, Michelle Conner, Preston Pohler, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer, Mayor Thomas Muir, Councilperson TJ Gilmore and Valerie Foster

Appointees Absent: Beckie Wach, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Isabel Rodriguez, Jim Mustain, Sheryl English

Guests: Courtney Cross (City of Denton), Daphne Adams (Christian Community Action), Elena Lusk (United Way of Denton County), Hope Rodgers (United Way of Denton County), Megan Ball (United Way of Denton County), Sarah Kuechler (City of Denton), and Shanan Spencer (United Way of Denton County)

Welcome & Consideration of August 2020 Minutes

Co-Chair Mayor Thomas Muir called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve December 2020 Minutes.

Motion: Dale Tampke

Second: Jill Adams

Motion was approved.

2020 – 2021 Officer Nominations

Jessica DeRoche, speaker for the Officer Nominating Committee, presented on the Officer Nominating Committee's meetings since October as well as their selections for the Chair and Co-Chair position for the 2020 – 2022 Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team. The Officer Nominating Committee recommended Councilperson TJ Gilmore to remain in the Chair position and Mayor Thomas Muir to remain in the Co-Chair position. The Secretary position is currently on hold as Sheryl English had expressed interest in holding a chair position but was unable to at this time. The Officer Nominating Committee has reached out to Councilperson Keely Briggs and are currently waiting on run-off election results for City of Denton to confirm a possible Secretary position.

Co-Chair Mayor Thomas Muir requested a motion to approve the nominations for Chair and Co-Chair and to hold on Secretary selection for the future meeting.

Valerie Foster motioned to approve the recommendations.

Lyle Dresher seconded the motion to approve the recommendations.

No one opposed, motion was approved.

Co-Chair Mayor Thomas Muir expressed gratitude for staff's backbone support for the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team operation.



COVID-19 Response Update

Gary Henderson presented an update provided to Congressman Burgess' office and Senator John Cornyn's office to give background on how CARES Act Funding was used in Denton County. The presentation recapped how since the beginning of the program, it has been a private and public partnership to support agencies working with people at risk of experiencing homelessness to stay in their home. Reiterating the funding given; \$130,000 from City of Denton; \$74,000 from City of Lewisville and \$75,000 allocated from PACCAR foundation helped the beginnings of the COVID Relief Fund. Followed by Denton County allocating over \$6.29 million dollars towards the fund to date. Gary explained that the amount spent towards eviction prevention to date well exceeded the typical year of \$500,000 to \$600,000 dollars our community brings in for eviction prevention/homelessness prevention.

The presentation reflected that 86% of the applications to the program to date were made up of residents from 6 Denton County municipalities; Denton, Lewisville, Carrollton, Dallas, The Colony and Aubrey. To date the program has processed payments for 7,180 months of assistance through 4,242 applications for 2,411 unique Denton County residents. Gary presented on the process of United Way of Denton County making payments directly to the vendors for the program and expressed how truly low-barrier the program was while still meeting the U. S. Department of the Treasury CARES Act criteria and rules.

The presentation continued on to show the need grow throughout the time of the program in both dollars spent each week, months assisted with and applications processed, culminating with \$624,015.08 spent in first week of December for household. The program did cap residents at 3 months of assistance and at the time of the meeting 1,066 unique households had received at least 3 months of assistance. The program did close to applications 12/2/2020 and UWDC staff will spend the next 2-3 weeks pushing all of the checks out the door and finalizing any documentation needed. Since the close of the program, in the first 4 days UWDC has received 230 requests for assistance from households.

The visual of the presentation showed three categories of need that were being met by the program of the 9 months of the program. Towards the beginning of the program the program was largely assisting households that would qualify as Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) and/or households living at the poverty level. The second increase of need was created by households who received federal assistance but have now expended that assistance. The final increase in need was shown to be assisting households who were middle class and not typically accessing resources, but had used all of their savings up and then needed assistance.

