



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

Hybrid Meeting

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

Virtual – Zoom Video Conference Link Attached in Email

Agenda:

I.	Welcome	Chair	5 min.
II.	April Meeting Minutes	Chair	3 min.
	• VOTE – Approval of meeting minutes		
III.	Appointee Approval PT. 1 - 2022 - 2024	Chair	5 min.
	• VOTE – Approval of first half of DCHLT appointees		
IV.	DCHLT Agency Highlight – Giving Hope and Grace Like Rain	L. Christon	10 min.
V.	Workgroup Updates		15 min.
	• Housing	E. Lusk	
	• Denton County Homeless Coalition Update	D. Adams	
	• Data	L. Atkinson	
VI.	State of Homelessness – Future Initiatives	E. Lusk	20 min.
	• Current Overview		
	• Diversion Ad-hoc Committee		
VII.	Backbone Support Update	UWDC	15 min.
	• UWDC Homelessness Initiatives / Covid Response Update		
	• Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update		
	• Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update		
VIII.	Hybrid Meeting Status	Chair	5 min.
IX.	Public Comment	Chair	5 min.
X.	New Business	Chair	5 min.
XI.	Adjourn	Chair	2 min.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, August 11th, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Hybrid Meeting

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Date: April 14th, 2022 - 8 to 9:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting

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

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Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Chair Mayor Thomas Muir stated that the meeting began at 8:04 AM.

April Meeting Minutes

Chair Mayor Thomas Muir stated that the Leadership Team skipped meeting minutes. Elena Lusk will send recording, PowerPoint, and a vote for meeting minutes.

Meeting minutes were approved via email poll following the meeting.

Appointee 2022 - 2024

Nominating Committee Selection

Chair Mayor Thomas Muir and Elena Lusk began discussion on selecting a Co-Chair to replace Mayor Gilmore leaving DCHLT. Discussion from appointees was had on reviewing current gaps in appointees. Select appointees volunteered to convene in a nominating committee in order to continue conversation and select new Co-Chair for DCHLT.

Workgroup Updates:

Housing - Denton County Initiatives Recap Workshops

Terry Widmer and Elena Lusk discussed the housing workgroup updates. Terry Widmer reported updates on the new process of case conferencing meetings which now allots time to discuss new clients on the housing priority list, clients who are stagnant within the program, agencies to discuss difficult client cases, and client successes. The group will continue to meet weekly with two general case conferences and two veteran case conferences. Terry Widmer also expressed concern of the difficulty of communicating the updates and purpose of case conferencing to the greatly expanded staff who attend case conferences as a result of COVID-19 related funding.

Elena Lusk added that the work group had workshops with the direct agencies in March because there was a lack of participation and understanding of why there was case conferencing. Elena briefly presented on the Housing Crisis Response system workshop PowerPoint shared to providers in workshops and opened the floor to questions. No questions were asked, but discussion reviewing the Housing Updates took place.

Data Workgroup

Elena Lusk reported that the Data Workgroup last met in January and that the staff person taking on that role after the departure of previous staff person is still receiving training. Elena walked through the dashboard for Feb. 2022. Team discussed possible causes for increase in homelessness reports.

Denton County Homeless Coalition

Elena Lusk discussed the PIT count that occurred in January. PIT data to be confirmed. Elena also discussed the success of the first annual Homelessness Memorial from March.

Backbone Support Updates:

UWDC Homelessness Initiatives

Elena Lusk reported that the grant supporting the Rapid Rehousing Team and Homeless Prevention Team has been extended until the end of Sept. Eviction Prevention's remains in operation after shutting down for a month due to transitioning to using the Neighborly app. The following discussion addressed funding, ERA-1 remaining funds, the plan to use ERA-2 funds when the ERA-1 funds run out, and ERA-2 funds are expected to last mid to late 2023.

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update

Shanan Spencer discussed the team is preparing for May which is Mental Health Awareness Month, reported the team is working with municipalities to make mental health proclamations in April, work groups are progressing, mental health navigators are gathering data.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update

Olivia Mata-Williams reported that she has been meeting with county businesses that match the top 25 Texas labor analysis for North Central Texas to discuss how those businesses are struggling. Olivia Mata-Williams reported United Way of Houston utilizing the US Chamber of Commerce model and UWDC's plan to implement it. Olivia and an Our Daily Bread plan to discuss their Ready To Work Plan.

Public Comment

Dani Shaw reported that the City of Denton issued a RFI for a tiny home project and the feedback requesting for information from submissions to City Council on April 19th.

Michelle Connor reported that Grace Like Rain and Giving Hope are hosting a community forum on homelessness in the City Council Chambers next Thursday night. Additionally, that the land in McKinney and Mayhill for the Love First Community passed planning and zoning with City Council last week

New Business - No new business was introduced.

Meeting Adjourned – Chair Mayor Thomas Muir declared the meeting adjourned at 9:16 AM

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

April 2022 – June 2022

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 8 times between April 2022 and June 2022 for Case Conferencing. During each case conferencing meeting, members discussed clients that each agency is actively working with, including client strengths, barriers and housing-focused actionable 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 community wide data, as well as receive training and guidance on how to document a client's "housed" status in HMIS.

