



**Thursday, June 10th, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference**

Agenda

I.	Welcome & Consideration of April 2021 Minutes	Co-Chair	2 min.
II.	Metro Relief Introduction and Appointee Selection – VOTE	K. Besly	10 min.
III.	Virtual or In Person Meetings – VOTE	Co-Chair	5 min.
IV.	COVID-19 Response Update	E. Lusk	10 min.
V.	Strategic Planning	E. Lusk	5 min.
VI.	Emergency Housing Voucher Planning	E. Lusk	5 min.
VII.	Workgroup Updates		30 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denton County Homeless Coalition • Housing • Data • Ending Veteran Homelessness • Other Workgroups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Adams T. Widmer M. Fink E. Lusk E. Lusk 	
VIII.	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 		
IX.	Public Comment	Co-Chair	5 min.
X.	New Business	Co-Chair	5 min.
XI.	Adjourn	Co-Chair	2 min.

**Next Meeting Date:
Thursday, August 12th, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | To Be Determined**





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

Appointees/Ex-Officios Present: Angie Cox, Ashleigh Feryan, Beckie Wach, Dale Tampke, Dani Shaw, Emily Taylor, Gary Henderson (ex-officio), Isabel Rodriguez, Jeriahme Miller, Jessica DeRoche, Kathy Srokosz, Lyle Drescher, Pat Thomas, Preston Pohler, Sheryl English, Terry Widmer, Mayor TJ Gilmore, and Valerie Foster.

Appointees Absent: Alice Mankoff (regrets), Andy Folmer (regrets), Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Mayor Pro Tem Dewayne Brawner, Mayor Gerard Hudspeth, Jill Adams (regrets), Jim Mustain, John Manganilla, Michelle Conner, Stephen Coffey (regrets), and Mayor Thomas Muir.

Guests: Amanda Adams (United Way of Denton County), 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), Ginny Brundeen (United Way of Denton County), Hope Rodgers (United Way of Denton County), Madeline Fink (United Way of Denton County), Megan Ball (United Way of Denton County), Melanie Torres (Congressman Burgess' Office), Mendie White, Olivia Williams (United Way of Denton County), Sarah Kuechler (City of Denton), Shanan Spencer (United Way of Denton County), Taylor Howard (United Way of Denton County), and Theodore Yan (United Way of Denton County).

Welcome & Consideration of February 2021 Minutes

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve February 2021 Minutes.

Motion: Valerie Foster Second: Dale Tampke Motion was approved.

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) continuing to work together to deploy Consolidated Appropriations Act funding with the same structure the COVID Relief Fund program built in 2020. Funding began being deployed March 8th. Displaying data of progress thus far with the program one month in, after all agencies having to rehire to begin operating the program again after COVID Relief Fund closed in January.

Gary noted that UWDC will be marketing the program heavily as well making notice in the community that the eviction moratorium is no longer legally in place, but funding is available to keep residents in their housing. An update on all other programs related to housing and housing prevention funding was given as follows.

- City of Denton was awarded around \$1.5 million for ESG CV1 and have continued to work with 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 was 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. UWDC submitted a budget amendment to effectively switch the focus of their ESG CV funding from 78% focused on HP to that 78% being focused on RRH. With confirmation from TDHCA, UWDC will deploy enough funding to house 150 people. 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 worked with United Way of Denton County to deploy those funds and have them allocated before July 31st, 2021. All funding from both funding streams have been allocated to residents in both areas in the first 2 months of funding be in place.

City of Denton Affordable Housing Study Presentation

Dani Shaw presented an abbreviated version of the City of Denton’s Affordable Housing Needs and Market Value Analysis Report by the Community Services Department. Reinvestment Fund and Atria Planning assisted in this report by gathering the data and information in City of Denton as well as assisting in forming recommendations for improvements based on information collected. Key findings included:

- Current or potential homeowners who earn less than 80% of Area Median Income cannot afford to pay more than \$200,000 for a home and there are very few affordable options in Denton currently for this market.
- Market rents are unaffordable to many necessary workers earning less than 50% Area Median Income, who cannot afford to pay more than \$900 a month in rent. The pool of available units in this market is low as well.
- Households on fixed income may struggle with current housing costs as well.
- In the next 5 years City of Denton is projected to need 9,494 new affordable and market rate units available.
- Recommendations were that deeper subsidies for households 50% or below can access is needed as well as a possible solution of developing a larger supply of smaller units (condos, townhomes, accessory dwelling units, etc.) to make home ownership a reality for residents.

