



Thursday, October 10, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

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

Virtual – Zoom Video Conference Link Attached in Email

Agenda:

I.	Welcome & Introductions	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
II.	August Meeting Minutes	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOTE – Approval of Meeting Minutes 		
III.	Nominating Committee	Dani Shaw	5 min.
IV.	Data Dashboard	Evelyn Sutton	5 min.
V.	Strategic Plan Learning Labs- Optimizing Crisis Response	Lewisville & Denton	45 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations and Discussion regarding Strategy: To help the response system meet the urgent crisis of homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness 		
VI.	Workgroup Report Highlights (inside packet)		10 min
VII.	Backbone Support Highlights (inside packet)	UWDC	10 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team • Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team • Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team 	Olivia Williams Shelby Redondo Shelby Redondo	
VIII.	Public Comment	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
IX.	New Business	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
X.	Adjourn	Chair/Co-chair	1 min.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, December 12, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Hybrid Meeting

Physical – United Way of Denton County, 1314 Teasley Lane Denton TX 76205

Virtual – Zoom Video Conference Link Attached in Email





Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team

8:00am Thursday, August 8th, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Dani Shaw calls the meeting to order. Dani requests participants for the nomination committee. Meeting not at quorum, approval of meeting minutes will be voted in October meeting.

Denton County Housing Programs

Olivia Williams introduces the four different local organizations (Our Daily Bread, MHMR, Giving Grace, and CCA) who will be speaking on the three types of housing programs in the county.

TBRA Through Our Daily Bread (ODB)

Crystal Madrigal introduced Tenant Based Rental Assistance, which helps with rent and utilities for 12 months out of 24 months to ease families into getting back into housing. During their time in the program, clients received rental and utility assistance and case management. According to the data, 13 households were housed. For the clients, 30% of their income must go towards rent. Crystal emphasized that ODB prioritizes timely rent payments and works to build relationships between case managers and landlords.

Barriers. Crystal reports that barriers lie in adherence to case management, building rapport, and misconceptions about what program provides and program expectations.

Rapid Rehousing Through Christian Community Action (CCA)

Daphne Houston introduces Rapid Rehousing Program for 20 households per year. According to Daphne, the program was approved through 2026.

Barriers. Finding landlords who would take higher risk clients, building relationships with apartment managers to counteract this. Another barrier reported is that clients tend to drop off after getting housed, so case managers must find ways to continue to engage clients. Daphne stressed the significance of clients connecting with their case manager, and for case managers to work on understanding where client is coming from.

TBRA through Giving Grace

Sherri Williams introduces their TRBA and Rapid Rehousing Programs. Sherri reports that these programs were intended to aid in developing and obtaining housing stability among homeless individuals. Referrals for these programs come through HMIS and vacancy pilot program. Rapid rehousing has assisted 7 families and 3 individuals. Rapid rehousing asks for 10% of client's gross income but takes clients with little to no income. The programs are intended to assist clients with



rent until they are making more income. Sherri reports that the program includes childcare assistance, life skill classes to aid clients and build community, job search preparation, and classes on maintaining household stability.

Connections Supportive Housing Through MHMR with Laurie Common

Laurie Commons reports the progress of the Connections Supportive Housing program, stating that 53 singles and 3 families were housed so far, for a total of 60 individuals altogether. Clients must meet the HUD definition of homeless and then get put through coordinated entry. Laurie attributes the success of the program to great case management, access to mental health services, and the providing of transportation to medical and mental health appointments and food pantries. Laurie reports purpose as being to help vulnerable populations with a physical or mental disability.

Barriers. Laurie reports barriers resulting from the stigma against homelessness, criminal activity by clients, substance use, evictions, and limited funds for personal items.

Permanent Supportive Housing Program Through Giving Grace

Ty reports that this program is intended for individuals who have been homeless over 12 years and have a disability. In this program, it is reported that individuals are housed first and then barriers are addressed. Giving Grace provides case management once a month and home inspections. Skills classes are also provided for the clients.

Barriers. Ty reports that clients have engaged in behaviors that have them discharged from the program such as clients who have attacked landlords in the past, engaged in criminal activity in their provided housing, engaged in substance use, or hospitalized, in rehab, or in jail for 90+ days. Ty reports the need for scaling up stability and sustainability.

