



**Thursday, April 11, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Physical – UWDC Community Room: 1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205**

**Virtual – Zoom Video Conference Link Attached in Email**

**Agenda:**

I.	Welcome & Introductions	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
II.	December Meeting Minutes	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>VOTE – Approval of Meeting Minutes</b></li> </ul>		
III.	Strategic Plan Update	Dani Shaw	30 min.
IV.	Mental Health System Model Site Visits	Shelby Redondo	15 min
V.	CredibleMind, LINKS, Find Help update	Alexandra Reed	10 min.
VI.	Workgroup Updates		20 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Data</li> <li>• Healthcare</li> <li>• Diversion</li> <li>• Cross Care Collaborative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terry Widmer</li> <li>Evelyn Sutton</li> <li>Isabel Rodriguez</li> <li>Megan Ball</li> <li>Megan Ball</li> </ul>	
VII.	Backbone Support Update	UWDC	10 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness Initiatives</li> <li>• Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team</li> <li>• Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Olivia Williams</li> <li>Shelby Redondo</li> <li>Shelby Redondo</li> </ul>	
VIII.	Public Comment	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
IX.	New Business	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
X.	Adjourn	Chair/Co-chair	2 min.

**Next Meeting Date:**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024 | 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**





**Thursday February 8, 2024**

**8 am – 9:30 am**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Terry Widmer welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order. Approval of the December meeting minutes confirmed by appointees. [OB]

**Strategic Plan Update by Olivia Mata-Williams and Megan Ball:** Olivia presented the updated recommendations and next steps for the strategic plan. Olivia states that the major goal was to Increase Access to Housing and the committee is exploring new goals for the next steps. Megan states that the recommendations that were made were to have two new workgroups to increase access to affordable housing and see what steps we need to be taking that are not currently being taken. The Funding Advocacy Group to focus on expanding funding options through HUD and through diversion workgroup. Megan states that it is important to have regulate discussions about how to bring more funding in as funding has gotten more difficult to obtain. Olivia adds that there is a new name for the Housing Leadership Team, which is Housing and Homelessness Leadership team to increase funding opportunities and describe the full scope of work that is being done. The Strategic Plan will be presented at the April meeting.

**Point in Time Count 2024 by Olivia Williams and Elena Shehan:** Olivia and Elena reported wins from the 2024 PIT Count. PIT count partnerships increased. Police departments were heavily involved across Denton County which expanded survey coverage to Roanoke, Krum, The Colony, Little Elm and Frisco. There were an increased number of organizations and agencies involved in the execution including food donors. Olivia shared reports from PIT Count surveys: 97% reported being well prepared, 94% reported being satisfied with their PIT Day experience, 100% of those who completed a debrief reported a beneficial experience. The team shared that there was also an increased number of brand-new volunteers. The team's youngest donor was 9-year-old Jack Fairchild who raised over \$1,600 and purchased bulk orders of supplies. The team received resources like filled backpacks and bus passes. Amazon Wishlist was a huge success and will continue in future. Olivia shared a new goal which is advancing advocacy efforts for 2024 PIT Count.

**Find Help update by Alexandra Reed:** Alexandra Reed shares Find Help data from November 2023, December 2024 and January 24. Since launch, Find help has sustained around the same number of users. Alexandra reported that there were just over 1000 distinct users. In December, the data shows that every user was doing multiple searches. Alexandra reported that in January as there was a lot of distribution of information to organizations, user count stayed the same, but interactions increased greatly. Users are going to the site knowing what to do next. Agencies claimed and added have increased in Find Help as there has been direct one on one outreach to agencies. Alexandra reported that the most commonly searched terms in January were rent, glasses and housing. Housing percentage has gone up since last meeting.

### **Workgroup updates**

**Housing:** Terry Widmer shared that a facilitator group is taking place the next day aiming to redo the landscape on case conferencing and the housing workgroup. The landscape changes because of staff turnover.

**Data:** Evelyn Sutton reports that the HMIS client track vendor for the balance of state continuum of care has identified reporting issues pertaining to the housing priority list, so that affects the ability to pull and track the client data for the county and the ability to update the dashboard board. THN does report that the vendor is working to solve the reporting issues with THN. There is a plan in place to address the delay.

**Healthcare:** Isabel Rodriguez reports the Healthcare Workgroup is addressing one of the goals of increasing awareness for the unhoused population. Isabel shares they are trying to organize a summit for October. Location and date are coming. The team is working on what topics should be tabled and presenters so these individuals can get more information on what services are out there. The team is also working on increasing the roster for the healthcare work group so the group can address topics like inappropriate discharge from hospitals.

