

Homeless Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.
Cumberland County Department of Social Services (DSS)
1225 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC

COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDEES

Courtney Banks-McLaughlin, Council Member, City of Fayetteville
Debbie Brown, Chair, Fayetteville / Cumberland County Continuum of Care on Homelessness
Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent (and designee Pamela Story, Social Work Coordinator-Homeless Liaison), Cumberland County Schools
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager, County of Cumberland
Charles McKellar, School Board Member, Cumberland County Schools (designee for Susan Williams)
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager (Governmental Affairs), County of Cumberland
Dr. Toni Stewart, Board Commissioner, County of Cumberland
Dee Taylor, Director, Cumberland County Community Development Department
Dr. Telly Whitfield, Assistant City Manager, City of Fayetteville

OTHER ATTENDEES

Other attendees included staff from both the City and County and various stakeholders in the community.

REGRETS

Michael Boose, Board Commissioner, County of Cumberland
Chris Cauley, Director, Fayetteville Economic & Community Development Department
Tawana Dawkins, Data & Evaluation Analyst, Cumberland County Community Development Department
Larry Wright, City Council Member, City of Fayetteville

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes
- Public Forum
- Approval of HAC Charter
- Presentation: Department of Social Services – CARE Family Violence Program
- Nonprofit Workshop Update
- Homeless Strategic Plan Update
- Reports / Updates
 - Continuum of Care

- Day Resource Center Project
- Homeless Shelter Planning
- Next Meeting
- Adjourn

	TOPIC	DISCUSSION / PROPOSED ACTION
1	Call to Order	Councilwoman Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2	Approval of the Agenda	Motion: Dr. Connelly motioned to approve the agenda for July 12, 2022. Second: Councilwoman Banks-McLaughlin Vote: Unanimous
3	Approval of the Minutes	Motion: Councilwoman Banks-McLaughlin motioned to approve the minutes for April 12, 2022 and June 14, 2022. Second: Dr. Connelly Vote: Unanimous
4	Public Forum	Councilwoman Stewart opened the public forum for speakers. Dee Taylor read the Public Forum policy and procedures. The public forum recognized the following speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stuart A. Gleick – Mr. Gleick spoke on community leadership and how community leaders should take charge and stand for something. Community leaders should stand for what is right even it means standing by yourself. 2. Dr. Val – Dr. Val spoke on lockers for the homeless. She has not received any response for lockers. Recently there was rain and many of the homeless were completed flooded out. Dr. Val stated we need the day center opened. The day center is also an emergency shelter. 3. Paul Taylor – Mr. Taylor provided background information about himself in working with the homeless. He served on the Homeless Committee. He thanked everyone for work that has been done but indicated there is more work to do. He stated we need to unite this community. Let’s fix the issues we have in one body with the same mind. He urged everyone to join him, the CoC, County, City, and school board to fight to make a difference.
5	Approval of HAC Charter	Tracy Jackson provided a summary of the last changes of the HAC Charter. He indicated there is one other item that needs to be resolved. Does the Committee want to formalize the meeting where we are operating under a certain schedule? This will help with issuing notices of the meeting with specific dates. Commissioner Stewart stated next year the Committee will be chaired by the City and the meeting will be held at a location of their choosing. Mr. Jackson confirmed the Chair position rotates between the City and County. Commissioner Stewart stated the HAC meetings will meet 1 pm, the second Tuesday of every month at the Department of Social Services for the remaining of the year.

		<p>Motion: Dr. Connelly motioned to approve the HAC Charter. Second: Councilwoman Banks-McLaughlin Vote: Unanimous</p>
6	<p>Presentation: Department of Social Services – CARE Family Violence Program</p>	<p>Dee Taylor introduced guest speaker, Ms. Amy White, Program Director of the CARE Center Family Violence Program which is operated by the Cumberland County Department of Social Services (DSS). The program is located at DSS on the ground floor.</p> <p>The program offers domestic violence counseling to both victims and abusers. This service is offered free of charge. They also have a shelter for victims and their children fleeing domestic violence. The program offers a 24-hour crisis hotline. The program also provides advocacy to assist victim going to court system. The program can assist the victim with obtaining a protective order or a referral to Legal Aid of North Carolina to receive representation.</p> <p>The CARE Center program provides counseling for both victims and abusers. Most of the referrals come from Child Protective Services. The program does receive outside referrals from different places such as mental health professional or Doctor’s office. Some are self-referred. There is a women support group offered in English and in Spanish. There is a children support group as well. There are education and outreach meetings to discuss domestic violence.</p> <p>Another service provided is the Resolve Domestic Violence Intervention Program. This program is normally court ordered. The abusers are normally charged with domestic abuse. They are often referred to the program to obtain education and counseling in regard to domestic violence. This is the only service that is charged, and the fee is \$175. This fee is the least in the State. The class is twenty-six (26) weeks, once a week. The participants spend about 2 hours learning about domestic violence. The participants are among other abusers so they can share stories among each other and learn what about their triggers. They also learn about coping strategies. The goal of the program is to prevent domestic violence from continuing.</p> <p>The CARE Center has a shelter in an undisclosed area. Applicants are approved on a weekly basis. The applicants will be assessed for eligibility. The applicant has to be an active domestic violence individual fleeing for their life in order to be in the shelter. The program is funded through the County and grants.</p> <p>Commissioner Stewart asked how long can a domestic violence victim stay in the shelter once admitted? Ms. White replied the participant can stay for up to thirty (30) days.</p> <p>Dr. Connelly asked where can more information be found about the program. Can it be found on the County’s website? Ms. White indicated that some information about the program can be found on the Department of Social Service’s website. The emergency contact number 910-677-2532.</p>

