DENTON COUNTY HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS LEADERSHIP TEAM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

United Way of Denton County

Thursday, August 8, 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.	April & June Meeting Minutes	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
	• **VOTE – Approval of Meeting Minutes**		
III.	Nominating Committee	Dani Shaw	5 min.
IV.	Strategic Plan Learning Labs- Scaling Up for Stability	Dani Shaw	45 min

- Presentations and Discussion regarding Strategy: To increase supply of and access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing and tailored supports for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness

V.	Workgroup Report Highlights (inside packet)	.	10 min
VI.	Backbone Support Highlights (inside packet)	UWDC	10 min.

- Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team — Olivia Williams
- Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team — Shelby Redondo
- Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team — Shelby Redondo

VII.	Public Comment	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
VIII.	New Business	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
IX.	Adjourn	Chair/Co-chair	1 min.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, October 10, 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 Homelessness Leadership Team

8:00am Thursday June 13th, 2024.
Hybrid Meeting

Welcome and Introduction
Dani Shaw calls the meeting to order at 8:10 am. Dani then asked attendees to introduce themselves. Meeting not at quorum, approval of meeting minutes will be voted in August meeting.

Point-In-Time Count Data Reveal
Olivia Williams presented the point-in-time count data reveal presentation. The data presented helps us understand what is happening and provides insight into how we're going to move forward. The data showed a 20% increase in homelessness, a significant increase in families, and decreases among veterans and seniors.

Strategic Plan Learning Labs by Dani Shaw
At the previous meeting, Dani Shaw emphasized active participation and introduced a structured approach to align with the strategic plan. She stressed data-driven decision-making and performance measurement. Upcoming focuses include housing and support in August, housing crisis response in October, diversion and prevention strategies in December, and community engagement in February. Dani proposed setting interim action items and creating subgroups to drive the strategic plan.

Workgroup Updates
Housing:
Olivia reported the initiation of a co-facilitation group to enhance partnership and ownership of case conferencing, with strong agency participation. They are finalizing this with one more meeting. THN is launching a new assessment tool and piloting a vacancy reporting system to improve agency interactions with the tool and housing priority list.

Data
Olivia provided data updates, noting a continuous increase in homelessness service access from April to May, totaling 525 individuals. This information is available on the Denton County Data Dashboard. She highlighted an increase from 506 to 525 in April alone. Additionally, she mentioned a rise in individuals fleeing domestic violence from 20 to 49. Olivia noted a decrease in homelessness within Denton ISD and Lewisville ISD from February 2023 to March 2024.

Healthcare:
Isabel Rodriguez updated the healthcare workgroup, noting they expanded their roster with hospital, law enforcement, and Family Protective Services

representatives. Olivia connected them with Tamara Wright from the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, who provided valuable resources and funding information for medical respite. They discussed using Find Help to securely transfer medical information for homeless individuals at shelters. Isabel stated they will continue to increase membership and address healthcare gaps for the homeless.

Diversion:
There were no reported major updates for this workgroup.

Coalition:
Elena Shehan reported several tabling events in Denton, with two more planned in Lewisville next week. The coalition's fundraising efforts include weekly outdoor music events and Twilight Tunes in Lewisville, raising about $1000 from tabling events. They also bought about 250 buttons to sell as well. The "Together We Count" event partnered with six local businesses, earning $300 from a raffle. She stated that about 70 people showed up to the state of homelessness event. She stated they are making ongoing efforts to improve and expand fundraising.

Backbone Support Update:

Shelby Redondo reported that The Behavioral Health Leadership Team is planning their next meeting for the first Tuesday in July. They've developed new mental health resource collaterals and are preparing for "Recovery in the Park" on September 21st, seeking vendors and sponsors. The Workforce Success Leadership Team hosted a job skills workshop in mid-July with 25 participants. The Child Care workgroup is surveying employers with Early Matters to address childcare barriers in Denton County, alongside analyzing new 2022 ALICE data for insights.

Public Comment:
Alex Reed announced a collaboration with Denton and Lewisville to use ARCGIS for a survey on cooling stations, launching in early August. Denton County Public Health will educate volunteers on heat-related illness and provide cooldown kits with water, sunscreen, hydration packs, and cooling towels as survey incentives.

New Business:
No new business.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned early at 9:16am. **Next meeting is Thursday, August 8th.**

Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team

8:00am Thursday April 11th, 2024.
Hybrid Meeting

Welcome and Introduction
Dani Shaw calls the meeting to order at 8:10 am. Approval of minutes, no changes.

Strategic Plan Update by Dani Shaw

Dani Shaw underlined in the strategic plan that the vision is to ensure everyone has a safe, affordable, and supported home. The mission focuses on coordinating homelessness prevention to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. The primary goals for 2023-2025 are: Housing & Supports, Housing Crisis Response, Diversion & Prevention and Engagement & Collaboration.

Find Help by Alexandra Reed
Alexandra Reed presented CredibleMind, LINKS, Find Help Update. There has been a jump in search of zip codes, specifically Aubrey, due to outreach with an income-based qualifying housing community. About 51% of the searches initiated on Find Help are for housing, followed by food and health. Rent is the top inquiry, then by glasses, then help paying for housing and assistance from food pantries. Help-seekers doubled from February to March.