The presentation went on to show how agencies in the area had an increased staff need because of the demand in Denton County. \$1,879,188 has been provided to agencies for staffing, personal protective equipment, and operations. \$2,405,016 has been provided for food insecurity non-profits for capacity expansion. Though this funding does end December 30th, 2020 and staff capacity will dramatically reduce when the amount of need will continue to increase. Both Gary Henderson and Co-Chair Mayor Muir expressed gratitude to the non-profits that have been working tirelessly to continue their regular operations as well as working with the increased need Denton County has seen. Councilperson Keely Briggs expressed concern with the need they are hearing from their constituents as well as COVID cases rise on how funding will be able to support households in 2021.

Dani Shaw from the City of Denton covered for the group that City of Denton was awarded \$1.4 million in funding through Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for Emergency Solutions Grant Cares Act funding Round 1 (ESG CV1) for multiple program types (Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Street Outreach). The funding will be disbursed to agencies in Denton County and City of Denton's recommendations for Council on agencies will be presented later this month. This funding will need to be spent by end of July 2021. City of Denton also received Community Development Block Grant Cares Act Funding (CBBG CV) and are working on processes internally in order to potentially utilize the funds for continued support to the hotels being funded by the City of Denton during the Pandemic.

Courtney Cross from the City of Denton covered for the group the Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP) funded through Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The City of Denton and The City of Lewisville staff have been working closely to apply for their fixed allocations their municipalities can receive



for this funding type. Both will submit applications by the end of December. Under the TERAP program is the Texas Eviction Diversion Program that will allow for households in eviction court can be referred over to the funding source by the Justice of the Peace and be assisted. For both the Eviction Diversion Program and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program the landlord is required to agree and complete some documentation for the application.

Elena Lusk from United Way of Denton County covered for the group that United Way of Denton County applied for the second round of funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for Emergency Solutions Grant Cares Act funding Round 2 (ESG CV2) for \$9 million dollars for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing. Texas Homeless Network is the facilitator of the application for TDHCA for our Continuum of Care and requested United Way of Denton County to lower the amount from a \$9 million ask to \$3,300,333 in order for the funding to serve more counties, United Way of Denton County agreed to lowering the amount and were recommended to TDHCA for the \$3,300,333. 75% of the funding amount will go towards Homelessness Prevention and United Way of Denton County will procure services to Denton County agencies for this funding. The Rapid Rehousing dollars will stay in house and United Way of Denton County will join the group of 7 agencies operating Rapid Rehousing programs.

Dani Shaw, Gary Henderson, and Co-Chair Mayor Muir all expressed gratitude for the ongoing support and leadership the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team has brought to Denton County, in order for programs to go live and operate at a high functioning level before and during a pandemic. With Denton County programs and processes in place, both City of Denton and United Way of Denton County were able to truly express the need that Denton County has through accurate program level data of need. That data allowed for City of Denton to pull down nearly 20% of the overall amount of for ESG CV1 for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care and United Way of Denton County was able to pull down nearly 15% of the overall all amount for ESG CV2 for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care.

Co-Chair Mayor Muir brought to the group a possible thought on Denton County potentially becoming their own Continuum of Care in the future. Dani Shaw provided some history on Denton County's Continuum of Care process, as Denton County was their own Continuum of Care prior to 2012 and agreed to join the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care when new funding formulas for allocation were released showing that more funding would be going to areas with higher populations of people experiencing homelessness. The discussion was brought about because of the request to reduce the amount United Way of Denton County applied for as well as the thought around more autonomy for processes and procedures that are not provided currently participating in a group of 215 counties.

Workgroup Updates

Data

Elena Lusk presented data from the Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard from end of November 2020; 412 households experiencing homelessness, 36 households are Veterans, 126 households are experiencing chronic homelessness, and 3 of the households were actively fleeing domestic violence while experiencing homelessness. Elena discussed the reduction of households experiencing chronic homelessness as being linked to both Denton County Permanent Supportive Housing Programs having expansion programs in 2020 and rapidly filling the spots into their programs with people on the Housing Priority List.

The Data Workgroup met in October to review past goals and future plans for the workgroup. Currently the Data workgroup is in the data collection phase of racial equity analysis to either be incorporated on to the dashboard or be independent of the dashboard. The data will be analyzed for disparities or patterns in the system between households accessing day services, night shelter, different housing programs and so on. UWDC staff is working with agencies and Texas Homeless Network currently to troubleshoot common concerns agencies have around making HMIS more personalized for their agency's needs.



