



Thursday, October 8th, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference

Agenda

I.	Welcome & Consideration of August 2020 Minutes	Chair	2 min.
II.	Update Bylaws & Appointee Terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOTE – Updates to approve representatives and transition category seats. 	Chair	15 min.
III.	COVID-19 Response Update	G. Henderson / E. Lusk	10 min.
IV.	Legal Aid of NorthWest TX Presentation	E. Weiskopfe / F. Raza	10 min.
V.	87 th Legislative Session Priorities	K. Good	10 min.
VI.	Workgroup Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Housing • Ending Veteran Homelessness • Denton County Homeless Coalition Update 	E. Lusk / S. Coffey T. Widmer E. Lusk D. Adams	20 min.
VII.	Backbone Support Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hire – Megan Ball, Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator • Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update • Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update 	UWDC	10 min.
VIII.	Public Comment	Chair	5 min.
IX.	New Business	Chair	5 min.
X.	Adjourn	Chair	2 min.

Next Meeting Date:
Thursday, December 10th, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Zoom Video Conference





Thursday, June 13, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference

Appointees/Ex-Officios Present: Alice Mankoff, Andy Folmer, Ashleigh Feryan, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilperson TJ Gilmore, Councilperson Keely Briggs, Dale Tampke, Dani Shaw (ex-officio), Emily Taylor, Gary Henderson (ex-officio), Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Dr. Mary Jones, Michelle Conner, Sheryl English, Terry Widmer, Mayor Thomas Muir, Nicole Recker, Stephen Coffey

Appointees Absent: Mayor Chris Watts, Frank Padgett (regrets), Jill Adams (regrets), Jim Mustain, John Manganilla, Josh Ashford, Kathy Srokosz (regrets), Preston Pohler (regrets), Roy Metzler, Valerie Foster

Guests: Elena Lusk (United Way of Denton County), Hope Rodgers (United Way of Denton County), Alicia McElroy (United Way of Denton County), Sarah Kuechler (City of Denton), Amanda Adams (United Way of Denton County), Frank Dixon (City of Denton)

Welcome & Consideration of June 2020 Minutes

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve June 2020 Minutes.

Motion: Dr. Mary Jones

Second: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Motion was approved.

UWDC Transition

Gary Henderson announced that Courtney Cross left United Way of Denton County to work for the City of Denton Community and Development team moving forward. United Way of Denton County has split the roles of Housing Initiatives and Behavioral Health Initiatives and has promoted two staff members internally for those director level roles. Hope Rodgers will be the Director of Mental Health Initiatives and Elena Lusk will be the Director of Housing Initiatives.

COVID-19 Response Update

Gary Henderson provided information on how people financially impacted by COVID-19 can receive assistance from the list of COVID Relief Fund Agencies on United Way of Denton County's website. Reiterating the funding given; \$130,000 from City of Denton; \$74,000 from City of Lewisville and \$75,000 allocated from PACCAR foundation helped the beginnings of the COVID Relief Fund. The COVID Relief Fund is now being funded solely by Denton County. The COVID Relief Fund data showed that funding administered went from 4 months of assistance given to 4 households in the last week of March to 192 months of assistance given to 116 households on the first week of August. UWDC has administered \$1,739,400.23 of the 20 million dollars Denton County's Commissioners Court earmarked for Eviction Prevention to partnering agencies to assist 1200 households to date.

Hope Rodgers explained the process change within the COVID Relief Fund. Previously CRF agencies would screen applicants and submit an application for their client for the assistance needed with the required documentation. UWDC staff would review the requests and give the agency the acceptance amount or denial of the request. The agency would then make the payment directly to the client or vendor for the client and submit for reimbursement from UWDC at a later date.



The new process does eliminate some steps in the process of money going from the County to the vendor and now has all checks coming from UWDC. This new process has added a few steps in getting the check out the door for each client in a timely manner, which includes collecting a W9 and a signed Acknowledgement Form from each vendor.

A current challenge all agencies are having with is getting these documents back from larger companies that are not based in Denton County. UWDC is bringing on two staff members in the coming week to help with this challenge. Hope expressed the further we get in the year the more complicated client stories are getting, going from clear cut applications of someone lost their job because of COVID and needs one month of assistance to clients kicked out of their prior living because they contracted COVID and now need to locate new housing for them and their kids. The program is seeing a range of incomes for households pre-COVID that are now needing assistance. The CRF program does not have any income limits, no FMR requirements and no maximum level of assistance.

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore shared that Judge Kerbow told him that evictions have lowered significantly during this time. Gary shared the same knowledge Judge Kerbow has given him in that comparing July 2019 to July 2020 evictions are down 90% in his court. Recently the Judge had four evictions on his docket for that week and all four were resolved before their court hearing, comparing to pre-COVID when there would be over 100 eviction cases on the docket in one week. Gary communicated that because of the foundation of non-profit collaboration and local support through municipalities and PACCAR, this program was able to show how successful it could be with more funding to the County. The Denton County CRF program has shown to be unparalleled compared to any other effort in Texas currently. Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell provided an update that the collaboration and application of this program has not been seen in any other county around Denton County.