The full presentation was sent to Leadership Team appointees following the meeting for all details involved. Mayor Gilmore mentioned that City of Lewisville is working on ramping back up their plans for a similar data analysis and report coming soon.

Workgroup Updates

Denton County Homeless Coalition

Daphne Adams provided an update on the Denton County Homeless Coalition. Denton County Homeless Coalition representatives from multiple agencies in the community participated in the 2021 Homelessness Awareness Day hosted by Texas Homeless Network recently. The day was virtual and allowed for our community to express how bills coming up in the Legislative Session would effect our community and homelessness services. The Continuum of Care has not met since the previous HLT meeting, but they are currently working on updating their Strategic Plan and more information will come in the future. The Barriers Fund is open to Lewisville residents, Denton residents and Atmos customers currently. 283 households have been served to date through the fund.

Housing

Terry Widmer provided a Housing Workgroup update. The Housing Workgroup has continued to meet weekly. 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 the 100 Day Challenge for Veterans that just began April 1st. The case managers in the community are all working diligently with Amanda Adams, UWDC’s Housing Navigator, to spend down all funding their agencies have received in the last several months. Amanda gave a brief update on what her role is in the community and how she helps.

Data

Megan Ball announced that her position at UWDC has changed to be involved in the new Rapid Rehousing program and Madeline Fink from UWDC has taken on her previous role. Megan Ball presented data from the Denton County Homelessness Data Dashboard from end of March 2021; 263 households experiencing homelessness, 17 households are Veterans, 79 households are experiencing chronic homelessness, and 11 of the households were actively fleeing domestic violence while experiencing homelessness. The rest of the data breakdown shown on the dashboard was presented as well.



Gary Henderson suggested having a breakdown of racial inequities in program services being helpful and Megan agreed and noted the Data Workgroup has been discussing how they can do this in the best way possible for future months. The Data Workgroup met in March and discussed the System Performance Measures listed on the dashboard and how to incorporate more into the dashboard in the coming months.

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Elena Lusk provided an update on Ending Veteran Homelessness in Denton County. Elena described Denton County having large increase in available funding leading to the Leadership Team capitalizing on the opportunity to have a 100 Day Challenge. Elena briefly explained what a 100-day challenge is and the timeline April 1st – July 10th. Elena gave an update that in the first week of the challenge the community has gotten 1 Veteran into housing already and walked through the website for the challenge so people can stay up to date and engaged in the future.

Health Care Collaborative

Elena Lusk provided a brief update that the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Jail Diversion Workgroup may be a good fit for this workgroup to collaborate their work and make discharge planning across the sectors in our community.

Affordable Housing - No updates currently.

Backbone Support Update

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

Gary Henderson provided an update on behalf of Shanana for DCBHLT. UWDC has been in contact with UBH recently about more involvement on the Leadership Team with an appointee coming on soon to represent them. The Jail Diversion Workgroup has begun meeting more regularly again and their Lake Cities pilot with law enforcement in that area is showing promise.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team

Olivia Williams provided an update on Workforce Success Leadership Team. The DCWSLT has been focusing largely on access to childcare for households wanting to return or reengage with the workforce. They are partnering with DCFOF to create their family justice center that will incorporate some gaps they have been noticing collectively.

Public Comment

UWDC has hired another Rapid Rehousing Case Manager, Taylor Howard. UWDC, City of Denton and the Denton County Public Health Department are working on vaccine plans for folks experiencing homelessness to gain access to vaccines.

