



**Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
Zoom Video Conference**

**Agenda**

|       |  |  |         |
|-------|--|--|---------|
| I.    | Welcome & Consideration of June 2020 Minutes   | Chair  | 2 min.  |
| II.   | United Way of Denton County Transition   | G. Henderson   | 5 min.  |
| III.  | COVID-19 Response Update   | G. Henderson/H. Rodgers  | 10 min. |
| IV.   | City of Denton Building Purchase   | D. Shaw  | 5 min.  |
| V.    | Workgroup Updates  |  | 30 min. |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Ending Veteran Homelessness</li> <li>• Denton County Homeless Coalition Update</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">i. <b>VOTE</b> – Denton County Homeless Service Provider Awards</li> <li>• Healthcare Collaboration</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E. Lusk</li> <li>T. Widmer</li> <li>E. Lusk</li> <li>D. Adams</li> <li>E. Lusk</li> </ul> |         |
| VI.   | Backbone Support Update  | E. Lusk  | 10 min. |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update</li> <li>• Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update</li> </ul>   |  |         |
| VII.  | Public Comment   | Chair  | 5 min.  |
| VIII. | New Business   | Chair  | 5 min.  |
| IX.   | Adjourn  | Chair  | 2 min.  |

**Next Meeting Date:  
Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Zoom Video Conference**





**Thursday, June 11, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**  
**Zoom Video Conference**

**Appointees/Ex-Officios Present:** Alice Mankoff, Andy Folmer, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Courtney Cross (ex-officio), Cynthia Harris, Dani Shaw (ex-officio), Gary Henderson (ex-officio), Jessica DeRoche, Jill Adams, Jim Mustain, Dr. Mary Jones, Roy Metzler, Sheryl English, Terry Widmer, Mayor Thomas Muir (regrets), Nicole Recker, Stephen Coffey

**Appointees Absent:** Ashleigh Feryan (regrets), Dale Tampke (regrets), Emily Taylor (regrets), Frank Padgett, Joe Perez, Mayor Chris Watts,

**Guests:** Elena Lusk (United Way of Denton County), Hope Rodgers (United Way of Denton County), Wendy McGee (Our Daily Bread), Anja Taylor (City of Denton), Daphne Adams (Denton County Homeless Coalition), Alicia McElroy (United Way of Denton County)

### **Welcome & Consideration of June 2020 Minutes**

Chair Councilperson TJ Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Chair requested a motion to approve February 2020 Minutes.

Motion: Terry Widmer

Second: Jessica DeRoche

Motion was approved.

### **COVID-19 Response Update**

Courtney provided an update on establishment and metrics of the UWDC COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Eviction Prevention Fund. To date, \$746,500 allocated for eviction prevention to date: \$100,000 from City of Denton; \$51,500 from City of Lewisville, \$75,000 allocated from PACCAR foundation donation; \$520,000 from Denton County. UWDC has administered \$1,215,797 of funding to Denton County nonprofits for direct services and operations related to COVID-19.

Gary provided update on County CARES Act funding for grants to local nonprofits. Denton County Commissioners Court allocated \$20 million of CARES Act relief funding for housing, and another \$2 million for nonprofit grants. UWDC is working with Commissioners Court to stay ahead of food insecurity needs and identify creative solutions to increase capacity and supplies for local food pantries.

Dani Shaw provided an update of the City of Denton's response to people experiencing homelessness who are living sheltered and unsheltered. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the City of Denton acquired 2 hotels to allow for safe distancing for people staying in shelter – one for Monsignor King Outreach Center and Salvation Army guests and one for Grace Like Rain's family shelter guests. Hotel use is projected through June 30, 2020. The Monsignor King Outreach Center remains closed, the Salvation Army shelter has opened at 50% capacity and Grace Like Rain is using the Wheeler House and hotel.

Keely Briggs asked if a lack of volunteers has contributed to the extended use of a hotel for Monsignor King Outreach Center guests. Dani replied stating while all local nonprofits have experienced a lack of volunteers, they are starting to see some increases and the city will continue to monitor volunteer capacity as they evaluate the need for continued use of the hotel.