Gary communicated that there is still a need to share that the program exists and that he will be sharing to a couple of chambers in the coming weeks. Dr. Mary Jones asked if there was information provided to staff and students at the local universities on the program. Gary and Commissioner Bobbie both answered that the information has been shared to universities as well as the local school principals.

Councilperson Keely Briggs expressed concern for the people who we weren't able to tie their need back to COVID-19 and how the community would be able to help them. Mentioning that the CRF program is a very specific need and that the Barriers Fund should be able to help clients who's needs cannot be met by this program. Gary shared that City of Lewisville just earmarked funds from their CDBG for the Barriers Fund and asked Dani Shaw if there was an update on City of Denton Barriers Fund allocation. Dani communicated there is a \$40,000 grant in the City of Denton's budget this year for the Barriers Fund and upon MOU's being administered and council approving the budget line that grant will be available.

Councilperson Keely expressed the difference between the \$20 million from the County for CRF and the \$40,000 for the Barriers Fund being concerning to her. Commissioner Bobbie communicated that each city received funds per their population size that can be used to assist households in need. Dr. Mary shared that there has been an uptick in the amount of Barriers Fund requests submitted recently and that some of the requests did express they were ineligible for the CRF program. Gary agreed on all points and communicated an advocacy point the Leadership team can participate in is helping express the need to extend the deadline for the CRF program funds to past the current deadline of December 31, 2020. Additionally, sharing that as time goes on in the year it is becoming more and more seen easy to tie client's needs back to COVID-19 because of high unemployment rate and businesses closing and not able to reopen. Hope shared that majority of people denied by the CRF program currently are not living in Denton County, though the few living in Denton County that are denied are referred to apply for the Barriers Fund.

In reference to the advocacy point, Councilperson Keely asked if there was a letter city's or community members can use to request the funding be extended past the current end of 2020 deadline. Gary and Commissioner Bobbie agreed that would be a great project to work on with the County's Commissioners Court to get that language to use for those requests.

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore shared that there will likely be a wave of people needing utility assistance in City of Lewisville as their staff is reaching out to around 120 accounts that are not current this week. Additionally expressing



how hard working the program is and how there will be great after action reporting our County will be able to use in the future.

City of Denton Building Purchase

Dani Shaw provided an update that in April the City of Denton entered into a contract for sale for a property on Loop 288. During the due diligence period a couple of issues arose and the current owner is working to resolve those before the contract is finalized. Current timeline is looking at December 2020 being when those issues are completely resolved. Once the sale goes through the City of Denton will begin planning on how it is remodeled, and the future uses for the building.

City of Denton Social Work Plan

Chief Dixon shared the City of Denton is about to launch their first iteration of a mental health unit. This plan was brought about to streamline the process of how our community responds to crises involving mental health and how to make those responses have better results. Various programs across the country were examined in the process of implementing this plan in the City of Denton. The City of Denton will be creating a Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) that will pair plainclothes police officers with licensed professional clinicians. There will be a Mental Health Manager who will be a civilian and a masters level licenses professional clinician that will oversee the program and report directly to Chief Dixon. Additionally, they will be posting for four internal police officer positions.

These teams will respond to crisis calls where there is known mental health crises or concern. Chief Dixon explained these teams will be similar to the current Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) the City of Denton implemented where officers have been able to connect with people experiencing homelessness and provide resources as needed. The HOT team will be working in the same division as the CIRT team and alongside each other but will not be doing the same work.

The City of Denton will be reaching out to many people on the Homelessness Leadership Team as well as working closely with Denton County MHMR to fill the positions needed. As well as working many local agencies to help build out the program once the staff has been selected. The plan is for the roles to be filled by early to mid-October and begin sending them as a team to different trainings including MHMR, NAMI and various trainings around mental health and policing. The team will go to a weeklong training in Houston, as Houston PD is one of the six learning sites nationally for law enforcement and mental health.

Councilperson Keely asked if the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) or the Downtown Unit be under management of the Mental Health Manager. Chief Dixon clarified the HOT team will be in the Mental Health unit but the Downtown Unit will not be. Though the City of Denton will be requiring many of the same trainings for all officers.

Workgroup Updates

Data

Elena Lusk provided a Data Workgroup update and review the Homelessness Data Dashboard. As of July 31, 2020, there were 357 confirmed household experiencing homelessness. 22 Veterans experiencing homelessness, which is lowest amount of Veterans identified since the Dashboard was created.

The full dashboard can be access on the [United Way of Denton County website \(linked\)](#).

Councilperson Keely inquired about numbers of people housed reported to City of Denton City Council being reflected in the Data Dashboard. Dani did clarify that some numbers reported to council may not be listed in the Data Dashboard because of their exit type, as some exited through Diversion conversations.



Housing

Terry Widmer provided a Housing Workgroup update. The Housing Workgroup has begun meeting bimonthly again for case conferencing via Zoom. UWDC has continued facilitating targeted case conferencing meetings with Our Daily Bread and the Monsignor King Outreach Center to support case management and rapid rehousing targets. The community's two Permanent Supportive Housing programs are actively working to fill their 30 new expansion beds in their programs.