New Business

Dani Shaw announced that Denton City Council has approved moving forward on construction on the Loop 288 Building as a future home for the now joint agency of The Junction.

Adjournment

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore entertained a motion to adjourn.
Terry Widmer motioned. Dani Shaw seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, June 10th, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Zoom Video Conference



DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

April 2021 – June 2021

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met in April and May 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 308 households since its inception. There is current plans in the works for fundraising opportunities for the Barriers Fund moving forward. The Barriers Fund is open to Lewisville and Denton residents, Denton County Veterans, and Atmos Customers in need.
 - A future data report on clients that received Barriers Fund assistance is possible in the coming months.
- An update on the Annual Data Report was had in May. The report will look differently, and we are looking to have an in-person reveal of the data as a possible fundraiser in August. There are a couple of coalition members interested in reviewing the report more in depth and also in the planning of the event before then.
- The Coalition has continued to move 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.

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

June 23rd

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

April 2021 – June 2021

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 8 times between April 8th and June 10th where 4 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, 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, workgroup members assigned themselves to 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 to support our 100 Day Challenge. Members also began to discuss and document 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 estimate the housing program best suited for their needs and approximate length of assistance needed to assist with long-term planning and stability.

In the first June General meeting, workgroup members reviewed and updated portions of Denton County's Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures and will continue to review and update the document in future meetings

Short-term action items

- Continue to support, conduct outreach, and overcome barriers to housing for individuals on HPL, with a special focus on Veterans in support of the 100 Day Challenge.
- Continue to update, revise and improve Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures through monthly meetings with providers.

Accomplishments

- Strong communication amongst RRH providers; RRH recipients requesting additional referrals from providers during Case Conferencing as space becomes available in each program
- Housing-focused and/or Veteran-focused service provider teams assigned to each active Veteran on HPL

Concerns

- Utilization of all available RRH funds
- Veterans entering and exiting our Housing Crisis Response System

Next Meeting Dates

June 14th, June 21st, June 28th, July 12th, July 19th, July 26th, August 2nd, August 9th

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

April 2021 – May 2021

The data dashboard has been updated with April 2021 data and will be updated with May data at the beginning of next month. As of April 2021, there are currently 279 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. That number breaks down into:

- 21 families
- 258 individuals
- 18 Veteran households
- 80 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

Rapid Re-Housing is still the highest need regarding housing program types for our community currently with 57.3% of households on the Housing Priority List as of April 2021 scoring in that housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown for April 2021 is:

- Diversion Services – 32 households (11.5%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 160 households (57.3%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 87 households (31.2%)

The data workgroup met in April to discuss the transition of responsibilities for the data dashboard and HPL from United Way of Denton County employee Megan Ball to employee Madeline Fink. They also discussed the System Performance Measure addressing the length of time experiencing homelessness that 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. Ideas to expand this section of the dashboard are still being discussed by the workgroup and UWDC staff.

System Performance Measure	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21
Number of households experiencing homelessness	412	414	284	261	263	279
Average Length of Time Homeless (days)	306	455	108	370	96	245
First time experiencing homelessness	25	16	20	33	37	33
Returns to homelessness from housing	0	1	0	0	1	1

The workgroup and UWDC are also discussing ways to add more information related to Racial Equity to the data dashboard. While the dashboard does display the race and ethnicity of individuals experiencing homelessness in Denton County, some other ideas include breaking down the number of housed individuals each month by race/ethnicity and adding more contextual information to the dashboard to explain how structural inequalities affect homelessness. This will be a long-term project to be tackled in the coming months.

Short-term action items

- Plan next meeting for June 9, 2021.
- New UWDC Homelessness Initiatives staff will continue to learn the process of updating and maintaining the HPL and the online data dashboard by updating it with May data at the beginning of June.

Accomplishments

- Additional System Performance Measures now being displayed on the data dashboard.

Concerns

- An ongoing concern is that 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

June 9, 2021

[View this email in your browser](#)



END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN DENTON COUNTY

In the first 30 days of Denton County's 100-Day Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness we...