Daphne Adams with Christian Community Action, Wendy McGee with Our Daily Bread and Alice Mankoff with Denton County Friends of the Family delivered updates on adjustments to their processes, client needs and volunteer capacities.

## Homelessness Data Report

Courtney Cross reviewed the 2020 Denton County Homelessness Data Report. Key findings include:

- African Americans disproportionately experience homelessness.
- There was a 75% increase in people experiencing chronic homelessness in the 2020 PIT Count (56 individuals) from the 2019 PIT Count (32 individuals).
- Veterans in Denton County make up approximately 9% of people experiencing homelessness compared to 5% of the general population, indicating that Veterans are experiencing homelessness at a slightly higher rate.
- The number of children experiencing homelessness increased from 1 child to 9 children from the 2019 PIT County to the 2020 PIT Count. These are children living with household units rather than unaccompanied.
- 85.7% of people surveyed that reported living with a serious mental illness were also living unsheltered at the time of the PIT Count.

The complete report is available on the [United Way of Denton County website \(linked\)](#).

## Workgroup Updates

### *Data*

Elena Lusk provided a Data Workgroup update and review the Homelessness Data Dashboard. As of May 21, 2020, there were 348 confirmed households experiencing homelessness. Elena reviewed the newly added demographic data detailing race, ethnicity and age data for households experiencing homelessness in Denton County.

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

### *Housing*

Terry Widmer provided a Housing Workgroup update. Large group case conferencing has been limited during the pandemic, and UWDC has been facilitating targeted case conferencing meetings with Our Daily Bread and the Monsignor King Outreach Center to support case management and rapid rehousing targets. A custom housing priority list has been developed for individuals staying in hotels to prioritize needs and develop housing programs.

The community's two Permanent Supportive Housing programs were awarded expansions, and workgroup members are collaborating to prioritize households for new openings. Regular case conferencing meetings will resume in July.

As individuals transition to housing, rooms open up at the hotel. Additional rooms are reserved for people living unsheltered who test positive for the virus and need to isolate.

### *Shelter Planning*

Wendy McGee provided an update on the recent collaboration of Our Daily Bread and the Monsignor King Outreach Center. Wendy presented Our Daily Bread's vision of operating as a day shelter with supportive services to the DCHLT in December.

The City of Denton approached Our Daily Bread and the Monsignor King Outreach Center to gauge their interest in collocating at a property on Loop 288. The property was formerly a nursing home and would allow enough space for meals, supportive services, and emergency shelter to be provided on site, with safe distancing in place. Both agency boards are exploring opportunities to combine resources at the facility and the potential impact on each agency's



organizational and financial structuring. The United Way of Denton County and the City of Denton have been supporting both agencies in their exploration.

Both organizations are working to provide comprehensive services at one location for people experiencing homelessness. Gary Henderson commended Our Daily Bread, the Monsignor King Outreach Center and the City of Denton for their efforts.

#### *Ending Veteran Homelessness*

Courtney Cross provided an update on the goal to End Veteran Homelessness. UWDC executed a Memorandum of Understanding to employ a Veteran Employment VISTA, funded by the Texas Homeless Network. This position will support Veterans experiencing homelessness or recently housed in obtaining employment, and they will support our goal to end Veteran homelessness.

The DCBHLT Veteran Workgroup will be discussing next steps for our goal considering the fact that we may not reach it by the end of the year. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program that serves Denton County has been transferred from Catholic Charities to Recovery Resource Council. 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.

#### *Denton County Homeless Coalition Update*

Daphne Adams provided a Denton County Homeless Coalition (DCHC) update. The coalition continues to identify opportunities for collaboration in serving the community. The City of Denton submitted an application for Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funding. The community is hopeful the city will be awarded their grant and that local agencies will be able to apply to offer programs.

The next round of funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter program has been released, along with CARES Act EFSP funding. Four agencies in Denton County are recipients of this funding. EFSP, formerly FEMA funding, can assist with rent and mortgage payments, utilities, and food.

#### *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 has been certified as a Mental Health First Aid facilitator. UWDC will work with Denton County MHMR to develop a virtual MHFA calendar. The DCBHLT Children and Families Workgroup is collaborating with the WATCH coalition to host a virtual youth art contest. The online gallery will be live on the WATCH Denton website in July.