UWDC staff has been working closely with the Tarrant County VA to keep our Veteran's list updated on who is eligible for VA care. A day of outreach was planned with the Tarrant County VA, City of Denton PD and staff from Giving Hope and Vision Ministries in order to connect with Veterans living unsheltered to determine their eligibility and/or sign them up for benefits and resources they can receive.

Shelter Planning

Our Daily Bread and Monsignor King Outreach Center are working on merging their organizations currently and will be able to give an update at a later date.

Ending Veteran Homelessness

UWDC was awarded a \$300,000 grant for general financial assistance. The grant will support homeless prevention efforts, and UWDC recently hired Elishia Baxter, a former Veteran and MSW intern with the Veteran Community Navigator program, to oversee that grant. Hope Rodgers explained the eligibility requirements and process of applying for this program. The TVC grant does have the capacity to serve 60 individuals over the course of the year and UWDC plans to reapply and possibly expand the grant moving forward.

Councilperson Keely requested clarification on the previously mentioned lowest number of Veterans on the Housing Priority List and if the TVC grant was the cause for this low number. Elena clarified that the TVC grant does not serve people experiencing literal homelessness but that the grant will provide support for our community when we do end Veteran homelessness to be able to maintain that goal.

Elena gave an update on the VA street outreach day in place in order to connect Veterans to the VA if eligible. The VA did release an opportunity for communities to receive more VASH vouchers. The application for these VASH vouchers is due by September and UWDC is working closely with the Tarrant County VA and Denton Housing Authority to get the data needed for that opportunity. The outreach day was in place to confirm data for that opportunity; as of before the outreach day 11 of the 22 Veterans on our Housing Priority List were ineligible for VA Services, 7 are eligible and 4 were unknown.

A discussion on barriers to meeting the goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness by the end of 2020 was brought about. A few barriers identified are; Identification needs as the DPS is appt only, funding for housing for Veterans not eligible for mainstream Veteran resources.

Councilperson Keely inquired if the Transitional Housing program in Lewisville for female Veterans was full or if the community was utilizing that program. Elena gave an update that known of the Veterans currently on the Housing Priority List would not be eligible for the program for single, female Veterans. Terry Widmer discussed having better knowledge going forward on which Veterans are eligible for VA services and not. Elena gave an update that UWDC did recently get in contact with someone at the VA that can give solid answers on whether someone is eligible or not and plans to continue that relationship moving forward. Dani Shaw confirmed VASH vouchers being a need for the community with the increasing need for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Sheryl English mentioned checking in with Denton Housing Authority staff to see if there is anything they can do to help collect data needed for the VASH Voucher opportunity. Elena will continue to collaborate with both DHA and the VA in order to get all required data in on time. Councilperson Keely inquired on the likelihood of housing the 7 Veterans eligible for VA services if we do receive the VASH Vouchers. Elena confirmed with the help of the UWDC Housing Navigator and the vouchers in place we would be able to house people easily.



Dani Shaw proposed to keep the deadline of ending Veteran Homelessness by the end of 2020 the same. With a suggestion on more public knowledge and awareness on the goal. Councilperson Keely inquired on how community members can be involved in the goal to end Veteran homelessness. Gary confirmed that United Way of Denton County can serve as the fiscal agent for a specific fund dedicated to ending Veteran homelessness. The fund could be managed under the Barriers Fund upon creation. Hope confirmed the DCBHLT Veteran Workgroup has been discussing methods of getting the community involved; landlord outreach, smaller city/town involvement and workplan within the workgroup on the goal.

Denton County Homeless Coalition Update

Elena Lusk provided an update on the Denton County Homeless Coalition hosting two digital concerts on Facebook Live where \$525 was raised for the Barriers Fund. The Barriers Fund is currently closed to residents outside of City of Lewisville because of funding capacity.

Dr. Mary Jones presented on the Denton County Service Provider Awards. Previous comments from the Leadership team were noted and the description of the awards have been updated to reflect the edits. There will be one Service Provider award for Front Line Staff and one Service Provider award for Community Service Staff. Dr. Mary motioned to approve the Denton County Homelessness Service Provider Awards as is and begin implementation of the award by the Denton County Homeless Coalition.

Motion: Dr. Mary Jones

Second: Terry Widmer seconded that motion.

Majority voted in favor, none opposed, and none abstained.

Healthcare Collaboration Workgroup

The establishment of this workgroup has been put on hold due to COVID-19 response. UWDC will work to convene this group in the coming months to identify opportunities for support and collaboration between health care providers and nonprofits that serve the county's homeless population.