In the month of April UWDC staff implemented the agreed upon goals from March's Case Conferencing Workshops. Each Case Conferencing provided time to do a quick training, talk about clients with the longest length of homelessness, talk about clients with the shortest length of homelessness, clients agencies wanted to speak about specifically, and time to follow up from the previous meeting. To uphold fair treatment of individuals on the priority list regarding time spent on each category, the order of the list was reversed for the third and fourth Monday Case Conferencing of each month.

Case Conferencing for April and May included both in person and virtual participation, with the majority of attendance being held virtually. The average attendance for each Case Conference was about 28 attendees. UWDC re-implemented sending out an agenda the Wednesday before each Case Conferencing in the month of May. This agenda included the order in which categories of the HPL would be discussed, specific HMIS numbers that would be reviewed, and the confidentiality statement for all agencies participating in Case Conferencing to uphold. The confidentiality statement was verbally reviewed and discussed during the 3rd and 4th Monday Case Conferences of May as a refresher to all participating agencies. The goal of re-establishing an agenda prior to each week's meeting was to allow agency staff to review each HMIS number prior to Case Conferencing; Therefore, creating the most efficient and proactive space to discuss clients.

Housing Workgroup will continue to meet Mondays from 3-4 PM with a hybrid option either in person at United Way of Denton County or virtually via Zoom for 90 days/through June. Group will revisit June 13th to discuss whether hybrid will continue to be an option.

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

Short-term action items

- Review and discuss Diversion Rollout

Accomplishments

- Successfully implemented new agenda that was established in March workshops
- Reviewed confidentiality notice in Veteran and General Case Conferencing

Concerns

- Service provider capacity to conduct follow up on action items identified in Case Conferencing
- Ability to remain in contact / locate clients with little means of communication and transportation for service follow up

Next Meeting Dates

June 13th, June 27th, July 11th, July 18th, July 25th

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

April 2022 – June 2022

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met twice from April 2022 to June 2022.

The following was discussed:

- The Coalition was updated on current data related to people experiencing homelessness in Denton County. Based on the most recent information available, there are 566 households on the Housing Priority List that includes 67 families, 499 individuals, 32 people fleeing domestic violence, 18 veteran households, and 193 households experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Local homelessness fund/resources were currently discussed. All agencies reported being "at capacity" (or close to it) and, in most cases, unable to take on new clients at this time.
- The Barriers Fund fundraising committee has begun meeting to brainstorm strategies to help facilitate ongoing cash donations. Current plans involve monetization the PIT data reveal, engaging local businesses via chambers of commerce in Denton and Lewisville to encourage point-of-sale fundraising campaigns, as well as a possible 5K trail race in 2023.

Short-term action items

Solidify plans for donation opportunities for the Barriers Fund.

Accomplishments

DCHC completed two consecutive in-person meetings for the first time since the pandemic began in 2020.

Concerns

Lack of resources and the increase in homelessness among families with children.

Next Meeting Dates

June 29th, 2022.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

March 2022 – June 2022

The data dashboard has been updated with data from March and April 2022. As of April 2022, there are currently 566 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. The 566 total number for December breaks down into:

- 67 families
- 499 individuals
- 32 fleeing domestic violence
- 18 Veteran households
- 193 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

The number of new assessments recorded in April 2022 was 67. Overall, the number of new assessments per month had been approximately holding steady since December of 2021.

Denton County school districts' data was most recently updated in February 2022. The two largest school districts reported the following numbers:

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

Rapid Re-Housing continues to be the highest need regarding housing program types for our community currently with 49.5% of households on the Housing Priority List as of April 2022 scoring in that housing intervention range. Permanent Supportive Housing need is still following closely behind with 46.3% scoring in the PSH housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown:

- Diversion Services – 24 households (4.2%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 280 households (49.5%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 262 households (46.3%)

The data workgroup met in May to make plans for moving forward. Most of the December meeting was spent on Strategic Planning, beginning with a review of strategic goals and metrics established in 2018. The workgroup still agreed that many of the past data-related strategic planning metrics, such as metrics related to Case Conferencing, HMIS, and HPL maintenance, had been met or were in progress. Primary discussion revolved around adjusting of the way 'length of time homeless' system performance metric is measured.

The annual Point in Time (PIT) Count was held on January 27, 2022. Though there were many challenges due to staffing shortages and COVID-19 concerns, the count was carried out successfully. Results of the PIT Count have been received from THN and UWDC is building a comprehensive report to present to the community.

Previous Homelessness Data Management Specialist at UWDC left UWDC for new position at partner agency. The new specialist is Leia Atkinson.

Short-term action items

- Update Data Dashboard for May 2022.
- Explore other ways to measure 'Length of Time Homeless'
- Plan for PIT data reveal.

Accomplishments

DCHLT Data Workgroup April 2022 – June 2022

- Data Dashboard has been updated for April 2022 by new Homelessness Data Management Specialist
- PIT Count was completed successfully on January 27, 2022.

Concerns

- Overall homelessness numbers are high, with 566 households on the HPL compared to 279 in the same month in 2021, and 336 in 2020. More research is needed to determine the causes of this increase. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely a contributing factor, and we are still learning the full extent of its impact. However, this month marks the first decrease in total active households since February 2021
- Data accuracy from agencies utilizing HMIS continues to be a concern UWDC staff supports in resolving.