Wake County Continuum of Care

Membership Meeting

January 29, 2023

Attendees – See end of this document for sign-in sheet.

Stephen Gruver, Chair of the Governance Committee, welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

2024 - 2025 Annual Action Plan - Wake County/City of Raleigh

Diana Youssef from Wake County and Will Hartye from the City of Raleigh shared information about the upcoming Annual Action Plan (AAP). The city and the county develop an AAP to get feedback and to share how federal HUD entitlement funding will be used to support affordable housing and community development. This plan directly aligns with the City and County's 5-year Consolidated Plan (an assessment of the local housing and community development needs and how federal funds will be used to develop them).

Will and Diana each shared the city/county's goals and priorities, how HUD funds are being spent for fiscal year 23-24 and the timeline for the plan's approval. See attached slide show for details about the presentation. Please see the City of Raleigh's website for more opportunities for public comment. Please email Diana Youssef (diana.youssef@wake.gov) with any feedback for Wake County.

Will and Diana asked for feedback from the CoC.

Feedback/Question and Answer Annual Action Plan

Rick Miller Harraway, with Oak City Cares, asked a question related to affordable housing along the new bus rapid transit corridors (New Bern Ave.) – Are any of these funds being allocated for land acquisition along the New Bern corridor? Will shared that a big part of the City's housing bond was for land acquisition for affordable housing particularly along transit corridors (ex. Purchase of Milner Church on New Bern); Rick recommended that they develop more affordable housing for those that are at 30% of AMI or less. Will is going to follow up but noted that some of the bond funding has been allocated to create housing for those at 30% AMI or lower.

Daquanta Copland, Wake County, asked if there is a place where we can get information about the City's housing development and housing rehabilitation programs. Will shared that the City of Raleigh Housing page has much of this information.

Michelle Wood (individual member) – asked if there is a plan to fund more affordable housing developments using more housing credits or soft funds; Will responded that the City contributes gap funding to keep affordable housing projects moving. Michelle mentioned a lot of developers not coming here because it takes time to get a project up and running through HUD (2-3 years); Will mentioned that while the City can't control the pace of HUD and other agencies, the City has worked on cutting the time that it takes to get a development approved; given current market conditions, it costs a lot up front to develop here.

Johnnie Thomas (individual member with lived experience) His understanding is that developers are supposed to create affordable housing. All the development and increasing prices are pushing people to the outskirts of the county but there is not public transportation for them. The recent tax increase on real estate is going is going to impact and displace people, particularly people of color.

Morgan Mansa, Deputy Director of Housing at Wake County, shared with the group that state law prohibits any municipality from requiring that developers set aside a certain number of units for affordable housing (like is done in other states). Municipalities can put incentives in place for development but because we are not a home rule state, we do not have the authority to impose this requirement. She also shared that because Wake County and the City of Raleigh will be launching the Consolidated Planning process for the next five years, which confirms the housing and community development priorities for our communities, this process is a good opportunity to tell HUD and federal government that displacement is an issue in our community. She encouraged everyone to be a part of the consolidated plan so that over the next 5 years to utilize these dollars to help with the issues discussed here. She also shared that Wake County wants to partner and have conversations with all the municipalities in Wake County. Diana Youssef shared that the consolidated planning process is happening in the fall.

Najla Munshower, Veteran's Services Supervisor, Wake County asked if anyone is tracking the incentives that are given to help veterans buy housing? No one knew of any groups that are doing this.

Committee Updates

Stephen provided written Committee updates (see end of this document for written updates). He highlighted the need for more members on the committees so that we can make sure that we are most effective. We particularly need people for the Funding Review Committee (you can't be on this committee if your agency gets funding) and the Racial Equity Committee. Applications are on the CoC website – wake507nc.org.