Backbone Support Update

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

Hope Rodgers, Director of Mental Health Initiatives at UWDC, provided an update on the first COVID-19 mental health focused grant for the community. The grant opportunity is being spearheaded by UWDC, MHMR and Commissioner Mitchell and Commissioner Marchant and is called Operation Connecting Lives. The program will help connect individuals living in nursing homes/care facilities who have been unable to connect with family/friends because of COVID with an iPad to connect with their family/friends virtually. Hope Rodgers was certified in virtual Mental Health First Aid and is beginning to roll out opportunities for those trainings in the coming months.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team

Alicia McElroy, Director of Education and Workforce Initiatives at UWDC, provided an update on a grant awarded for the Family Childcare Network to assist individuals in opening their own childcare facility as well as bring more childcare opportunities to Denton County. The grant provides training and licensing needed to manage your own childcare facility and currently has 10 active participants in the grant. The goal by the end of the grant year is to have assisted with 50 childcare facilities.

The DCWSLT has finished the design phase and is prepping for the implementation phase for the Advance Together grant through the Dallas Fed, this grant is intended to improve education and workforce in a community. The Advance Together program has a racial equity focus related to workforce development opportunities. The grant was written to support a Racial Equity Coordinator position and a Case Management opportunity at NCTC in order to



increase the number of students returning to following semesters. Additionally, the grant will continue to provide assistance through UWDC's Financial Coaching program.

Public Comment

Chair Gilmore requested any public comment from the group.

Elena Lusk did provide an update that UWDC will be working on term renewals for DCHLT before October 2020 meeting.

Chair Gilmore reminded the Leadership Team to continue to show themselves grace during the Pandemic and reach out to mental health resources as needed.

New Business

Alice Mankoff announced that October will be Denton County Friends of the Families 40th year in existence. Denton County Friends of the Family will be having a virtual gala on October 8th. They are still looking for sponsorships and encouraged the group to connect Alice with any they have in mind.

Adjournment

Chair Gilmore entertained a motion to adjourn.

Terry Widmer motioned to adjourn.

Dr. Mary Jones seconded.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Next Meeting Date:

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<u>Representation Categories</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Appointee Name</u>
Denton County Commissioners Court <i>(1 Representative)</i>	Denton County Precinct # 3	Bobbie J. Mitchell
Municipal Governments <i>(1-2 City of Denton, 1-2 City of Lewisville, 1-4 Small Cities and Towns and 1 Carrollton)</i>	City of Denton	Chris Watts
	City of Denton	Keely Briggs
	City of Lewisville	Ashleigh Feryan
	City of Sanger	Thomas Muir
	City of Lewisville	TJ Gilmore
	City of Roanoke	Jeriahme Miller
	City of Carrollton	VACANT
	Small City/Town	VACANT
	Small City/Town	VACANT
Homelessness / Housing Service Providers <i>(6-10 Representatives)</i>	Denton County Friends of the Family	Alice Mankoff
	Metrocrest Services	Andy Folmer
	Giving Hope, Inc.	Michelle Conner
	Our Daily Bread	Emily Taylor
	Christian Community Action	Jim Mustain
	Denton Affordable Housing Corporation	Jodi Vicars-Nance
	Denton Housing Authority	Sheryl English
	Serve Denton	Stephen Coffey
	Salvation Army Denton	Beckie Wach
	Journey to Dream	Angie Cox
Health Care Providers <i>(2-5 Representatives)</i>	Denton County Health Department	Isabel Rodriguez
	Texas Health Presbyterian	Kathy Srokosz, MS, RN
	Health Services of North Texas	Dale Tampke
	Health Care Provider Representative	VACANT
	Health Care Provider Representative	VACANT
Educational Institutions <i>(1-3 Representatives)</i>	North Central Texas College	Jessica DeRoche, Med. NCC, LPC
	Lewisville Independent School District	Jill Adams, M. Ed, PSC
	Educational Institution Representative	VACANT
Workforce / Business Development <i>(1-3 Representatives)</i>	Denton Chamber of Commerce	John Manganilla
	Workforce/Business Representative	VACANT
	Workforce/Business Representative	VACANT
United Way of Denton County/Backbone Support <i>(1-2 Representatives)</i>	United Way of Denton County Inc.	Lyle Dresher
	United Way of Denton County Inc.	VACANT
Law Enforcement <i>(1-2 Representatives)</i>	Denton Police Department	Preston Pohler
	Law Enforcement Representative	VACANT
Community Members <i>(1-2 Representatives)</i>	Community Member	Terry Widmer
	Community Member	Valerie Foster CEFL

Appointees selected in 2020
Vacant Representative Chairs
<i>Current DCHLT Chair/Co-Chair</i>

**DENTON COUNTY HOMELESSNESS LEADERSHIP TEAM
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team, "DCHLT".

ARTICLE II MISSION/VISION

Vision Statement: Every person in Denton County has a place to call home that is safe, affordable, accessible and supported by community resources.

Mission Statement: The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team fosters an effective and coordinated system of homelessness prevention and intervention, resulting in homelessness that is rare, brief and nonrecurring through:

- Community awareness and connection
- Data-driven, evidenced-based, fiscally responsible recommendations
- Innovative solutions around affordable housing, access to primary and behavioral health care services, adequate incomes and coordinated services
- Mobilizing, advocating and empowering public-private community-wide collaboration

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

Section 3.1: Existence

The period of existence of the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team shall be perpetual beginning May 5th, 2016.