#### *Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team*

Alicia McElroy, Director of Education and Workforce Initiatives at UWDC, provided an update on a grant recently awarded to the Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team. The DCWSLT is currently in the design phase to build a 3-year plan to implement initiatives developed in the design focus. The grant has a racial equity focus, related to workforce development opportunities, and the DCWSLT is developing a racial equity training for appointees. The leadership team is also collecting data to develop a racial equity dashboard to identify ways to address racial inequity in the community. Additionally, the leadership team seeks to develop a community council to facilitate discussion of disparities and opportunities for systems change and improvement.

### **Public Comment**



Chair Gilmore had to leave the meeting early, so Co-Chair Muir requested any public comment from the group. Keely Briggs asked if we knew the number of evictions in the county. Courtney stated she would follow up on that request.

### **New Business**

Nicole Recker with the Denton County Transit Authority informed the group of an upcoming travel training program and social service round tables.

Mary Jones informed the group of the Denton Affordable Housing Corporation's new Executive Director, Jacob Moses.

### **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

**Next Meeting Date:**  
**Thursday, August 13, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Zoom Video Conference**



# DCHLT Workgroup Reports

## DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

### June 2020 – August 2020

The data dashboard has been updated with June and July data. There are currently 357 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. That number breaks down into:

- 27 families
- 330 individuals
- 22 Veteran households
- 130 households who are chronically experiencing homelessness

The 2020 Data Report of PIT Count Data collected in January 2020 was presented live via Denton County Homeless Coalition's Facebook page. As of beginning of August, the video has been viewed 403 times on Facebook.

Continuing with the trend from the previous Data Workgroup report, the most intensive housing intervention, Permanent Supportive Housing, is the highest need for our community currently with over 50% of households on the Housing Priority List scoring in that housing intervention range. Housing intervention prioritizations for August 2020 are:

- Diversion Services – 23 households
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention – 149 households
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention – 185 households

The inactive policy for the Housing Priority List (no access to services in 90+ days = moving to inactive) has not been enforced since April 2020. The reasoning for this is data accuracy concerns during COVID-19 that would lead to households moving to inactive for not having services listed when they are currently experiencing homelessness. This policy will be revisited when all agencies feel confident they are recording all services they are providing in HMIS.

The Housing Priority List fields have been updated to include new data elements from the report pulled in HMIS for each client on the list, as well as the format for clients added to the list in the future. These data elements will help prioritization factors for housing programs moving forward.

Universal Data Quality (UDQ) reports were sent to each agency's HMIS admin at the end of July by Texas Homeless Network for the second quarter of the year (April 1 to June 30). With UWDC being the HMIS admin over majority of agencies in Denton County, UWDC staff compiled the errors for each agency and sent them to each HMIS user at each agency with assistance on correcting their agencies UDQ errors by end of August. With each agency's correction email, the Common UDQ Error infographic was rereleased to each agency in order to move forward with less errors into quarter 3 and 4.

### Short-term action items

Hire for Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator position in order to maintain accurate data with no gaps in reporting.

Meet with Data Workgroup.

### Accomplishments

2020 Data Report was presented on Facebook Live to the community.

### 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

TBD

# DCHLT Workgroup Reports

August 2020

## DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

### June 2020 – August 2020

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 4 times between June 15<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 did continue RRH Case Conferencing with MKOC, ODB, and City of Denton staff weekly to assist prioritizing households for RRH, identify immediate next steps in housing plans for individuals that are currently living in hotels rather than emergency shelter and follow up with progress from clients that were housed previously.

UWDC staff has been in communication with the VA in Tarrant County in order to update our Veteran list with their eligibility as well as preparing to apply for more HUD-VASH vouchers. A planning meeting between the VA, the main Denton Street Outreach team (made up of Giving Hope staff, Denton PD officers and Vision Ministries staff) and UWDC staff was created in order to plan a day of outreach to Veterans experiencing homelessness to connect them with the VA and determine eligibility.

