



Thursday, October 14th, 2021 | 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

Agenda

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| I. | Welcome | Chair | 2 min. |
| II. | June and August Meeting Minutes | Chair | 5 min. |
| III. | COVID-19 Response Update | E. Lusk | 5 min. |
| IV. | Waters on Bonnie Brae w/ Legacy Multifamily Development | J. Traeger | 20 min. |
| V. | Strategic Planning | A. Feryan | 10 min. |
| VI. | Workgroup Updates | | 25 min. |
| | • Housing | T. Widmer | |
| | • Data | M. Fink | |
| | • Denton County Homeless Coalition Update | D. Adams | |
| | • CoC Ad Hoc Committee | E. Lusk | |
| VII. | Backbone Support Update | UWDC | 10 min. |
| | • Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update | | |
| | • Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update | | |
| VIII. | Public Comment | Chair | 5 min. |
| IX. | New Business | Chair | 5 min. |
| X. | Adjourn | Chair | 2 min. |

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, December 9th, 2021 | 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, June 10th, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference

Agenda

Welcome & Consideration of June 2021 Minutes

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve April 2021 Minutes.

Motion: Jessica DeRoche

Second: Angie Cox

Motion was approved.

Metro Relief Introduction and Appointee Selection – VOTE

Katie Beasley, Chief Strategist for Metro Relief, thanks UWDC for inviting her organization to potentially join the team. She describes her organization as a service for homelessness in all mobile case management service organizations. Headquartered in Colony Texas but serve the entire metroplex. They took the standard model of homelessness services and turned it inside out by being on the move with clients. They serve community mobility in two main ways. The first is when they try to serve a critical mass of 75-300 people experiencing homelessness by sending out mobile units with converted buses which are mobile resource centers and soup kitchens. They take 15 volunteers every time they send the buses out. They send outreach ministry volunteers once they have built true case management relationships with clients. The volunteers are sent out for follow-up appointments and when trying to reach small masses of people. They are currently involved with the MDHA and are eager to become a part of Denton County service area to access things like HMIS and housing priority.

Beasley turns the conversation to Jessica Craft, who will represent Metro Relief if voted to be an agency represented in DCHLT. Jessica introduces herself, she manages the charitable foundation at Co-serve and is a longtime volunteer for Metro Relief amongst other agencies. Metro Relief has chosen Jessica as opposed to a Board Member because majority of Metro Relief Board is not local and Jessica can speak to more local need. **Unanimous support for Metro Relief to join DCHLT and Jessica Craft represent them.**

Virtual or In-Person Meetings – VOTE

Co-Chair Mayor Muir asks if everyone would like to have future meetings online, in person, or provide a hybrid option. Discussion of potentially coming back into the office and UWDC having the technology is had. Multiple appointees mention that hybrid is the best option for them due to frequent meetings, vacations, etc. **Vote approved to begin hybrid meetings August 2021.**

COVID-19 Response Update

Elena Lusk discussed the relaunch of last year's covid relief fund program with new funding from the consolidation appropriations act. Provides data of how the fund has helped clients in the community and they have 400,00 unique housing from March-January. The weekly trend shows that we are around \$400,000 each week. UWDC recently started tracking new data for the county just about a month ago and show a breakdown of AMI, race, ethnicity, and employment status. The data shows that just under 70 percent of folks served through CAA are below 30 percent area median income. Black and Asian households are overrepresented through the program.

UWDC is adding a new page to the website that is meant to aid people in searching for a job. More to come in future meetings.

Strategic Planning

UWDC staff will be providing backbone support to review progress of Strategic Plan and updates for the plan. Staff is looking for 3-5 people to review the old strategic plan and make updates that represent different homelessness program types (RRH, PSH, HP, SO, ES, CE, etc.). Angie Cox, Jessica DeRoche, Michelle Conner, Dani Shaw, Jill Adams, Commissioner Bobby Mitchell volunteered to participate.

Emergency Housing Voucher Planning

Denton Housing Authority was allotted 40 Emergency Housing Vouchers. Elena Lusk walked through the preliminary planning UWDC, Denton Housing Authority, Denton County Friends of the Family, and the City of Denton are working together to follow guidelines for Emergency Housing Vouchers while identifying priority populations. The group is working together per advice given by Texas Homeless Network, because the Denton County Housing Crisis Response System is more developed than other communities in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care.