Point-in-Time Count

Point in Time Count – Jenn Von Egidy gave an update on the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. The count was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. There is preliminary data available to share from the surveys collected. Emergency Shelters should make sure to update their entries into HMIS asap, so Bitfocus can help run our report for the PIT. The PIT Count is held across the country and provides valuable data that does a lot of things for our community (highlights needs and gaps in services). The PIT Work Group has some next steps:

- debrief session-what went well, what didn't go well.
- filter through the list of follow-ups from count. how do we do follow up with the 123 people that want it.
- Continue as the Street Outreach workgroup.

Question – where did we go outside of Raleigh? Only into Cary/Apex area. Due to the decline in Street Outreach professionals, we were not able to get outreach workers to help in more areas. In the future it would be great to go out to municipalities.

Questions – can we see the questions on the survey? Survey will be posted on the website.

HMIS update

Stephen provided an update. The Request for Proposals is on the website until Feb 16th, please apply if you are interested; Peter Morris has shared the user policy agreement and the QSOBAA – please make sure to sign up; HMIS users complete privacy training by Feb. 16th.

Charter Review Committee

Eric Braun, heading Charter Review Committee provided an update; the committee reviewed charters around the country and found that they are all very different. Our charter must be in compliance with federal regulations and the committee wants to keep it very simple, so everyone understands it. Next steps – draft updates will be given to HUD TA, then to the Governance Committee and then to the full membership for review and approval. Stephen encouraged everyone to review it when it comes out.

New board member vote

The Nominations Committee put forth a candidate for the Governance Committee, Derwin Willoughby. He shared his experience and reasons why he would like to be on the board:

Has over 10 years' experience with a Housing Choice Voucher and credits the Alliance of AIDS services for helping him avoid literal homelessness. Derwin actively advocates for many of his friends who are experiencing homelessness. He is retired and on disability. Derwin has a passion for helping others who are homeless and LGBT and expressed an interest in representing both groups on the CoC Board.

Eric Braun made a motion to accept Mr. Willoughby as a Governance board member, Barkley Sample seconded the motion. The membership unanimously voted for Mr. Willoughby onto the board.

Other

There was a brief discussion about encampments in our area. Stephen mentioned that the City of Raleigh will be doing a presentation about this within the next few months at our membership meeting.

There was also a discussion about the Housing Choice Voucher program. There has been some difficulty getting vouchers for individuals on a fixed income. Stephen mentioned that there is a lot of work to be done around coordinated entry and prioritization to access housing resources. He mentioned that the CAS Committee is working on some of this and encouraged people to join the committee.

Meeting was adjourned around 3:30pm

Scroll down for committee updates and sign-in sheet.

CoC Committee Updates

For CoC Membership meeting: January 29, 2024

Coordinated Access System Committee (CASC)

Chair: Rebekah Shamberger

The Coordinated Access System Committee will be focused on updating our system's Coordinated Entry policies and procedures. They will also work to change the assessment and prioritization process and pilot the changes this year.

Data Advisory Committee (DAC)

Chair: Thurston Alexander-Smith

The Data Advisory Committee has assembled a committee for the HMIS RFP (and is looking for additional interested folks to serve as members of this work group). Their work this year will consist of identifying a new HMIS lead, reviewing current policies and procedures, executing a new Coordinated Entry evaluation tool, and creating an HMIS budget.

Funding Review Committee (FRC):

Co-Chairs: Michelle Grant and Meredith Yuckman

The Funding Review Committee will be revising the score card for ESG and NOFO funds for this year's application cycle. The committee will begin meeting in March to provide orientation for new members and establish regular meetings.

Homelessness Emergency Response Committee (HERC):

Chair: Pastor Vance Haywood

The Homelessness Emergency Response Committee was reactivated late last year. Its first action was to declare a homelessness state of emergency for our community. In the coming year, the committee will review what other metrics we should consider for declaring White Flag.

Racial Equity Committee:

Co-Chairs: DaQuanta Copeland and Johnnie Thomas

The first meeting of the Racial Equity Committee was held on January 16 virtually. Regular meetings have been scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month.

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