Section 3.2: Purpose

The purpose of the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team (DCHLT) is to convene as a policy making team tasked with improving the planning, coordination, oversight, and implementation required to create systems change, for housing/homelessness initiatives in Denton County.

Section 3.3: Fiscal Agent/Backbone Organization

The name of the agent and address of the DCHLT is:

United Way of Denton County Inc.
1314 Teasley Lane
Denton, TX 76205

United Way of Denton County Inc. (UWDC) will serve as the fiscal agent and backbone organization of the DCHLT to provide staff, guide vision and strategy, support aligned activities, establish shared measurement practices, build public will, advance policy and mobilize funding. DCHLT shall serve under the auspices of UWDC. The fiscal year shall follow UWDC and commence on April 1st and end on March 31st.

ARTICLE IV Appointments

Section 4.1: Appointment

Appointment to DCHLT is available to eligible entities as set forth below. The membership should represent the geographic, demographic and cultural diversity of Denton County, and to better serve the needs of Denton County.

The members of the DCHLT shall consist of the following entities:

- Denton County Commissioners Court
- City of Denton
- City of Lewisville
- City of Carrollton
- Small Cities/Towns
- Homelessness/Housing Providers
- Health Care Providers
- Higher Education Institutions
- Workforce/Business Development
- Community Members
- Law Enforcement
- United Way of Denton County

Section 4.2: Terms of Appointment

Initial appointments of the DCHLT shall serve a two (2) year term to ensure consistency and maintain a working knowledge of the DCHLT. Subsequent appointment terms will be developed by the DCHLT consisting of two (2) and three (3) year terms.

Section 4.3: Duties of Appointees

To ensure members are actively engaged members are expected to attend 75% of the meetings.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 5.1: General Meetings

Meetings of the DCHLT will be held every even-numbered month. Meetings of the DCHLT shall be held at the United Way of Denton County Inc. office. All meetings of the DCHLT will be open to the public. Meeting agendas and minutes will be made available through the UWDC website.

Section 5.2: Special Meetings

Special meetings of the DCHLT may be called by an executive officer.

Section 5.3: Notice of Meetings

Notice of meetings shall be provided at least 3 days prior on the UWDC website, and notification delivered by phone, mail, or email.

Section 5.4: Chairperson/Co-Chairperson

The DCHLT shall elect a chair and co-chair to preside over meetings. In the absence of the chair, the co-chair shall preside.

Section 5.5 Secretary

The secretary shall be an elected member of the DCHLT, and shall be responsible for the written minutes of the DCHLT.

Section 5.6: Workgroup Meetings

Workgroup meetings will be held monthly or as needed to conduct the business of the DCHLT. Additional meetings may be convened as necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the DCHLT.

Section 5.7: Quorum

A simple majority shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of DCHLT business.

Section 5.8: Voting

Each appointee of the DCHLT shall be entitled to vote in person or electronically if deemed necessary for the transaction of business. In the event of an electronic vote, members will vote accordingly and sufficient documentation will be kept and provided at the next official meeting. Only appointees to the DCHLT shall have voting rights. Ex-officios and alternates attending meetings on behalf of an absent appointee may not vote.

Section 5.9: Parliamentary Authority

The meetings of the DCHLT shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of the "Roberts Rules of Order" unless otherwise directed within these bylaws.

ARTICLE VI Officers/BHLT Appointees

Section 6.1: DCHLT Appointees

The DCHLT shall consist of no less than seventeen (17) and no more than thirty-eight (38) members. Such number may be increased or decreased by amendment to these Bylaws and the DCHLT structure. The DCHLT shall be composed of appointees from the following entities.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (1) Denton County Commissioners Court | (1-2) Community Members |
| (1-2) Denton City Council | (2-5) Health Care Providers |
| (1-2) Lewisville City Council | (1-3) Higher Education Institutions |
| (1) Carrollton City Council | (1-2) United Way of Denton County |
| (1-4) Small Cities/Towns | (1-3) Workforce/Business Development |
| (6-11) Homelessness/Housing Providers | (1-2) Law Enforcement |

In the event that there is interest for a new entity to be represented in the DCHLT, but all seats in the category they would be representing are full and there are open seats in another category, the number of seats for each category can be shifted without a bylaw amendment. The category shift would then be revisited upon end of appointee terms, to either continue with amount in each category and a bylaw amendment be created or revert back to original amount in each category in bylaws.

Section 6.2: Eligibility

To be eligible a person must be appointed by one of the above name entities as outlined in **Article 6 Section 6.1** and possess strong business, policy, or health background.

With regards to appointments:

- Cities/Towns should identify a council member, senior staff, executive, or community member;

- Non-profit organizations should identify a board member;
- Higher Education should identify a senior level representative;
- All others should identify a board member, or senior level representative

Appointees are expected to remain actively engaged and report to the appointing agency/organization on an ongoing basis to ensure accurate communication. In the event an appointee is not fulfilling their role, the DCHLT will request a new appointee from the appointing agency/organization.