Workgroup Updates

- **Denton County Homeless Coalition**

Daphne Adams discussed the workgroup meeting on the 26th of May and voted to do an in-person/hybrid model that will start on July 28th. They are working with Denton and Lewisville to secure meeting space for alternate times for the remaining meetings in 2021.

The Barriers Fund has services 313 households as of the date. Blue HOME shirts will support the Barriers Fund in a fundraiser launching later this month. The t-shirt is \$25 and \$5 will go back towards the Barriers Fund.

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care has invited local communities to participate in their strategic planning. TX BoS CoC Board nominations going on until June 22nd.

- **Housing**

Hope Rodgers discussed the housing workgroup meeting every Monday for several months now, including two Veteran specific meetings. Constant meetings to support the influx of funding in the community and the Goal to End Veteran Homelessness.

- **Data**

Madeline Fink discussed the data workgroup met yesterday and discussed the future concerning dashboards like using barrier fund outcomes and the number of people helped. The workgroup is

also wanting to add racial equity to the data dashboard in the future. Madeline and Elena walked through the current Data Dashboard updated with May 2021 numbers.

- **Other Workgroups**

Elena Lusk gave an update on the Ending Veteran Homelessness initiative. Newsletter was created to show and update from 70 days remaining in the 100 Day Challenge. Agencies are working together to house Veterans, and many donations of Home Kits have been made. The community meets every Tuesday at 2 pm and participation is encouraged. There are stickers being made and given to agencies and volunteers involved with the challenge. Additionally, a successful Facebook live to engage Landlords happened recently.

The Healthcare Collab, Shelter Workgroup, and Affordable Housing have not met just yet. Will start these meetings soon.

Backbone Support Update

- **Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update**

- Shanan Spencer discussed UWDC applying for a grant from Lewisville to pilot mental health navigator program for Lewisville residents. She will hear something by July and expand it county-wide through data use. UWDC was notified that the TVC grant for veteran financial assistance was extended another year for \$300,000.
- DCBHLT started a new Adhoc workgroup for substance use to collect data county-wide on substance use/misuse in Denton county.
- The Jail Diversion workgroup started to meet quarterly to step back and be more of a monitoring group, addressing issues as they arise.
- Veterans workgroup is revising the strategic plan by filling in the gap of service and trying to meet needs.
- Child and Family systems workgroup cosponsored training on substance use, over 100 people in attendance.

- **Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update**

- Olivia Mata-Williams discussed the Leadership team responding to the reduction of \$300 of benefits going away this month while also expressing a community response of not enough workforce, further proving the need for a workforce navigator. Currently the WSLT is looking to bridge potential employees with employers along with networking through a resource page and future training opportunities.
- The Family Childcare Network is putting on a free conference for early childhood educators in 2 weeks on June 26th. The grant provides conferences for free and provides continuing education credits for attendees.

Public Comment

N/A

New Business

N/A

Adjourn

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore entertained a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 am.



Thursday, August 12th, 2021 | 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

Agenda

Welcome

Mayor Gilmore welcomed appointees at 8:02 AM. Discussion was had on meeting minutes, meeting minutes for June will be provided in the October meeting and approved with August minutes.

COVID-19 Response Update

Elena Lusk walked through current data for Covid related Homelessness Prevention program (CAA).

Strategic Planning

UWDC and several other agencies participated in Texas Homeless Network's Strategic Planning exercise. Denton County was ahead of other communities, having come prepared with current strategic plan and future ideas for plans while communities for discussing for the first time.

Staff will begin updating our strategic plan following this meeting and will connect with appointees previously interested.

Denton County Continuum of Care Exploration

Staff and Courtney Doungdara, City of Denton, walked through the 1 pager created and provided to DCHLT to a propose a committee be formed to explore Denton County leaving the TX BoS CoC in any of the following routes; being an independent CoC, joining neighboring CoC's Tarrant/Parker or Dallas/Collin, or forming our own with Cooke, Grayson and Fannin. One pager discussed history, possible implications, funding, etc. If approved this split or merge would happen in 2022 or later. A vote on committee being formed was held and approved. Volunteers from DCHLT appointees need to email Elena to be included on future conversations.

Emergency Housing Voucher Planning

Hope Rogers discussed the partnership with Denton Housing Authority after being awarded emergency housing vouchers through the American Rescue Act. All associated agencies have been working to identify the best process in distributing vouchers evenly with the priority populations in mind. The allocation process is described in the meeting packet with THN and DHA. They received more referrals than vouchers but are working to complete necessary next steps and paperwork for vouchers to be filled.