Housing

Terry Widmer provided a Housing Workgroup update. A portion of the Housing Workgroup is meeting biweekly to review the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures and update them as needed. The Housing Workgroup has continued to meet biweekly for case conferencing and has met 4 times via Zoom since the last meeting. UWDC staff continues to meet with The Junction staff on a regular basis to work on individual case conferencing. Recently the Housing Workgroup began reviewing households with the longest length of homelessness on our Housing Priority List, during this review almost every household had significant barriers to housing (criminal history, mental health concerns, etc.).

Terry reminded the group that we have not moved any households to inactive since April 2020, due to capacity concerns at agencies on documentation. The inactive policy will be reinstated in January to clean up the current Housing Priority List. Many agencies have started or will be starting housing programs in the near future. The housing workgroup continues to have documentation struggles for households experiencing homelessness that have been unable to access the DPS because of Covid-19 in order to gain critical documents for employment and housing.

Dale Tampke inquired if households who are on the housing priority list with mental health concerns are able to access resources/are there enough resources for them to access. Terry and Elena answered that many of the households on the housing priority list, especially the people experiencing homelessness for the longest time discussed in the meeting, have distrust or concern in the system and case managers first step right now was to build rapport with that household for future engagement in services. Dale expressed that Health Services of North Texas has been seeing transportation or availability be a barrier for them to connect with households, as services must be done on sight. Terry discussed the gap in our services of not all staff has been trained in mental health care and services and that training potentially in the future assisting those staff and agencies with that bridge for the client to services. Discussion on building rapport and increasing access and transportation to services as a critical need for clients in all services but especially in regard to mental health services was had amongst the group. Jill Adams brought forward information on how school districts are focusing more on social workers in ISDs to support families in order for generational poverty, homelessness, distrust in institutions and other concerns are being worked on at a young age and their appreciation for the support the service providers bring to their families.

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Elena Lusk started the report on Ending Veteran Homelessness focusing on the numbers of Veterans increasing in the recent months, due to access to Coordinated Entry being more readily available now that agencies are able to exit crisis mode more frequently. The original goal to end Veteran homelessness by the end of 2020 is approaching, so Elena brought to the group the idea of continuing the goal into 2021. In hopes that the group would decide to continue, Elena presented current and potential streams of funding that would support the goal into 2021. United Way of Denton County staff has been working closely with the Denton County Supportive Services for Veteran Families provider, Recovery Resource Council, to build up the partnership needed to assist Veterans in Denton County with housing. UWDC also has written into their ESG CV2 funding for Rapid Rehousing a focus on Veterans in Denton County being supported. The community is still waiting to hear back the results of the data sent to the Denton Housing Authority and the US Department of Veteran Affairs on gaining more HU-VASH vouchers for Denton County.

Discussion on UWDC staff talking with the Denton County's Behavioral Health Leadership Team's Veteran Workgroup soon and bringing forth ideas and action items for the goal from that group, if the Homelessness Leadership Team so chooses to continue the goal was had. The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team approved for staff and the workgroup to continue working towards the goal currently.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Update

Daphne Adams provided an update on the Denton County Homeless Coalition. The Coalition has created a fundraising committee in the last few months and hosted a social media campaign for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week that included videos and data from agencies on community needs and the campaign was able to



raise \$200 and a significant amount of social media traction that week. The PIT Count planning committee has been meeting to continue to plan for the 2021 Point in Time Count, this year will consist of sheltered surveys and observational surveys of people experiencing homelessness. There will not be outside volunteers surveying during the day, staff working with clients already will be doing the surveying for the protection of the people experiencing homelessness as well as the safety of the community at large. There is an at-home volunteer opportunity to create bags to hand out during the PIT Count this year.

A Service Provider Award Committee was created and a social media campaign followed, announcing nominees and winners for The Denton County Service Provider Awards. Daphne Adams and Wendy Noble were the winners for 2020. The Coalition is currently working to create a community wide grievance policy for housing and homelessness service providers and community members.