Section 6.3 Officers

Officers of the DCHLT are eligible for two consecutive one (1) year terms. Elections will be held during the 1st meeting in May. DCHLT shall call for a nominating committee to be formed to present a slate of officers annually.

Section 6.4: Chair

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the DCHLT and shall exercise leadership to ensure the goals and objectives of the DCHLT are carried out. He/She shall have the powers and duties of supervision and management as it pertains to the office of Chair. The Chair shall serve a one year term and be elected each year.

The Chair shall:

1. Convene and manage meetings;
2. Set the agenda;
3. Represent the DCHLT at meetings;
4. Assure compliance with Roberts Rules of Orders

Section 6.5: Co-Chair

The Co-Chair shall assist the Chair in the leadership of the DCHLT. The Co-Chair shall serve a one year term and be elected each year. The duties of the Co-Chair include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Perform all duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, and when so shall have all of the powers and duties of Chair.
2. Prepare to succeed to the office of the Chair in the event of the Chairs resignation or vacancy.

Section 6.6: DCHLT Secretary

The secretary shall be an elected member of the DCHLT, and shall be responsible for the written minutes of the DCHLT, including the authority to be the representative signatory on all board approved documents. The Secretary shall serve a one year term and be elected each year.

Section 6.7 Past Chair

The past chair shall be an elected member of the DCHLT and will serve in an advisory capacity to ensure continuity of operations.

Section 6.8 DCHLT Ex-Officios

The DCHLT shall appoint ex-officio members as appropriate. Ex-officios will offer input, but will abstain from voting on matters of the DCHLT.

Section 6.9: DCHLT Work Group/Sub-Committee Chairs

Work groups/Sub-committees shall provide ongoing reports and recommendations to the DCHLT to ensure ongoing communication and leadership as it relates to the overall goals and objectives of the DCHLT.

Section 6.10: Resignation of DCHLT Appointees

Any member of the DCHLT may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chair at least 30 days in advance, and by notifying the appointing authority.

Section 6.11: DCHLT Vacancies

Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing agency/organization within 30 days of the vacancy and approved during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 6.12: Compensation of Officers/DCHLT Appointees

The officers/appointees shall not receive a salary or compensation.

Section 6.13: DCHLT Work Groups/Subcommittees

The work groups/subcommittees of the DCHLT are defined by the DCHLT as deemed appropriate and necessary. Additional work groups may be added and disbanded as needed.

- Housing
- Data
- ~~Consumer~~
- Shelter
- Denton County Homeless Coalition
- Affordable Housing
- Healthcare Collaborative

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the DCHLT members present at any regular or special meeting. Recommendations shall be submitted to the DCHLT at least thirty (30) days prior to consideration.

ARTICLE VIII NON-DISCRIMINATION

The members, officers, directors, committee members, employees and persons served by DCHLT shall be selected entirely on a non-discriminatory basis with respect to national origin, race, religion, color, sex, marital status, ancestry, sexual orientation, people with disabilities, age or veterans status.

ARTICLE XI CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any appointee who benefits financially, directly or indirectly as a result of an action/vote must abstain from the action/vote. A “benefit” shall include the possibility, or appearance, of personal financial gain to the appointee. A benefit occurs when the member or a person in the member’s immediate family, and/or a partner or other business associate, and or their employer stand to gain financially from the action/vote.

ARTICLE XII Confidentiality

It is the policy of the DCHLT and workgroup members to annually review the conflict of interest and confidentiality form. A copy of this form will be distributed to all DCHLT appointees and workgroup members for signature.

DCHLT Secretary

Date

DRAFT

87th Texas
Legislative
Agenda Priorities

- 1. Academic Workforce Development**
- 2. Behavioral and Mental Health**
- 3. Veteran Services**
- 4. Early Childhood Success**
- 5. Affordable Accessible Housing**
- 6. Predatory Lending**

Academic Workforce Development

87th Legislative Agenda

Integration of **academic** and **workforce development** policies that create **cradle-to-career** pathways, providing a **better educated workforce and sustainable income that enables self-sufficiency.**

Main Findings for 2020

- Job loss affected low-income households more with job loss at **41%** in Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households and **60%** for those in poverty.
- People in hospitality, entertainment/food, construction, and sales report the greatest impact of COVID-19.
- Hispanic households lost or reduced employment in **37%** of their jobs compared to **35%** for Black and **24%** for white households.

Mental and Behavioral Health

87th Legislative Agenda

Continue to increase funding that would expand the entry points for **coordinated and comprehensive services** for **behavioral health** that are planned, cohesive, and monitored for effectiveness at the community level that ensures **individual wellbeing** and **community safety** for residents of all ages

Main Findings for 2020

- Texas ranked **3rd** in the nation for prevalence of mental illness and **last** in the nation for access to mental health care.
- COVID-19 stressors have been linked to an **increase** in adverse mental and behavioral health symptoms in the U.S.
- Groups that experience more COVID-stressors, including Black households and ALICE households, are more likely to experience adverse mental or behavioral health symptoms.
- In the past six months, health service providers in Denton County have seen an **increase** in the severity of cases involving individuals with mental and behavioral health symptoms.