Extreme Weather Response for Homelessness

Elena Lusk discussed UWDC being approached by a council member from City of Denton on behalf of a community group concerned with the available resources during inclement weather. A small survey was created and will be sent out to agencies working in housing and homelessness to understand their perspective. UWDC provided an update on current inclement weather solutions in Denton area.

Workgroup Updates

- **Housing**

Terry Widmer discussed the housing workgroup continuing to meet weekly and work through a housing priority list of about 300 people. They are looking at strengths, barriers, and housing focuses. Specific 100-day challenge meetings have ended but there is still 2 Veteran specific case conferencing meetings. 65% of vets were housed from the beginning of the challenge to the end.

- **Data**

Madeline Fink provided an update of the dashboard and walking through July data shown. The workgroup is continuing to work on ways to include more racial equity data to the dashboard.

- **Ending Veteran Homelessness**

Elena Lusk provided an update on the EVH challenge now that it has ended. Started with 17 veterans and housed 11 within 100 days. Met with community members and agencies within the 100 days resulted in success. Identified 26 veterans that need and are working towards housing within 100 days. Provided 40 home kits for veterans so they can relax in their new homes. And identified the top 3 barriers being affordable and accessible housing options, livable wage employment, supportive services not tied to housing. Community will continue to work on the goal outside of the 100-day Challenge.

- **Denton County Homeless Coalition Update**

Daphne Adams discussed updates from COC, they are currently running elections for other positions on the board. Still waiting on the CoC Notification of Funding Availability. The next CoC meeting will be in October right before the statewide conference in Houston. The Coalition met in person for the first time. They are currently working on annual data reveal and sharing point in time data soon.

Backbone Support Update

- **Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update 42:11**

Shanan discussed the leadership team applying for Lewisville funds for the mental health navigator pilot program.

The Substance Use workgroup has taken off by gathering data in the county and looking to have a flowchart available to people in need of local resources. They want to develop a standard questionnaire checklist for providers to use when someone comes in to get better information about the specific person.

The Leadership Team is concerned with the MHMR presentation of suicide numbers that are quite alarming. The goal is to address this issue and look at the cases of people who successfully committed suicide to learn how to expand resources.

UWDC has been working with the City of Corinth to survey the schools in the area of developmental assets. They went over the data of 171 youth with a large percentage of students

struggling with commitment to learning and positive identity. Data shows it could possibly be COVID-related or a trend among the youth in general

- **Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update**

Olivia Mata-Williams discussed a project involving connecting people from the eviction prevention program to workforce programs and support. The Leadership Team is working to understand how to get people back to work and when benefits run out, as well as a cliff benefits analysis.

Public Comment

N/A

New Business

Dr. Lisa Pierce, new appointee for Christian Community Action, was introduced.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 9:25 AM.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

August 2021 – October 2021

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 5 times between August 13th and October 14th where 2 meetings were Veteran-specific and 3 were General. During each case conferencing meeting, members discussed clients that each agency is actively working with, including client strengths, barriers and housing-focused 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 communitywide data, as well as receive training and guidance on how to document a client's "housed" status in HMIS.

During the Veteran-specific meetings prior to the end of the 100 Day Challenge (July 10th), workgroup members reviewed and provided updates on progress made working on teams of service providers to work with each Veteran on the HPL, where each team includes a combination of an outreach worker/CE Assessor, a Veteran-specific service provider, and a housing-focused service provider. Members also identified the supportive services needed for each Veteran, tailored to their unique needs (e.g. health and mental health care, benefits assistance, social support, etc.) as well as identify the housing-based program best suited for their needs.

During both the General and Veterans meetings, members discussed barriers, strengths and next steps for households on the HPL, with a focus on new households or households with no recent Case Conferencing notes to ensure that all households actively seeking services have a housing plan in place.

In the first General meeting of August, workgroup members received updates on the distribution and allocation of 40 Emergency Housing Vouchers through Denton Housing Authority, specifically regarding clients who had been prioritized for an Emergency Housing Voucher who lacked reliable contact information. In the first October General meeting, workgroup members participated in a survey administered by UWDC to gain information on each agency's current approach to requesting and obtaining necessary eligibility documentation for RRH or PSH, such as verification of homelessness and/or chronic homeless, and verification of disability status, for the purpose of improving and streamlining documentation collection as a community.