Action Items

- Convene with landlords and educate with police department on how to interact with this population
- Scale up Rapid Rehousing Initiatives
- Expand PSH
- Increase access to affordable housing
- Enhance support services

Public Comment

Elena Shehan reported on the Denton County Homeless Coalition work group is discussing the Texas Homeless Network (lead agency) and their proposed modernization for the Balance of State that is being evaluated and will bring changes to how the 215 counties might align.

Next Meeting Date

September 3rd, 2024; Zoom



Housing: October 2024

CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- Improve housing outcomes for those on the HPL
- Identify and plan trainings to support best practices in case managers i.e., motivational interviewing and stages of change

Meeting Summary (provide meeting date and items discussed during meeting)

Front door agencies participate weekly in problem-solving barriers to support the path to housing for individuals and families on the Housing Priority List.

Short Term Action Items

- THN Vacancy Reporting pilot is being rolled out to make improvements to the Housing Priority List

Accomplishments

- ResCare presented on their housing availability for IDD participants in need of Intermediate housing solutions.
- Landlord Engagement assisted with 7 housing referrals and completed 4 successful move ins

Concerns

- Identifying training resources to support agencies staff
- Permanent Supportive Housing beds are at capacity for Denton County

Next Meeting Dates

Weekly on Mondays, 3 PM- 4 PM (excludes holidays)

Hybrid; UWDC and Zoom



Diversion: October 2024

CHAIR NAME: DAPHNE HOUSTON

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- *Implement and support Diversion workflow in HMIS for agencies*
- *Identify and apply for additional funding sources to expand Diversion efforts*
- *Increase community dollars sourced for Barriers Fund*

Meeting Summary (provide meeting date and items discussed during meeting)

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

Short Term Action Items

- Identify and track HMIS Diversion data; expand which variables are needed and identify additional data sources
- Create and facilitate training resources for improved HMIS production of navigating the two diversion tracks

Accomplishments

- New chair appointment
- Created system map of Diversion tracks (pre and post CE)
- Gained knowledge of County wide diversion funding

Concerns

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

Next Meeting Dates

Zoom- 2nd Wednesday at 2pm



CROSS CARE COLLABORATION: October 2024

CHAIR(S): MEGAN BALL & LANDON DICKESON

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- ✓ *Update local Sequential Intercept Model map*
- *Educate key stakeholders on system processes*

Meeting Summary (provide meeting date and items discussed during meeting)

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

Short Term Action Items

- Continue identifying organizations at the response systems' primary integration level.

Accomplishments

- Final draft of updated SIM map distributed to group
- Recommendation to focus on data collection to support the build out of the continuum of care
 - Create and implement a planning team to coordinate discharge and care for individuals with high rates of crisis service utilization
- Recommendation to collaborate on community grant opportunities for the system level opportunity to bring technical training to agencies

Concerns

- The need for hard data to quantify the county need, such as average number of people served, cost per person/per day
- There is a lack of adequate mental health diversion options for law enforcement
- New legislation that allows law enforcement to transfer responsibility of care

Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, November 7, 2024; (Meets the first Thursdays of each month; with exceptions of holidays)

11:30 AM- 1:00 PM Hybrid: UWDC office and Zoom



DATA Workgroup: October 2024

CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

Identify ways to integrate data support for other HHLT workgroups to advance funding and advocacy efforts

Meeting Summary

There are currently 610 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. The 610 total number for breaks down into:

47 families	33 Veteran households
563 individuals	175 households experiencing chronic homelessness
21 fleeing domestic violence	

Denton County school districts' data was updated in March 2024. The two largest school districts reported the following:

Denton ISD: 481 students (18% decrease from February 23; 587)
Lewisville ISD: 888 students (13% decrease from February 23; 1024)

Housing intervention prioritization breakdown:

Diversion Services: Households (18.2%; 111)
Rapid Rehousing Intervention: Households (59.7%; 364)
Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention: Households (22.1%; 135)

The team discussed the importance of creating and conducting surveys to gather crucial data. One survey will focus on collecting feedback from other workgroups to identify shared data needs and potential collaborations. Another survey will be used to assess agency experiences with the diversion workflow, informing the development of targeted training and support programs. Additionally, the team will review the previous post-housing survey and conduct research on homelessness recidivism to improve post-housing outcomes.

