

Wake County Continuum of Care

Membership Meeting

March 18, 2024

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

Meeting start: 2:02 PM

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

City of Raleigh Updates and Encampment Response Strategy

John Niffenegger, City of Raleigh Federal Programs Manager, presented. He shared the definitions of homelessness and how the City of Raleigh is focusing on affordability in terms of homelessness. Raleigh is seeing an increase in homelessness and the City is using the practice of housing first and not housing only. One potential initiative being explored is a flexible rent assistance program that would offer a displacement preference and community benefits such as neighborhood mobility. The City is hoping to continue its Prevention and Diversion program.

Encampment strategy: 2007-2017 all 50 states saw a 1,342% increase in unique encampments. Sometimes shelters' hours are not compatible with people's work schedules, do not allow pets, etc. Encampments are increasing in Raleigh, and the City is working to develop a strategy to connect those living unsheltered to permanent housing and services. Developing such a strategy would involve inter-agency collaboration, working with the people living in the encampments to create a solution, and using data-driven collective action.

The City will be releasing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to secure a consultant to help develop a response strategy. They are asking for CoC support on this solution.

Q. Eric Braun: Is there a lack of funding for diversion and rehab programs?

A. John Niffenegger: In terms of the diversion programs, the City launched a pilot program in Jan. 2023 which was funded by ARPA (Covid one-time funding). There is no identified funding source yet for the future. Rehab and repairs funding have a recurring funding source. There is an upcoming public meeting for the Annual Action Plan. If CoC members want to speak about the need for diversion funding, this is a good place to do so.

Q. Johnnie Thomas: Is the County going to be part of the encampment response?

A. John Niffenegger: The City works closely with the County on housing matters. David Harris also responded that the County is particularly focused on Street Outreach as an approach to reducing encampments.

John introduced Emila Sutton, the new Housing and Neighborhoods Director for the City of Raleigh.

John announced a fair housing training that will be offered May 8th in Raleigh Municipal Building.

Stephen Gruver explained that the encampment strategy is in the early stages of development and we wanted John and Emila to give an overview of the plan and what the City has now. Stephen called for public comments, reviews, and feedback as this unfolds, as it all helps.

More on this topic can be found in the meeting PowerPoint found on the CoC website.

Partner Spotlight: Hope Renovations

Sarah Campbell: Hope Renovations offers trades training for women and gender expansive individuals; over the age of 18 that are paid and help them move onto professional job trainings. Hope Renovations is working with Wake Tech to provide the training for the first Raleigh cohort.

Cat Byrne, Training Success Specialist at Hope Renovations presents: They help bridge the transition for individuals from their training program into the work force. Cat is a graduate from the program and shared some of her personal experiences. Hope Renovations focuses on building futures and transforming lives. They provide repairs and renovations for older individuals to help aging in place, as well as create trades workers. Cat went over the statistics of women in the trades. They are looking to close the gender gaps found in the trades. The program is geared to beginners, but they do have people who come in with some experience. Cat welcomed people to reach out if they have any questions: cat@hoperenovations.org.

Q&A for Hope Renovations

Q. Richard Averitte: Where does your funding come from?

A. Sarah Campbell: Department of Commerce Grant, Federal Bureau Grant for Women's funding, Market Rate customers who bring in funding.

Q. Eric Braun: Would you help people with disabilities that are younger?

A. Sarah Campbell: We have in the past. It is on a case-by-case basis. We go based on organizational lists that rank who has higher needs.

Q. Eric Braun: Are you partnered with a Housing authority?

A. Sarah Campbell: In Orange County, yes, but we are new to Wake County, so we are working on that.

Q. Page Felton: Where does the training take place?

A. Sarah Campbell: The Wake Tech beltline campus and onsite construction zones.

Q. Richard Averitte: What is the age range for "older adults"?

A. Sarah Campbell: 55+ = older adult

Q. Tina Baker: Is the stipend paid for all 9 weeks or only on the job?

A. Sarah Campbell: Must be split up (5 weeks of training they receive the stipend. 4 weeks of on-the-job learning are paid hourly).

Q. Tina Baker: After the program is done, do they go into employment?

A. Sarah Campbell: They are applying for jobs or continuing education as they complete the program. They now have the skills for entry level jobs and 75% of trainees go onto an entry level job up to 3 months after the training.

Q. Tina Baker: What about childcare?

A. Sarah Campbell: This is a daytime program for during school hours. We also partner with programs and help the trainees find the assistance they need for support in completing the program. They are asking for feedback about how to combat some of these issues where childcare is harder to obtain (i.e. long entry waitlists).

Q. David Harris: What is the selection process?

A. Sarah Campbell: There is a screening for if they are underemployed, homeless, and/or need help.

Q. David Harris: What about background checks?

A. Sarah Campbell: The trainees go into homes on the job, so there is a background check. They are not automatically disqualified based on their criminal history. There are some employers who have a zero-tolerance policy about criminal backgrounds, so they try to keep that in mind to keep people from being disappointed.