Short-term action items

- Identify opportunities to streamline housing program eligibility documentation collection (e.g. verification of homelessness, verification of disability, etc.)
- Continue to support, conduct outreach, and overcome barriers to housing for individuals on HPL.

Accomplishments

- Collaboration amongst service providers to locate clients who were selected for an Emergency Housing Voucher; strong communication amongst service providers who had a client selected for an Emergency Housing Voucher

Concerns

- Service provider capacity to conduct follow up on action items identified in Case Conferencing
- Increased Inflows into Denton County's Housing Priority List and quality of new Coordinated Entry assessments
- Utilization of all available RRH funds

Next Meeting Dates

October 18th, October 25th, November 1st, November 15th, November 22nd

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

August 2021 – October 2021

The data dashboard has been updated with August 2021 data and will be updated with September data in the first half of October. As of August 2021, there are currently 441 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. This is an increase from 373 households in July 2021, and 340 households in June 2021. The 441 total number for August breaks down into:

- 41 families
- 400 individuals
- 42 Veteran households
- 141 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

Denton County school districts' data has also been updated for both June and August 2021. The two largest school districts reported the following numbers:

- Denton ISD: 899 in June, 352 in August
- Lewisville ISD: 795 in June, 267 in August

Rapid Re-Housing continues to be the highest need regarding housing program types for our community currently with 54% of households on the Housing Priority List as of August 2021 scoring in that housing intervention range. Permanent Supportive Housing is following closely behind with 39.7% scoring in the PSH housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritization breakdown for August 2021 is:

- Diversion Services – 28 households (6.3%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 238 households (54%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 175 households (39.7%)

During the month of August, Homelessness Data Management Specialist Madeline Fink met with six homelessness service provider agencies in Denton County to review HMIS and CE procedures one-on-one. As a result of these meetings, a 2021 HMIS Improvement Plan has been created for each of these agencies, outlining their achievements and needs for improvement in HMIS. Some agencies have held or will hold follow up meetings with Madeline to address HMIS-related concerns. In August Madeline also began holding monthly HMIS Training meetings over Zoom, open to all agency employees and service providers. The next training meeting will be held on October 11, 2021.

The data workgroup met in September to review official dashboard layout changes, examine recent data trends, and discuss data calculation procedures. In regards to layout changes, the "information bubbles" discussed at the July workgroup meeting have been officially added to the dashboard.

During the September meeting, the workgroup also discussed recent trends in Denton County's homelessness data, such as an increase in households chronically experiencing homelessness over the past few months. A preliminary examination of July data revealed that 12 of the 21 new households experiencing chronic homelessness added to the HPL were already accessing services in Denton County during past months or years but had only recently gone through the Coordinated Entry process that places them on the HPL. This is a good sign, as it shows that service providers are likely establishing rapport with clients and connecting more clients experiencing chronic homelessness to housing services.

During the meeting, Madeline asked for guidance on best practices when measuring the number of days experiencing homelessness for clients on the HPL who have been housed but returned to homelessness more than one time. The workgroup agreed it would be best to use the most recent length of time a client has experienced homelessness, as opposed to an overall time that may include some time spent housed, if possible. Madeline is consulting THN on this issue and will continue the discussion at future workgroup meetings.

In addition, the workgroup reviewed a few sample homelessness Racial Equity charts created by Madeline Fink to be potentially added to a specific United Way of Denton County Racial Equity online dashboard in the future. The workgroup chose the chart format they felt best portrayed the data and came up with an overall plan for tracking Racial Equity data on the future dashboard. This plan outlines that race and ethnicity demographics should be measured at 3 stages of the housing services process; CE assessment (VISPDAT score), program enrollment, and housing placement. Madeline will examine preliminary versions of this data and present it to the workgroup at the October meeting.

Short-term action items

- Plan next workgroup meeting for October 13, 2021.
- UWDC Homelessness Initiatives staff (Madeline) will meet with THN to discuss data best practices regarding clients who have been housed and returned to homelessness more than once

Accomplishments

- Visual/layout changes have been officially made to the dashboard
- Preliminary data examination has produced evidence that Denton County service providers are building rapport with clients and connecting more clients to housing services

Concerns

- The overall rise in numbers on the HPL, especially among Veterans and those chronically experiencing homelessness, has caused concern among homelessness service providers and advocates in Denton County. UWDC staff and the data workgroup will continue to examine these trends to find more information and brainstorm potential solutions with providers.

Next Meeting Dates

October 13, 2021