During the June General Case Conferencing an infographic was presented to explain appropriate referrals to housing programs, per a request from the PSH programs. Both PSH programs (Giving Hope and Denton County MHMR) have been provided current lists of the top 30 households prioritized for housing every month since UWDC's originally meeting with them. Both programs are working to fill their current openings and planning for their openings in their expansions.

### 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

13 individuals have been housed since June

Convened regularly scheduled General and Veteran Case Conferencings via Zoom

### Concerns

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

### Next Meeting Dates

August 17<sup>th</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>

# DCHLT Workgroup Reports

## ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

### June 2020 – August 2020

The DCBHLT Veterans Workgroup met June 11<sup>th</sup>. The June meeting focused primarily on the goal to End Veteran Homelessness and the possibility of that goal not being met at the end of this year. Next steps were created during the workgroup and UWDC staff is following up on those next steps to bring them to the August meeting.

HUD released a Registration of Interest for HUD VASH vouchers in July with a deadline of submitting September. Through this release, UWDC has found in order to apply for more VASH vouchers we need to have the following information submitted to the VA in August.

- Current number of Homeless Veterans in the area that are eligible for VA Health Care
- Number of Veterans entering homelessness
- Number of Veterans exiting from homeless
- % of Veterans in VASH that have been evicted or discharged per month.

With this information the VA will determine if they will write Denton Housing Authority (DHA) a letter of support for increased HUD VASH vouchers. UWDC is working with the VA and the Denton Street Outreach team to coordinate days of outreach to connect with Veterans on their eligibility for VA Health Care as well as cross checking lists they have in comparison to our active HPL.

UWDC hired a coordinator position for the Denton County Veteran Stability program funded through the Texas Veterans Commission grant. UWDC staff has built out processes for this grant in conjunction with the Veteran Community Navigators and has already begun accepting applications.

One Veteran has been housed since June 2020, as well as one Veteran being identified since June. There are currently 22 Veteran households on the Housing Priority List. Notably, this is the lowest number of Veterans experiencing homelessness reported on the Data Dashboard since it's inception.

### Short-term action items

UWDC hire VISTA

Continue building knowledge on VA eligibility for each Veteran

### Accomplishments

Hired Coordinator for TVC Denton County Veteran Stability Program

Lowest number of active Veterans on the Housing Priority List

### Concerns

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

Reaching our goal by the end of 2020

### Next Meeting Dates

August 13<sup>th</sup>



# 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**  
**152 DAYS UNTIL OUR GOAL**



## DCHLT Workgroup Reports

### DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: DAPHNE ADAMS

#### June 2020 – August 2020

The Denton County Homeless Coalition has convened once between June and August. The July meeting was canceled for all attendees to be present during the Facebook Live Event the Coalition Hosted on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

During the June meeting the group discussed multiple funding sources agencies and entities involved in the Coalition have applied for/are utilizing, including:

- COVID-19 response and recovery efforts including eviction prevention funding and other CARES Act funding opportunities.
- The City of Denton applied for \$1.4M for the Emergency Solutions Grant CV Funds and plans to procure services from local organizations for Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Homeless Prevention, Rapid Re-housing and HMIS.
- A reminder was given to all agencies interested in applying for the typical Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to get their applications in soon.
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funding was discussed as well, more agencies did apply for EFSP then before but most agencies that applied were able to get granted.
- UWDC applied for a Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) grant through their general assistance fund – this funding will be similar to a Homelessness Prevention Fund.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the upcoming virtual events and sharing additional resources and information related to pandemic response and recovery.

Virtual events hosted by The Denton County Homeless Coalition on their Facebook page were:

- The Denton County Homelessness Data Report was revealed virtually to show Point In Time Count Data and Housing Priority List Data. With over 400 views of the data report currently.
- A virtual concert to benefit the Denton County Barriers Fund in conjunction with North Central Texas College and Discover Denton. The virtual concert allowed for Barriers Fund success stories to be told and local bands to share their talents. The concert was able to raise \$525 to go towards the Barriers Fund with over 1500 views online from both time slots of the concert.

#### Short-term action items

Planning next virtual event for community engagement.

#### Accomplishments

Two virtual events presented during the month of July.