		<p>Councilwoman Banks-McLaughlin asked if the program provide for women and their children. She also asked if there are any availability at the shelter. Ms. White indicated the program provides assistance to women and children. The program only has space for a couple individuals. The shelter capacity is currently at eight (8). It is normally at sixteen (16) but the capacity reduced due to COVID-19 and they do not want single women sharing rooms at this time. Ms. White indicated they are not sure when they will return to full capacity.</p>
7	Nonprofit Workshop Update	<p>Tracy Jackson indicated there was a workshop offered in May by Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). FTCC has ongoing workshops for those individuals interested in learning more about nonprofits. More information can be found on the FTCC website under the Small Business Center. Information can also be found on the County’s website under the Homeless Advisory Committee.</p>
8	Homeless Strategic Plan Update	<p>Dee Taylor provided an update on the progress of the Homeless Strategic Plan. She indicated the CoC, County, and City representatives are working together to meet the objectives outlined in the plan. OrgCode Consulting, Inc. is the company that was hired by the County to help develop a gap analysis and the three-year strategic plan. They company has been submitting updated progress reports. We are waiting on a final report on the community’s progress in implementing the plan.</p> <p>OrgCode Consulting, Inc also held a Housing-Based Case Management workshop. Twenty-three (23) individuals signed up but only about eight (8) actually showed up at the workshop. The workshop was held all day at the Department of Social Services. The workshop was very informative and we received positive feedback from the attendees.</p>
9	Reports/Updates a. CoC b. Day Resource Center c. Homeless Shelter Planning	<p><u>CoC Update:</u> Debbie Brown provided an update on activities conducted by the Fayetteville/Cumberland County Continuum of Care (CoC) on Homelessness. Ms. Brown indicated the CoC met with Brook Redding and Chris Cauley from the City of Fayetteville on three different occasions to discuss the Impact Reduction Program. Further discuss will take place at the CoC member meeting 10 am, July 13, 2022, at the Hay Street United Methodist Church. Brook and Chris will be presenting at the meeting what has been discussed at the CoC Board meetings. During this meeting, the CoC members is asked to bring their ideas to the table. Members were given the Impact Reduction Protocol document and the FAQ document that have been created from the three meetings between the CoC Board and the City.</p> <p>Other updates: HUD has announced a special Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. This NOFO makes \$322 million of competitive funding available to communities to address unsheltered and rural homelessness. This is the first-of-its-kind package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds set aside specifically to address homelessness in rural communities. As we all know, we do not qualify as a rural community, but the remainder of these funds are possible avenues for us to travel. HUD has stated that this funding is available for Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), permanent housing, street outreach efforts, and other supportive services. Applications must be submitted no later than 8 pm, October 20, 2022. As HUD states the unsheltered NOFO aims to provide CoC’s with dedicated resources to address unsheltered homelessness in their communities to provide resources, enhance data collection, and develop a more comprehensive understanding of people living in</p>

unsheltered situations, including encampments. Chronic homelessness had continued to grow more rapidly. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of unsheltered with chronic patterns of homelessness increased by 21%. More than 35% of individuals felled in unsheltered locations and in 2020 had chronic patterns of homelessness. HUD shares that with this rise in unsheltered homelessness, many communities have been experiencing a rise in encampments.

Ms. Brown provided a handout to the Committee referencing unsheltered homelessness and the 2020 report funded by HUD and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The handout references sources to collected data on a nationwide level. HUD indicates there have been unprecedented resources provided to communities to house individuals experiencing homelessness during COVID-19 pandemic such as Emergency Solutions Grant (through CARES Act), Emergency Housing Vouchers, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (through the American Rescue Plan). These programs allowed communities to rapidly expand existing housing and service options as well as adopt new strategies to engage and more effectively house people experiencing homelessness in tight rental markets. CoCs applying for funding under this NOFO are encouraged to build on existing, effective strategies, including those adopted during the pandemic, and commit to continuing to evaluate their strategies to improve housing outcomes for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

With this information, Ms. Brown asked how can these funds be used to expand existing housing and service options in our community. The CoCs know that wrap around services in our community need to be ramped up and moving on strategies need to be implemented quickly. These funds may be able to assist us in these endeavors. Our CoC was awarded thirty-three (33) vouchers. Partnering with the Fayetteville Metropolitan Housing Authority, our Coordinated Entry team has issued all thirty-three (33) vouchers with six (6) individuals or families having been housed and a seventh applicant to be housed this week.