Veteran Services

87th Legislative Agenda

Continue to maintain funding for **housing, health, and behavioral health services** for veterans transitioning from military life and for those already in our community.

Main Findings for 2020

- Veterans account for **9%** of Denton County's homeless population compared to the general population which accounts for only **5%**.
- In August, **22** veterans were experiencing homelessness in Denton County.
- 3-4 Veterans enter Denton County's Housing Crisis Response System every 90 days. The goal is to house more veterans every month than the amount of veterans entering our system.

Early Childhood Success

87th Legislative Agenda

Increase access to **high quality, affordable childcare** and **early childhood education**; increase access to **dropout prevention programs** for at-risk students that improve student achievement and post-graduation success; and increase access to programs for **children experiencing abuse and neglect**.

Main Findings for 2020

- Since 2018, there has been a gradual decline in the number of childcare programs in Texas. COVID-19 is accelerating this decline.
- As a result of the pandemic, **39%** of families living below the ALICE threshold could not work due to the need for childcare compared to **12%** for families above.
- The cost of childcare is likely to **increase** due to lower provider-child ratios and increased costs for personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies
- Since April of 2020, CASA of Denton County has seen a **36% increase** in the number of cases involving **severe child safety and health risks**, such as parental drug abuse, child drug exposure, untreated mental illness, unsafe caregivers, and violence in the home.

Affordable Accessible Housing

87th Legislative Agenda

Support for prevention and intervention programs that make **homelessness** rare, brief and nonrecurring, and policies that **lower barriers** and promote an increase in **affordable, available and accessible housing** throughout the state.

Main Findings for 2020

- As of August, **379 households** are experiencing homelessness in Denton County; **35.6%** are experiencing chronic homelessness.
- As of March, **2,436 students** in Denton County were experiencing homelessness.
- The need for Permanent Supportive Housing has grown greater than the need for Rapid Re-Housing. This increase directly relates to people developing more vulnerabilities and aging into chronicity.

Predatory Lending

87th Legislative Agenda

Reform the statutory framework for regulation of **predatory lending** to provide protections for **financially vulnerable Texans** from aggressive and harmful lending practices.

Main Findings for 2020

- Texas ranks last for underbanked households
- Statewide, **23%** of those who lost income during the pandemic used credit cards.
- ALICE households are going into debt with **33%** increasing balances on credit cards and **16%** taking out loans.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

August 2020 – October 2020

The data dashboard has been updated with August data and following the DCHLT will be updated with September data. As of August 2020, there are currently 379 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. That number breaks down into:

- 32 families
- 338 individuals
- 22 Veteran households
- 135 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

The data trend of more intensive housing intervention need being shown locally has continued, Permanent Supportive Housing is still the highest need for our community currently with 52.8% of households on the Housing Priority List scoring in that housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown for August 2020 is:

- Diversion Services – 23 households
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 156 households
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 200 households

The Housing Priority List fields have been updated to include new data elements Texas Homeless Network released in September in order to implement the new COVID -19 Prioritization Factors that were also released by THN recently.

UWDC has hired a new Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator, Megan Ball, to take on previous data and HMIS responsibilities.

The Data Workgroup will meet in October to discuss previous goals, current accomplishments and future ideas for the workgroup to work towards.

Short-term action items

Meet with Data Workgroup to discuss goals of the workgroup, plans to work towards, etc.

Accomplishments

Hired new Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator for UWDC.

Concerns

Data management during COVID-19 Pandemic may allow for households to be missed, information to not be submitted and for data to not be collected.

Next Meeting Dates

October 13th 2020

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

October 2020

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

August 2020 – October 2020

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 4 times between August 13th and October 7th. During each case conferencing meeting we have discussed clients that each agency is working with currently and any strengths, barriers and next steps we needed to list.

UWDC has continued Hotel/RRH Case Conferencing with ODB, and City of Denton staff weekly to assist prioritizing households for RRH and identifying immediate next steps in housing plans for individuals that are currently living in hotels.

During the September Case Conferencing meetings a reminder of two new Texas Homeless Network refresher trainings (Data Security and Coordinated Entry) were discussed and everyone on the call was reminded of deadlines. UWDC did announce closing referrals to the Housing Navigator program for the month of September. Recovery Resource Council has also closed referrals until further notice due to capacity issues. Both meetings discussed the new COVID-19 Prioritization standards Texas Homeless Network released and implemented September 1. The new factors prioritize households based on their vulnerability of contracting COVID-19 and are temporary. They are as follows;

- Household member answered “Yes” to the question on chronic health issues with their liver, kidney, stomach, lungs or heart.
- Head of household is age 55 or older
- The household has a survivor of domestic violence in it.
- The household is living in an unsheltered location.