**Diversion:** Megan Ball reported that the team has been able to run a report and see that agencies have been utilizing HMIS. The team is collecting data and making sure agencies feel comfortable and confident in their ability to use that workflow. Putting together a report for June.

**Cross Care Collaborations:** Shanan Spencer reported that the team had a meeting last week with Bear County who are doing currently what we are hoping to work toward in Denton County in terms of the intersection between people experiencing homelessness, law enforcement and mental health. Shanan shares that although Denton County may not have as much funding, there are things that can be done in terms of processes and procedures working with our law enforcement, working with the hospitals working with our Denton County MHMR, working with our shelter, and all manner of agencies that we partner with to try to streamline these processes and to keep everyone in the loop.

### **Backbone Support Update**

**Homelessness Initiatives:** Olivia Williams reported that the team applied in November for a city of Lewisville backbone support Grant and was awarded \$10,000 to participate. Additionally, the team applied for a DBL Grant to support the Barriers Funds match, and so in January the team received \$5,000 for the Barriers Fund. Olivia reports specific to the barriers fund that all of the applications that have come in pending approval now in January total about \$22,000 and this is the second installment of the Grant funds that we receive from the city of Denton as a just to indicate how quickly those funds pass through. Olivia reported \$80,000 in total for the Grant year.

**Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team:** Shanan Spencer shared that the team had the first Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership team meeting of the New Year in January, and this was the time that the new officers came on board. This includes Lieutenant Elissa Howell will be chair, Hope Galloway co-chair, and Terry Widmer as secretary. Shanan reported that Dr. Lisa Elliot came on as chair for VHLT with the focus on getting the mental health navigator program up and running, and with the help of Denton County Commissioner's Court, and with the help from Denton County public health that became a reality. They have now shifted their focus with new leadership on pursuing ways that could potentially open a crisis stabilization unit in Denton County. Shanan also shared the launch of the Credible Mind platform. With partnership with Denton County and Denton County Public Health, Credible Mind was launched on January the eighteenth. Shanan reported that from the time of the launch, there has been over 400 new people go into credible mind and access those resources.

**Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team:** Shelby Redondo reported that back in January, the leadership team approved two new workgroups. One workgroup is specific around seniors to look at senior friendly options in relation to workforce. The second workgroup is a data workgroup. Shelby shared that the team closed out the Family Childcare Network Grant. This allowed the team to create 60 new childcare seats in childcare deserts and also create 240 childcare seats, not in desert. The total impact from those 3 years was 300 new childcare seats. Shelby mentioned about the progress on Proposition 2 gave municipalities the ability to not charge property tax to building owners that were leasing space out to those who owned and operating childcare in that square footage.

**Public Comment:** Olivia shared that Giving Grace was awarded \$412,000 for rapid rehousing. Leia shared that a stimulation event is being held June 7<sup>th</sup>. The event stimulates a month of a person experiencing homelessness in Denton County. The team is also looking for more members to join the planning committee.

**New Business:** Teddy Yan reported that United Way of Denton County's VITA sites have more volunteers than previous years. Teddy mentioned more volunteers are still needed. Olivia shared that a flyer is being created for VITA services for individuals to take advantage of those services.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am. Next meeting is Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 8:00 am.

# DCHHLT Workgroup Reports

## DCHHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

### FEB-MARCH 2024

The DCHHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 7 times between February and March 2024 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.

Housing Workgroup meets on Mondays from 3-4 PM with a hybrid option either in person at United Way of Denton County or virtually via Zoom.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday – Veteran CC
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday – General CC
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday – Veteran CC
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday – General CC
- 5<sup>th</sup> Monday – Families CC

### SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- Facilitation group is working on creating co-facilitators, incorporating Stages of Change for conversation, and addressing engagement and data for Veterans.
- Barriers Fund access and funding availability routinely updated. City of Denton is funding is open and the remaining balance is \$948.
- New THN assessment replacement is being developed. Support for this assessment change will be needed.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implementation of weekly resource connection
- Housing navigation to Landlord Engagement process flow streamlining is benefitting the clients, case managers, and landlords.
- Landlord Engagement has an MOU with a funder that is providing risk mitigation funds and support for rent. This has brought on 5 properties opening doors for those on the HPL.

### CONCERNS

- Developing a new workflow to receive Veteran housing and homelessness data
- Gaining support from the top down to integrate CredibleMind/LINKS resources throughout agencies
- Feedback from Landlords on what they're experiencing from tenants they house and gaps leading up to evictions.