Dr. Whitfield asked Ms. Brown to provide more information on the intent of the Impact Reduction Program mentioned earlier. Ms. Brown indicated that Brook Redding and Chris Cauley from the City of Fayetteville, had presented information on encampments to the CoC Board. Basically, there are health and crime issues within those encampments. As HUD has even noted, there are increased criminal activities in these types of encampments. There are other situations where the City is having to work with the Department of Transportation (DOT) because the encampments are on the properties owned by DOT. The CoC is working with the City to determine best practices that can be used. We understand what has taken place at the encampments on the west coast and the disasters that occurred there. We do not want that to happen here. We are trying to find the best possible way to handle the encampments understanding the individuals are homeless. Dr. Whitfield stated, on behalf of the City, they appreciate the partnership with the CoC. This was something that was in response to the City Council request to look into the encampments with the perceived notion that these encampments are growing. We want to address this issue in a humane fashion.

Commissioner Stewart asked Ms. Brown about the Emergency Housing Vouchers and the intent of these vouchers. Also, is there a limit on how these vouchers are used? Ms. Brown explained that the vouchers target individuals coming through the coordinated entry and have the highest acuity. These are individuals with extreme needs. The

	<p>Coordinated Entry team sends the applications to the Fayetteville Metropolitan Housing Authority (FMHA) for approval.</p> <p>Commissioner Stewart asked a question regarding the limited amount of housing available and how the EHV is working once the individual receives the voucher. She also asked how the information about the vouchers is getting out. Ms. Brown indicated the individuals find this information from FMHA and the coordinated entry process.</p> <p>Commissioner Stewart asked for the contact information for anyone who is experiencing homelessness. Ms. Brown provided the coordinated entry number which is 910-479-4663. This number is manned 9 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Individuals can also contact NC 211 to be referred to coordinated entry.</p> <p>Dr. Connelly indicated that households with a child that is four years old can also contact Pamela Story.</p> <p>Charles McKellar asked if we have a directory of organizations that are working with the homeless so that we are not duplicating efforts. Ms. Brown provided information on the CoC's website and email. Mr. McKellar also asked if we have data on people who are homeless. Commissioner Stewart indicated information is kept in the HMIS system. However, it is difficult to track due to people coming in and leaving out. Ms. Brown indicated some of individuals referred to coordinated entry are assessed. This is where we collect certain information. We also conduct a Point-in-Time Homeless Count every year. This count does not necessarily give us names, but it does give us numbers. It is not going to be exact. Ms. Brown further stated the mission of the CoC is not to enable people but to empower people. We want to do what we can with the services available to us as a community.</p> <p>Mr. McKellar asked, as a new member of the Committee, is it within his right and responsibilities to educate people on what we are doing in the community. Commissioner Stewart indicated this is why the Committee came together. This Committee would bring information before the Boards (City and County) to get something done. We needed a Committee that can make decisions. We wanted to make a difference. We know we will not get rid of homeless, but we want to make a difference. Everyone involved has different passions as it relates to homelessness. Some people are passionate about housing, clothing, feeding, or shelter. We have different passions. Collectively, we have to come together and do something. We initiated the public forum to hear from others because we do not have all the answers. The Committee is just a starting base. The Committee's ultimate goal is not to just hear the information but to actually do something about it. It just takes a long time to do something.</p> <p>Mr. McKellar asked is we receive reports at the end of the fiscal year from these organizations that receive funding so they can do a report card as to the progress they have made based on their mission? Commissioner Stewart referred the question to Tracy Jackson. Mr. Jackson indicated in the County's fiscal year budget, there are nonprofits that receive funding. The HAC has funding from both the City and the County which can go towards various services.</p>
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10	Next Meeting	The next meeting will be 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at the Cumberland County Department of Social Services. There will be no County / City Liaison meeting on next Wednesday.
11	Adjournment	Motion: Councilwoman Banks-McLaughlin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second: Dr. Connelly Vote: Unanimous The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Documents Distributed During the Meeting:

- Agenda for July 12, 2022 HAC Meeting
- Minutes from April 12, 2022 and June 14, 2022 HAC Meetings
- Homeless Advisor Committee Charter (Final Draft)
- CoC Handout: HUD Announcement regarding the Continuum of Care Program Supplemental Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special Notice of Funding Opportunity)

Approved: August 17, 2022