Additionally, the workgroup discussed the need for refined tracking of individuals who qualify for the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program but don't meet the program requirements. The goal is to better understand the population served by PSH and to identify those who are experiencing high vulnerability but may not qualify for the program.



Short Term Action Items

Create survey to gather feedback from other workgroups to identify data needs and potential collaborations.

Create survey to develop a strategy to encourage and support agency utilization of the diversion workflow through training and program focus.

Review previous iteration of post-housing survey process, research recidivism of homelessness in previously housed clients.

Accomplishments

Concerns

Next Meeting Dates

November 6, 2024



Healthcare: October 2024

CHAIR: ISABEL RODRIGUEZ

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- Increase access to healthcare services for people experiencing homelessness
- Increase community resources for healthcare workers
- Identify data points from participating organizations and agencies in Denton County

Meeting Summary

The workgroup discussed next steps in medical respite planning considering data needs to support priorities. There was discussion about the Community Health Improvement Plan priorities that were presented on Sept 26th, and how recuperative care solutions are needed.

Short Term Action Items

- Continue to work with agencies and medical providers for healthcare needs assessment
- Continue to identify stakeholders and build membership

Accomplishments

- Collaborative implementation of an external screening form to identify guests and their needs that are leaving hospitals and potentially arriving at Our Daily Bread. Update, HIPPA compliance agreements are being reviewed. HCA declined, THR is still in review. Mayhill is interested in sending to their compliance department for review.
- Invited faith-based organizations to the group

Concerns

- The gap in available healthcare services for people experiencing homelessness and unmet health needs are a growing concern for agencies.

Next Meeting Dates

- First Tuesdays, monthly excluding holidays
- Nov 12th (moved in observation of election day), 2024; Zoom



Denton County Homeless Coalition: October 2024

CHAIR: ELENA SHEHAN

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- Expand agency participation in PIT Count
- Strengthen education on housing efforts
- Increase funding to support housing stability
- Increased access to information

Meeting Summary

In the August meeting, the Coalition wrapped up HUD CoC funding support letters, with the final presentation from Denton County Friends of the Family.

In the September meeting, the Coalition discussed the PRO Housing Agency and Community Feedback for both the City of Lewisville and City of Denton applications.

Additionally, progress towards the goals the Coalition created at the end of 2023 was discussed to ensure advancement in strategic planning was occurring on an ongoing basis.

Short Term Action Items

- Recruit more volunteers to participate in planning and outreach
- Next planning events: The Walk Home, Awards Ceremony, PIT planning, Behind the Scenes Nov panel, Hunger & Homelessness Awareness week
- Year in review of progress, successes, and lessons learned

Accomplishments

- Submitted feedback to THN regarding the modernization of the Balance of State CoC
- To date, The Walk Home has received \$500 for sponsorship towards the Barriers Fund (general fund).

Concerns

- Continue to focus on volunteer engagement and recruitment

Next Meeting Dates

Meets monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, alternating between UWDC and Next Steps in Lewisville.

October 30, 2024- Next Steps Lewisville 9 AM – 10 AM



September 2024 Backbone Support Updates:

Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team

- Balance of State CoC modernization preliminary review to examine how realignment of service areas could impact Denton County
- Supporting Our Daily Bread for Spring semester to recruit interns to complete intake, coordinated entry assessments, and goal setting.
- Applying for a grant to supplement diversion housing navigation to include, rehousing, HUD category 2, and support the landlord engagement manager.

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

- CredibleMind has reached over 3,000 users and has launched a new section called Learning Lab that includes more directive series that guides the user to interact with specific topics. Additionally, a new tool, "Practices" launched and it targets a deeper dive of interactive tools.
- Starting to discuss the 10 year anniversary of DCBHLT planning

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team

- VITA planning is kicking off and we are actively hiring an Economic Mobility program manager that will oversee VITA during the tax season and continue to expand the mobility efforts year-round.
- Digital literacy classes kicking off October 23rd and 24th , limited spots available