Backbone Support Update

Gary Henderson announced staff transitions at UWDC. Hope Rodgers will rejoin the Homelessness Initiatives Team as the Homelessness Outreach Coordinator. Shanan Spencer was hired as the new Director of Health and Mental Health Initiatives. Megan Ball, the Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator, introduced herself.

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

Hope Rodgers, provided a brief update on the activities the Behavioral Health Leadership Team is currently working on including; the Veteran Stability program's current program outcomes, it has funded 54 requests for funding since August to help Veterans needing support to stay in their housing that do not have Covid-19 related income loss. The DCBHLT Veteran Workgroup hosted a Covid safe version of the Veteran Stand Down held every year. The Leadership team launched the local Okay to Say campaign in October and have been collecting stories and statements from the community for the campaign. The Child and Family Systems Workgroup have been working with the Lake Cities to collect data on internal and external assets to Lake Cities resources for the Search Institutes Developmental Assets Framework to inform the group and assist in planning next steps for the group.

Shanan Spencer introduced herself as the new Director of Health and Mental Health Initiatives.

Public Comment

Councilperson Keely Briggs brought forward her appreciation and support for future equity work in the Leadership team.

New Business

There was no new business presented.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Mayor Muir adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

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



<u>Representation Categories</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Appointee Name</u>
Denton County Commissioners Court <i>(1 Representative)</i>	Denton County Precinct # 3	Bobbie J. Mitchell
Municipal Governments <i>(1-2 City of Denton, 1-2 City of Lewisville, 1-4 Small Cities and Towns and 1 Carrollton)</i>	City of Denton	Mayor Gerard Hudspeth
	City of Denton	Dani Shaw
	City of Lewisville	Ashleigh Feryan
	City of Lewisville	<i>Councilperson TJ Gilmore</i>
	City of Sanger	<i>Mayor Thomas Muir</i>
	City of Roanoke	Jeriahme Miller
	City of Aubrey	Mayor Pro Tem Dewayne Brawner
	City of Carrollton	VACANT
	Small City/Town	VACANT
Homelessness / Housing Service Providers <i>(6-10 Representatives)</i>	Denton County Friends of the Family	Alice Mankoff
	Metrocrest Services	Andy Folmer
	Giving Hope, Inc.	Michelle Conner
	Our Daily Bread	Emily Taylor
	Christian Community Action	Jim Mustain
	Denton Affordable Housing Corporation	Pat Thomas
	Denton Housing Authority	Sheryl English
	Serve Denton	Stephen Coffey
	Salvation Army Denton	Beckie Wach
Journey to Dream	Angie Cox	
Health Care Providers <i>(2-5 Representatives)</i>	Denton County Health Department	Isabel Rodriguez
	Texas Health Presbyterian	Kathy Srokosz, MS, RN
	Health Services of North Texas	Dale Tampke
	Health Care Provider Representative	VACANT
	Health Care Provider Representative	VACANT
Educational Institutions <i>(1-3 Representatives)</i>	North Central Texas College	Jessica DeRoche, Med. NCC, LPC
	Lewisville Independent School District	Jill Adams, M. Ed, PSC
	Educational Institution Representative	VACANT
Workforce / Business Development <i>(1-3 Representatives)</i>	Denton Chamber of Commerce	John Manganilla
	Workforce/Business Representative	VACANT
	Workforce/Business Representative	VACANT
United Way of Denton County/Backbone Support <i>(1-2 Representatives)</i>	United Way of Denton County Inc.	Lyle Dresher
	United Way of Denton County Inc.	VACANT
Law Enforcement <i>(1-2 Representatives)</i>	Denton Police Department	Preston Pohler
	Law Enforcement Representative	VACANT
Community Members <i>(1-2 Representatives)</i>	Community Member	Terry Widmer
	Community Member	<i>Valerie Foster CEFL</i>

Appointees selected in 2021
Vacant Representative Chairs
<i>Current DCHLT Chair/Co-Chair/ Secretary</i>

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

December 2020 – February 2021

The data dashboard has been updated with January 2021 data and will be updated with February data at the end of the month. As of January 2021, there are currently 284 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. That number breaks down into:

- 23 families
- 261 individuals
- 29 Veteran households
- 88 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

Permanent Supportive Housing is still the highest need regarding housing program types for our community currently with 52.1% of households on the Housing Priority List scoring in that housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown for January 2021 is:

- Diversion Services – 8 households
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 128 households
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 148 households

The data workgroup met in October to discuss previous strategic goals and metrics towards those goals. Many of the metrics have been met:

- Support at minimum, monthly case conferencing and ongoing maintenance of the Master HPL
 - Metric met - The housing workgroup meets biweekly for case conferencing.
- Monthly HPL Dashboard tracking # of intakes, assessments, referrals, inflow, active and outflow
 - Metric met - All are actively being tracked monthly on the Homelessness Data Dashboard.
- Maintain a consistent number of licenses and agencies reporting into HMIS
 - Metric met - Number of licenses and agencies has increased in the last 12 months.
- Provide at least 1,500 hours of data quality training, assistance and HPL support
 - Metric met – UWDC has 1 full time staff member doing this.
- Manage HPL to accurately reflect total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness
 - Metric met – The HPL is updated weekly and there is a Veteran specific case conferencing monthly to discuss the Veterans on the HPL.

With many goals being met, the Data Workgroup was encouraged to begin meeting again on a monthly basis in 2021. During the meeting, the discussion of a racial equity analysis of housing programs was discussed and UWDC staff has reached out to agencies to confirm using their data for the analysis. This will allow the workgroup to have a report that shows inequities, strengths, and gaps in our system to be able to bring the DCHLT and other workgroups to work on systems change in our housing crisis response system.

The workgroup is also exploring 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 February 10, 2021.
- UWDC staff bring back data ideas/findings from reports in HMIS and research from other community's progress after the February meeting.

Accomplishments

- Will be meeting again this quarter, which will be two meetings over the last two quarters.
- Agencies managing clients in hotels are now caught up on entering data into HMIS because of assistance from UWDC staff and the creation of new projects in HMIS to track the data.

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

February 10, 2021

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

December 2020 – February 2021

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 6 times between December 10th and February 10th. During each case conferencing meeting, members discussed clients that each agency is actively working with, including client strengths, barriers and housing-focused next steps.

In December, workgroup members received updates on COVID-related additions to Coordinated Entry, as well as identified households to prioritize for the Denton Housing Authority's Mainstream Program waitlist, which remained open from January 17th-31st.

UWDC convened its last biweekly The Junction-specific Case Conferencing with The Junction and City of Denton staff to assist with prioritization of households for RRH in December. To continue progress made through biweekly meetings and to support the multitude of RRH programs that have become available throughout Denton County in 2021, UWDC has restructured all Case Conferencing meetings with input from workgroup members. General and Veteran workgroup members voted to convene 1-hour Case Conferencing meetings every Monday to support RRH outcomes, where the last Monday of the month is Veteran-specific, rather than 1.5 hour biweekly meetings.

In January, UWDC discussed potentially pursuing a 100-Day Challenge to support Ending Veteran Homelessness, where local RRH providers would prioritize a percentage of their available beds for Veterans. UWDC Backbone Support is examining 100-Day Challenge best practices, identifying implementation needs, and will report back to workgroup members as more information is available. Additionally in January, after workgroup members identified extensive COVID-related wait times (90-120 days) for clients to obtain an ID as the first step towards gaining housing, UWDC Backbone Support identified a workaround with TX DPS (Denton location) to overcome this barrier and shared with workgroup members. DPS will allow workgroup members to bring 3-4 clients 2-3 times per week to their office with advanced email notice in lieu of an appointment through the DPS website.

Short-term action items

- Identify 100-Day Challenge best practices
- Assist in the implementation and understanding of new Coordinated Entry data elements
- Continue to update, revise and improve Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures through monthly meetings with providers
- UWDC to publish portal for HMIS and Data Dashboard-related questions

Accomplishments

- 18 individuals were housed in December 2020 and 6 in January 2021 as reported in HMIS
- Weekly 1-hour Case Conferencing meetings beginning in January
- Coordinated, communitywide action plan to connect clients to DHA Mainstream Voucher Program's open waitlist (Jan 17th-31st)
- Workaround process identified to overcome COVID-related waittimes at DPS to obtain ID/Driver's License