### NEXT MEETING DATES

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

# DCHHLT Workgroup Reports

## DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: ELENA SHEHAN

### FEB-MARCH 2024

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met twice from February to March 2024. The following was discussed:

- Mental Health Navigators and LINKS presented on how they connect the community to resources.
- Housing Crisis Response System Simulation is being planned for June
- Creation of Calendar of Events in order to plan out efforts and encourage deeper involvement from Coalition members
- Point in Time Count lessons learned and improvements for future counts
- Establishing committees to advance fundraising, advocacy, and networking efforts for the Coalition's strategic goals

### SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- PIT data reveal preparations including; selecting dates, venues, drafting collateral for different types of presentations
- Establish a speaker's bureau

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established a Calendar of Events for 2024
- New attendees participating include persons with lived experience

### CONCERNS

- Under-utilized available resources

### NEXT MEETING DATES

April 24<sup>th</sup> (Lewisville; Next Steps)

May 29<sup>th</sup> (Denton; UWDC)

# DCHHLT Workgroup Reports

## DCHHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

### FEB-MARCH 2024

The data dashboard has been updated with data up to February 2024. There are currently 462 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. The 462 total number for September breaks down into:

- 20 families
- 451 individuals
- 9 fleeing domestic violence
- 34 Veteran households
- 155 households experiencing chronic homelessness

#### *No changes in reporting for ISDs*

Denton County school districts' data was updated in February 2023. The two largest school districts reported the following:

- Denton ISD: 587 students (increase from October 22; 347)
- Lewisville ISD: 1,024 students (increase from October 22; 820)

Housing intervention prioritization breakdown:

- Diversion Services: Households (12.3%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention: Households (49.4%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention: Households (38.3%)

### SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

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### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worked alongside Diversion workgroup to improve HMIS workflow for agencies.

### CONCERNS

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# DCHHLT Workgroup Reports

## DCHHLT HEALTHCARE WORKGROUP | CHAIR: ISABEL RODRIGUEZ

### FEB-MARCH 2024

This group is currently in the knowledge-gathering phase, identifying gaps in the current healthcare system as it relates to the unhoused population and determining what can be done on a local level to address these gaps. The systemic goals of this group are to reduce emergency room visits for acute needs, increase funding for primary care and community health services targeted at this population, identify options for patients experiencing homelessness at discharge, and increase the unhoused population's awareness of healthcare services, measured by repeatedly administered knowledge survey.

Meetings occur 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 12 pm, Zoom

### SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- Prioritizing membership of workgroup
- Finalizing agenda and invitation list for Health Education Summit
- Collecting hospital data for the unsheltered

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Beginning stages of planning Health Education Summit, slated for Thursday October 9, 2024

### CONCERNS

- There are currently limited pathways for a person experiencing homelessness to access medical care other than utilizing the emergency room.
- Few options are available for the aging population with long term needs, few facilities prepared to meet this need accept Medicaid or Medicare.



# DCHHLT Workgroup Reports

## DCHHLT DIVERSION WORKGROUP | CHAIR: MEGAN BALL

### FEB-MARCH 2024

This group is in the data collection phase, identifying how existing funding is being spent on diversion efforts. The goal of the group is that this data will establish a baseline to support funding expansion and resources for diversion efforts.

#### SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- Identify and track HMIS Diversion data; expand which variables are needed and identify additional data sources
- Establish next steps for agency support to improve data quality
- Start drafting a presentation/report for HHLT

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Added a grant flow in HMIS to improve tracking Barriers Fund applications, category of need, and dollar amount.

#### CONCERNS

- Availability of flexible funds to expand diversion problem-solving efforts.

# DCHHLT Workgroup Reports

## Cross Care Collaborative WORKGROUP | CHAIRS: MEGAN BALL & LANDON DICKESON

### FEB-MARCH 2024

This group is currently in the knowledge-gathering phase, identifying gaps in the current system as it relates to the unhoused population and determining what can be done on a local level to address these gaps.

#### SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- Continue mapping of Behavioral Health and Housing Systems; current progress is mapping Intercept 1 and 2 to make corrections, update changes, and highlighted gaps.
- Continue identifying organizations that are at the primary integration level of the response systems.
- Next site visit scheduled for Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to Georgetown, TX to visit Bluebonnet Trails

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Site visits organized by MHMR to a Crisis Stabilization Unit in Kerrville, TX and an Extended Observation in McKinney, TX.

#### CONCERNS

- Understanding the volume of resources to the capacity of each organization
- There is a lack of crisis stabilization options for voluntary and involuntary admission
- There is a lack of adequate mental health diversion options for law enforcement
- New legislation that allows law enforcement to transfer responsibility of care