During the September General Case Conferencing meeting a workaround for gaining access to the DPS for clients to get their ID’s around the barriers COVID-19 has created was discussed as a possibility. UWDC is attempting to see if such workaround can be created because per our discussion with case managers in September, 15-20 households they are working with have all documents they need for an ID but are now waiting on appointments at the DPS. Appointments in Denton for IDs are currently out until February 2021 or later, meaning people without an ID may need to wait on gaining housing and/or a job until then.

Short-term action items

Continue to convene Case Conferencing for specific program types (RRH).

Assist individuals and households in obtaining necessary eligibility documentation for housing programs.

Accomplishments

10 individuals have been housed since June

Convened regularly scheduled General and Veteran Case Conferencings via Zoom.

Continued to convene RRH specific case conferencing with ODB, MKOC and City of Denton.

Concerns

Difficulty contacting individuals currently staying in hotels rather than emergency shelter to connect them with housing programs, CE or supportive services.

Individuals needing a form of ID to gain housing and/or a job are currently needing to wait months in order to gain them.

Next Meeting Dates

October 19th, November 2nd, November 16th and December 7th.

DCHLT Housing Workgroup August 2020 to October 2020

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

August 2020 – October 2020

The DCBHLT Veterans Workgroup met August 13th and September 10th. The two meetings discussed progress towards the goal to end Veteran homelessness among other strategic goals. Discussion/planning on this year's version of the Veteran stand down was also had, with COVID this year many Veteran agencies are unable to participate in an in person standdown. The roving standdown will take place early November.

UWDC submitted data to both Denton Housing Authority and the Tarrant County Veteran Affairs office for a letter of support from the VA to be created for more HUD-VASH vouchers to come to the community. That letter of support was submitted in September by DHA and the VA and the community is currently waiting to hear back on the results.

UWDC's new Denton County Veteran Stability program funded through the Texas Veterans Commission grant has begun and they have already met their quarterly goal before their first quarter ended on Veterans served. Continuing to show the need for housing funds for Veterans in the community. They have served 14 unduplicated Veterans with 17 financial requests currently.

Currently Denton County's SSVF provider, Recovery Resource Council, is not taking new referrals until they are able to work through their backlog of clients they already have.

Four Veterans have been housed and three Veterans have been identified since June 2020. There are currently 22 Veteran households on the Housing Priority List. End of August 2020 was the end of the last 90 day look back period. Many goals still need to be achieved but as of end of August, 4 of the last 6 months of tracking progress towards benchmarks and criteria met show that Denton County has consistently been able to house more Veterans than are coming into our community. The next 90 day look back period for the Benchmark tool was started for September 1.

Short-term action items

UWDC hire VISTA for Veteran Workforce program.

Plan Veteran Stand Down event.

Accomplishments

Denton County Veteran Stability Program has met their quarterly goals before end of quarter on Veterans served.

Lowest number of active Veterans on the Housing Priority List.

Letter of support submitted by DHA and the VA with community data to gain more HUD-VASH for the community.

Concerns

Sufficient housing assistance resources and wrap-around services for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Reaching our goal by the end of 2020

Next Meeting Dates

October 8th



END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN DENTON COUNTY BY 2020

We will end Veteran homelessness when we have enough resources to meet the need. Our milestones to reach this goal are:

MILESTONE	STATUS
All Veterans experiencing homelessness have been identified.	In Progress
The community has ended chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans.	In Progress
Veterans move into permanent housing in 90 days or less of becoming homeless.	In Progress
More Veterans are moving into permanent housing than becoming homeless.	On Track
The community is providing transitional housing in limited instances.	In Progress

22 VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
122 DAYS UNTIL OUR GOAL



DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

August 2020 – October 2020

The Denton County Homeless Coalition has convened twice between August and October.

During the August meeting the group discussed:

- An update on local funding opportunities – City of Denton RRH and SO and COVID Relief Fund.
- Began planning the 2021 Point In Time Count – PIT Count leads were decided by the group and United Way of Denton County staff will continue to be the leads for the County. A small group of people from the DCHC agreed to be in the official PIT Count planning group. That group has met once since the August DCHC meeting and discussed last years successes and areas for improvement. The group will meet again October 8th. The information has been sent to agencies county-wide in order for the PIT Count to continue to have deeper coverage into the county.
- Approval of Service Provider awards were discussed – A voting committee will be formed in the September meeting to vote on applicants after the release of the awards criteria on Oct. 1.

During the September meeting the group discussed:

- Data update from the Dashboard as well as COVID Relief Fund data.
- Service Provider awards voting committee began being formed and some action steps for UWDC were created to gain more participation from local service providers in the community.
 - Criteria for the awards and nomination information were released to the community following the meeting.
- Future November virtual event ideas was brought as a discussion for the group per June's meeting where DCHC committee members discussed having an event for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week (Nov 15th-22nd). A fundraising committee has been formed and will meeting in the coming weeks to plan this event and future ones.

Short-term action items

Reviewing future nominations for service provider awards.

Planning next virtual event to improve community engagement/donations for the Barriers Fund.

Accomplishments

2021 PIT Count planning has begun.

Concerns

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates

October 28th ; November 18th