• **MOVED** •

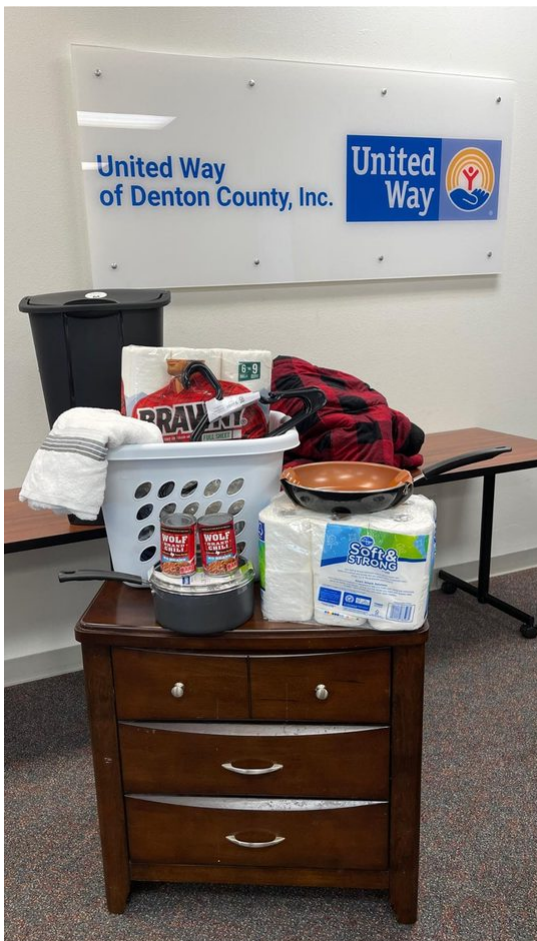
6 Veterans into housing through collaboration of 13 Denton County housing and homelessness non-profit partners!



With the help of five agencies working together as a team, this Veteran who had been experiencing homelessness for over 7 years was able to move in with a permanent housing solution this past month.



• RECEIVED •



Each Veteran moving into housing has an option of receiving available furniture donated or a full Welcome Home Kit to kick start their new journey! Each kit includes bare necessities of new housing; kitchen utensils, bathroom essentials, laundry needs, and more!

[Learn More](#)

Local Case Managers came by United Way of Denton County to pick up Welcome Home kit items for their Veterans who had just moved in.



• HOSTED •

Each Tuesday at 2 pm a virtual community meeting is hosted and all are welcome to attend. Progress on our goal, opportunities for improvement, and ideas are discussed weekly to make sure we are doing all we can to meet our goal.



Join future meetings by clicking the Zoom link below:

• PLANNED •

**END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
IN DENTON COUNTY**
100-DAY CHALLENGE

LANDLORDS OF DENTON COUNTY

Thursday,
May 27th at 4:30 PM

Learn about:

- Veteran Homelessness in Denton
- How you can help your community and your business at the same time

Join us on
Facebook Live!
@PointInTimeCount

DENTON COUNTY
HOMELESS
COALITION

Join us and share the event with your local landlords or property managers. We will be talking about the 100-Day Challenge and what we need help with, answering frequently asked questions, and encouraging support from our community to help our Veterans find the best housing for them.

[Visit the event page on Facebook](#)

• Created •

recognition and thanks for helping End veteran Homelessness in Denton County, stickers were made so they can show their support in the community. Community members who donate Welcome Home Kit items, furniture, time moving, and monetarily are all provided a sticker for their support. All of our local staff working in agencies receive one as well!



• Encouraged •

In order to help Veterans overcome barriers to housing, a Veteran Homelessness Barriers Fund was created. This fund is a fund of last resort and is utilized for

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their housing when no other program can supplement the cost. Some items the fund has been able to help with in the past are; paying for an ID renewal, paying for an admin fee being charged by an apartment in order to move in, paying for furniture when there are no donations, and more.

[Donate Today!](#)

Learn other ways to get involved or follow along by visiting our website or our Facebook page today.



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