



**Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team  
Meeting Minutes | Thursday, June 8, 2017**

**Appointees/Ex-Officios Present:** Alice Mankoff, Chief Lee Howell, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Councilwoman Keely Briggs, Courtney Cross (Ex-Officio), Cynthia Harris, Dani Shaw (Ex-Officio), Gary Henderson (Ex-Officio), Isabel Rodriguez, Jessica DeRoche, Jessica Peters (Ex-Officio), Kathy Srokosz, Mayor Chris Watts, Monica Glenn, Roy Metzler, Sandra Robinson, Sherri McDade, Valerie Foster

**Appointees Absent:** Barton Duffy, Chasz Parker, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Herman Oosterwijk, Stephen Coffey, Terry Widmer, Thomas Muir

**Guests:** Brenda Jackson, Sarah Kuechler, Barbara Ross, Linda Choi

**Welcome & Consideration of May Minutes**

Chair Mayor Watts called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. He requested a motion to approve May meeting minutes.

Motion: Councilman TJ Gilmore

2<sup>nd</sup>: Valerie Foster

Motion was approved.

**2017-2018 Officers Nominating Committee/ 2017-2018 Meeting Schedule**

Mayor Watts asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2017-2018 DCHLT slate of officers. He asked of the Strategic Planning Committee would be willing to serve in this capacity, and there was a consensus in favor of this.

Mayor Watts informed appointees that the DCHLT will not meet in July, and will resume in August 2017. He requested a motion to move the DCHLT meeting schedule to every other month.

Motion: Councilman TJ Gilmore

2<sup>nd</sup>: Councilwoman Keely Briggs

Motion was approved.

**Denton Public Safety & Homelessness Update**

Chief Lee Howell provided a brief presentation of recent interactions City of Denton Police have had with people experiencing homelessness and how the community has responded. He informed appointees of Denton PD's efforts to improve data collection as it pertains to people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, they are working closely with Giving Hope, Inc.'s Street Outreach program, as well as Denton County MHMR's Crisis Prevention Team. Denton PD continues to work closely with City of Denton leadership and groups throughout the community to maintain an awareness of the community's homelessness needs and the effects continued efforts have on public safety.



## **Workgroup Updates**

### *Data Workgroup*

Katherine Gonzales, Coordinated Entry VISTA, provided an update on Coordinated Entry implementation in Denton County over the last year. Notes from her presentation can be found in the attached Denton County Coordinated Entry one-page summary. Katherine presented next steps for Coordinated Entry implementation, and share education materials that will be used to continue to promote knowledge and access of Denton County's Coordinated Entry process with local nonprofits and faith groups.

Backbone Support, Courtney Cross, provided an update of the workgroup's recent activity. Short term action items include education and advertisement of Coordinated Entry, the development of Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedures and a Priority matrix. Accomplishments include real-time implementation of Coordinated Entry across Front Door agencies and additional executions of Front Door MOUs.

### *Housing Workgroup*

Dani Shaw provided an update regarding the Denton County Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Collaborative planning and grant application process. In May, the DCHLT Housing Workgroup hosted an all-day Housing Crisis Response System planning meeting. The ESG Collaborative met initially to discuss grant parameters and how the group may adjust their commitments within the grant to improve their overall score and performance. The group was joined by additional agencies, and the rest of the day was spent discussing and planning for how these changes would impact the overall Denton County Housing Crisis Response System. The group discussed the integral role of Coordinated Entry in the continued improvement of Denton County's Housing Crisis Response System, and the need for a support position to improve data quality, highlight and analyze gaps in the system and seek funding for continued system improvements.

Courtney Cross provided an update on the Denton Supportive Housing Pilot. The first client was successfully housed. Next steps for the Housing Workgroup include collaborative execution of a Landlord Forum and Landlord Outreach efforts.

Courtney informed the group of the recent recommendation of Denton's Human Services Advisory Committee that Denton City Council set aside the \$18,000 reserved for HMIS and Coordinated Entry funding for the DCHLT to allocated accordingly. Mayor Watts requested a motion to approve the pursuit of additional funding to support a Coordinated Entry Specialist position in Denton County.

Motion: Alice Mankoff

2<sup>nd</sup>: Councilman TJ Gilmore

Motion was approved.

### *Workforce Development Workgroup*



Backbone support continues to recruit for this project-based workgroup.

### *Community Conversations Workgroup*

United Way of Denton County interns partnered closely with DCHLT and DCBHLT representatives to host additional community conversations in Denton over the summer.

### **Denton County Homeless Coalition Update**

Jessica Pool presented a request on behalf of the Denton County Homeless Coalition that United Way of Denton County be appointed as fiscal agent for the coalition. The Denton County Homeless Coalition recommends the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team approve the United Way of Denton County as the coalition's fiscal agent. The DCHC believes this recommendation aligns directly with UWDC's role as backbone support to Denton County homelessness initiatives, and will allow the coalition to accept donations and conduct fundraising projects.

- The United Way of Denton County would manage collection of money, process payments, track donations and produce tax-donation letters for an administrative fee.
- The Denton County Homeless Coalition would elect a committee to develop program guidelines (approved by the DCHLT), promote giving, manage allocations by approving funds for special projects and award funds to agencies for small projects.

The Denton County Homeless Coalition proposes these funds be used to establish a 'Barriers Fund', which may be used to offset small but impactful costs not covered by grant funding like transportation or clothing, and possibly even diversionary measures such as short-term hotel stays. Additionally, these funds may be utilized to incentivize landlords to provide affordable, low-barrier rental units for local housing programs.

Mayor Watts requested a motion to approve United Way of Denton County as the fiscal agent for the Denton County Homeless Coalition.

Motion: Councilwoman Keely Briggs

2<sup>nd</sup>: Kathy Srokosz

Motion was approved.

Jessica invited DCHLT appointees to the coalition's August General Meeting, a Watermelon Social held at Christian Community Action in Lewisville.

### **Backbone Support Update**

Courtney provided the backbone support update. Councilwoman Keely Briggs has allocated \$200 of contingency funds to the Denton Supportive Housing Pilot. The DCHLT will not meet in July. The Denton County Homeless Coalition will partner with the DCHLT to host 'Bridging the Gap', an event dedicated to building relationships between the nonprofit and faith communities, Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church from 8:30am to 11:30am.



**New Business/Public Comments**

Monica Glenn informed appointees of an upcoming job fair collaboration between the Denton Chamber of Commerce and North Central Texas College.

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:16 a.m.

**Next Meeting:  
Thursday, August 10, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | UWDC**

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Secretary

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Date