Q. Kelsey Mosely: How many people are in each cohort?

A. Sarah Campbell: 8-10 people.

More on this topic can be found in the meeting PowerPoint found on the CoC website and on Hope Renovations' website: <https://www.hoperenovations.org/>

Charter Review Workgroup Update

Eric Braun: The Charter Review Workgroup is working through a revision of the charter and there is now a full draft. The draft has been reviewed by the HUD Technical Assistant (TA) and the Workgroup has incorporated their feedback. The Workgroup has sent the draft to senior leadership of Wake County and the City of Raleigh. They anticipate that the full draft will be published in the newsletter and on the website for public comment in early April.

Committee Updates

Erin Flynn provided written committee updates (see end of this document for the most recent version of committee updates).

CoC 101

Stephen Gruver presented a CoC 101 overview. *See more information on CoC 101 in the meeting presentation found on the CoC website.*

Other

The next Wake CoC Membership Meeting has been changed to Tuesday April 16th at 1:00 PM. Location TBA.

Stephen Gruver announced that the draft revised charter proposes a new voting process. More information to come, so sign up for CoC emails on the website if you aren't already receiving them.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

See below for committee updates and sign-in sheet.

CoC Committee Updates For CoC Membership meeting: March 18, 2024

Coordinated Access System Committee (CAS):

Chair: Rebekah Shamberger

Here is what we discussed at the February meeting:

Prioritization

- Reviewed the current prioritization process:
 - Discussed the issues found with the current prioritization.
 - Discussed the lack of SO and how it has impacts on the current prioritization process.

Follow-ups:

- Nicole Wilson sent out the by-name list so the current members could review.
- Committee members will be preparing questions for the community survey to ensure the proposed prioritization is meeting the needs of the community.

For Membership:

- We do not have anything currently to bring to the membership.

Data Advisory Committee (DAC):

Chair: Thurston Alexander-Smith

Adding 2023 System-wide Data to COC website

- DAC is working with BitFocus staff on details and will provide an update on publishing data at the next meeting.

HMIS Lead RFP

- 2 applications have been received. DAC will be voting to extend the deadline to allow for more applications.
- Urban Ministries' Peter Morris has agreed to chair the HMIS Lead application scoring committee. Those interested should contact **(CoC email address)**

Data left to Migrate from Community Services

- The DAC will make a recommendation regarding certain elements such as case notes in our March meeting and confer with the Governance Board.

Funding Review Committee (FRC):

Co-Chairs: Michelle Grant and Meredith Yuckman

No updates currently.

Homelessness Emergency Response Committee (HERC):

Chair: Pastor Vance Haywood

- Committee to set our next meeting in April 2024
- We will welcome our newest members and hear updates regarding the WF and DIS shelter program.
- Planning has begun for long-term drop in shelter solutions and HERC will oversee the development of a proposal to come before the COC.

Racial Equity Committee (REC):

Co-Chairs: DaQuanta Copeland and Johnnie Thomas

No updates currently. Next meeting will be April 16th at 2:45 PM following the membership meeting.

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Name	Email Address	Organization	Check One:		
			Individual CoC Member	Organizational CoC member	Unsure or Neither
Michelle Zechmann	mzechmann@havenhouse.org	Haven House		✓	
Genean Hill	ghill@voacarolinas.org	VVA		✓	
Eric Braun	BraunE@aebrun.org	AT-Large	✓		
Michelle Moring		WCPSS		✓	
Talisha Lewis	Hewis@havenhouse.org	Haven House		✓	
Erin Flynn	eflynn@wakenc507.org	Haven House		✓	
Rebekah Shamburger	rebekah.shamburger@apexnc.org	Town of Apex		✓	
Alexis Hampton	ahampton@healing-transitions.org	Healing Transitions		✓	
Nicole Stewart	nicole@ajf.org	A.J. Fleisher Foundation		✓	
Sheryl Cromedy	sherylc@interactofwake.org	InterAct		✓	
Lillian Anderson		The Women's Center			
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Kathleen Otero	kotero@urbanmin.org	"	✓		

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Name	Email Address	Organization	Check One:		
			Individual CoC Member	Organizational CoC member	Unsure or Neither
Stephen Gruver	stephen.gruver@jss.	Salvation Army		✓	
Kelsey Mosley	kmosley@havenhouseinc.org	Haven House		✓	
Mercedes Davis	mdavis@healing-transitions.org	Healing Transitions		✓	
Sarah Campbell	sarah@hoperenovations.org	Hope Renovations		✓	
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Johnnie Thomas	thomajohnnie49@gmail.com	SCFAC	✓		