#### Concerns

None at this time.

#### Next Meeting Dates

August 26<sup>th</sup> ; September 30<sup>th</sup>

## **Denton County Homeless Coalition Service Provider Awards**

These awards are to recognize individuals who have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to enhance the ability of their organization or the community in the provision of service/assistance to persons experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in Denton County. The recipient will be selected from persons working at an organization that has as a key purpose the provision of service and assistance to persons experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness in the 12 months prior to the call for nominations.

There will be two types of awards – one for front line service providers and another for non-front line service providers. It is expected that one person will be selected annually for each.

### **Award Descriptions and Criteria**

#### **Front Line Service Provider of the Year Award**

This award will be given to an individual in Denton County who interacts directly in his/her job with persons experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness in activities such as client intake processing, client referrals or street outreach. Other activities may include providing direct services in an emergency shelter, food kitchen, food bank, or other organization which focuses on providing assistance to persons experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Job titles may include, but not be limited to, case manager, social worker, outreach coordinator, or emergency shelter staff.

The award is to recognize an individual who has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to help persons experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness in Denton County. The recipient will be selected from persons working at an organization focused on providing services to persons experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness in the 12 months prior to the call for nominations.

*The recipients of the award will be determined by the following criteria:*

1. Strong advocacy for their clients
2. Positive outcome for their clients
3. Supporting testimonials

*Evidence of the criteria may include:*

1. Demonstration of service excellence to clients
2. Demonstration of service excellence to the homelessness service provider community
3. Incorporation of innovative or creative approaches to his/her job
4. Significant positive impact on practice in his/her work environment
5. Provision of services that is considered to exceed expectations of the job
6. Provision of services that has significantly improved the quality of services provided to persons experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness in the community

## **Community Service Provider of the Year Award**

This award will be given to an individual in Denton County who works in an organization that has as a key purpose the provision of service and assistance to persons experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness but for whom directly working with these persons is not a key component of their job. Activities may include organizational oversight, data entry/processing, public awareness, and administration of or raising of public or private funds to support homelessness service/assistance activities. Other activities may include leadership of annual PIT count, coordination of grants to support homelessness service/assistance activities, coordination/development of processes and policies related to provision of homelessness services/assistance, or coordination of activities to increase access to housing solutions.

The award is to recognize an individual who has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to enhance the ability of their organization or the community in the provision of service/assistance to persons experiencing homelessness in Denton County. The recipient will be selected from persons working at an organization that has as a key purpose the provision of service and assistance to persons experiencing homelessness in the 12 months prior to the call for nominations.

*The recipients of the awards will be determined by the following criteria:*

1. Strong advocacy for their organization and/or community
2. Positive outcome for their organization and/or community
3. Supporting testimonials

*Evidence of the criteria may include:*

1. Demonstration of service excellence to the homelessness service provider community
2. Demonstration of service excellence to their organization.
3. Incorporation of innovative or creative approaches to his/her job
4. Significant positive impact on practice in his/her work environment
5. Provision of leadership that is considered to exceed expectations of the job
6. Leadership in activities that have significantly improved the quality of services provided to persons experiencing homelessness in the community

## **Nomination and Selection Process**

No later than October 15 of each year, a call for nominations will be sent to all service providers in the Denton County Homeless Coalition. Self-nominations will be accepted. Each nomination packet will consist of a completed nomination form that includes an overview of how the nominee meets the criteria and 3 to 5 letters of support. Letters can come from the nominee's colleagues or clients as well as from the executive director/president or board members of the nominee's workplace organization.

A selection committee of 5 to 7 members will review the nominations and make a decision no later than November 30 of each year. The selection committee members will consist of a representative from the Denton County Homeless Coalition, at least one person who works in a service provider organization, and a representative from the Denton County Homeless Leadership Team, and after the first year, a prior recipient of the award. The selection committee should also have a representative who is a current or former client of a service provider organization if possible.

**Recognition of Award Recipient**

The recipient should be recognized publically in some way such as through social media, newspaper, or in-person event. The recipient will receive a plaque and a monetary award. The form of recognition is at the discretion of the selection committee.