Concerns

- Lack of available PSH/longterm housing interventions for households currently staying in hotels
- Utilization of all available RRH funding

Next Meeting Dates

February 15th, February 22nd, March 1st, March 8th

DCHLT Housing Workgroup December 2021 - February 2021

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

December 2020 – February 2021

The Denton County Homeless Coalition did not meet in December due to the holidays but did convene in January 2021. During the meeting 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 closure of the Covid Relief Fund and the 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 Fund has assisted 251 households since it's inception. Currently agencies are submitting all of their final Barriers Fund Reimbursement requests from 1/2020 to 11/2020 in order to go into 2021 with accurate dollar amounts in the Barriers Fund. UWDC staff has assisted agencies with lists of requests not submitted to date.
- An update on the planning progress for the 2021 PIT Count was given:
 - The PIT Count will consist of a small group of staff surveying at the sheltered locations in Denton County, the unsheltered surveys were canceled for 2021.
 - UWDC was gifted 300+ bags for the Point in Time Count and will assist in giving sheltered clients bags during or after their survey. UWDC staff will deliver bags to various other agencies with clients living unsheltered in order to disperse the bags appropriately.
 - A concern discussed is data collected during this year's PIT Count will likely not be indicative of the need in Denton County and will not be able to accurately be compared to years prior or years in the future.
- The Coalition reviewed guidance from UWDC's attorneys in regard to the draft grievance policy. The attorneys recommended and DCHC agreed to, asking agencies for their grievance policy, listing them as a resource by DCHC and having a grievance process that follows that if the community member is unsatisfied. UWDC is currently working to edit the policy, request agency grievance and establish an appeal process, and making an infographic to explain the process.

Short-term action items

Update and implement potential Grievance policy.

Accomplishments

2021 PIT Count is complete.

Denton County Homelessness Barriers Fund has assisted over 250 households!

Concerns

Data accuracy for community in regard to HMIS and the PIT Count.

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

Next Meeting Dates

February 24th

DCHLT Denton County Homeless Coalition Workgroup December 2020 – February 2021

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

December 2020 – February 2021

The DCBHLT Veterans Workgroup met December 10th and January 14th. The December meeting discussed staff transition, an update on the Veteran Stability Program and future ideas for the engaging and supporting isolated and/or ageing Veterans. The January meeting focused on reviewing the workgroup's strategic plans as well as discussing the goal to end Veteran homelessness. In both meetings the workgroup focused on opportunities for training and improvement in Veteran services in Denton County. The DCBHLT Veterans Workgroup determined meeting bimonthly would work better for their plans and activities.

The possibility of a 100-day challenge was visited and UWDC staff is following up with agencies to gauge interest in January/February. If the 100-day challenge is initiated, specific 100-day challenge meetings would occur. UWDC staff is researching other communities best practices currently and is planning to potentially propose a March to May 2021 100 day challenge. Denton County housing programs are potentially looking at having 7 Rapid Rehousing Programs live at the same time (until July 2021), 2 different voucher options open and 2 PSH programs, giving an abnormally large amount of housing assistance for a short amount of time.

UWDC participated in a collaborative conversation between the following partners; Denton County Veteran Community Navigators, Recovery Resource Council and the Department of Veteran Affairs out of Fort Worth in January. The group met to determine next steps for clients utilizing RRC's RRH program and/or staying in hotels funded by RRC, as well as plans to utilize the 15 new HUD-VASH vouchers awarded in Jan 2021. This meeting was conducted outside of the Veteran case conferencing as many people discussed were not experiencing literal homelessness. UWDC continues to host case conferencing meetings where 1 monthly is dedicated to Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Denton County Veteran Stability Program has continued to exceed their performance measures. This program has filled the need of homelessness prevention in Denton County for Veterans and will be a vital part of stability once Veteran homelessness has ended.

Six Veterans have been housed and two Veterans have been identified since December 2020. There are currently 29 Veteran households on the HPL as of end of January 2021.

Short-term action items

Plan a possible 100-day challenge

Accomplishments

Denton County Veteran Stability Program has continued to serve more Veterans than anticipated.

A collaborative conversation between partners allowed for more plans towards success.

Concerns

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

Next Meeting Dates

February 11th