Mental Health System Model Site Visits Update by Shelby Redondo

Shelby Redondo presented the Mental Health System Model Site Visits Update. They have been looking into different crisis response models from across the state and shared they are regulated by Health and Human Services. (Kerrville, TX) The crisis stabilization unit (CSU) serves high-risk and is a high acuity unit where the stay is up to 14 days. Feedback received from the agency would recommend a more affordable and flexible solution. The extended observation unit (EOU) in McKinney, operated by Life Path Systems is a combination of an EOU, Crisis Respite Unit, and Diversion center. Life Path receives funding from Collin County and are planning an expansion site that is double the size of their current facility. In Denton County, there are an estimated 12 beds at MHMR, and the option of a crisis respite unit. The crisis respite unit is for individuals who are at low risk for harming others and the max stay is 10 days. Mental health diversion is the newest model to be added into the Health and Human Services domain. Tarrant County Commissioners have supported this and have currently built into their criminal justice system and seen this in other communities being piloted. Gary suggested it would be interesting to see the cross-care collaboration team continue as there will be two lenses to take into consideration. One being coming from law enforcement; we want to find people a solution quickly that isn't jail. The other lens is from the mental health perspective, so it will be up to cross-care collaboration to find that balance in priorities to come up with a recommendation for those leadership teams.

Workgroup Updates
Housing:

Terry Widmer highlighted efforts to re-engage members of the cross-care collaborative. They are addressing engagement issues with veterans through case conferencing collaboration. Terry reported the biggest accomplishment is the advancement of the landlord engagement process, acknowledging Sharon Lee.

Data:

Evelyn Sutton reported from the data dashboard key statistics. New data on student homelessness from 5 counties revealed that 2 students in Argyle are now experiencing homelessness while there has been a decrease in student homelessness in McKinney-Vento, Lewisville and Denton Counties from February 2023 to March

2024. March also saw a large increase in inflows, with 20 referrals from Friends of the Family.

Healthcare:
Olivia Mata-Williams reported that the healthcare workgroup is exploring the gaps between hospital discharge for the unsheltered population and hospital discharge. THR has provided preliminary data and is working to isolate it specifically for Denton County. Additionally, Medical City has also come to the table to join collaboration efforts.

Diversion:
Megan Ball reported no major updates but noted an accomplishment with THN in revising the diversion workflow to include grant funding. This revision allows for conciseness when specifying that an individual was diverted by the Barriers Fund and identifies what funding assisted the individual in the diversion.

Cross Care Collaborations:
Megan Ball reported that the presentations at the last meeting went well. Liaisons from MHMR presented their roles within the jail system. To continue the process, the Sheriff County's office completes the intake process.

Backbone Support Update:
Shelby Redondo reported that the Behavioral Health Leadership team has developed a strategic planning committee which will begin at the start of May 2024.

Public Comment:
No Public Comments.

New Business:
No new business.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 9:31 am. **Next meeting is Thursday, June 13, 2024.**

Housing: August 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

- The facilitation group is wrapping up its recommendations to create interagency co-facilitation, incorporate Stages of Change, and Veteran workarounds to accessing Coordinated Entry Assessments.
- THN Vacancy Reporting pilot is being rolled out to make improvements to the Housing Priority List

Accomplishments

- Increased participation and involvement in weekly case conferencing
- Landlord Engagement Manager is reporting to the group the number of vacancies available for housing

Concerns

- Identifying training resources to support agencies staff
- Collecting data on barriers to housing

Next Meeting Dates

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

Hybrid; UWDC and Zoom

Diversion: August 2024

CHAIR NAME: MEGAN BALL

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
- Establish next steps for agency support to improve data quality

Accomplishments

- Worked to identify partners to collaborate on pursuing funds for the Texas Health Resources foundation grant for transportation costs to be implemented through Barriers Fund if awarded for priority zip codes in Lewisville and Sanger ($484k between four agencies)

Concerns

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

Next Meeting Dates

Monthly- a new scheduling poll is being sent out to gain alignment

Healthcare: August 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 was presented on four respite models to understand starting points for Denton County

Short Term Action Items

- Identify standards outlined for Medical Respite
- 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. Hospitals include Texas Health Resource, Medical City Denton and Medical City Lewisville.
- Added Veteran Community Navigators to the workgroup

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
- September 3, 2024; Zoom

CROSS CARE COLLABORATION: August 2024

CHAIR(S): MEGAN BALL & LANDON DICKESON

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- *Update local Sequential Intercept Model map*
- *Educate key stakeholders on system processes*
- *Create and implement a planning team to coordinate discharge and care for individuals with high rates of crisis service utilization*

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. The group reviewed a draft of the completed each intercept and will meet with an HHSC technical advisor to review the final draft.

Short Term Action Items

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

Accomplishments

- Completed review of SIM mapping 0,1,2,3,4,5

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, September 5, 2024; (Meets the first Thursdays of each month; with exceptions of holidays)

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

Denton County Homeless Coalition: August 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 June meeting, the Coalition discussed new signage the City of Denton is creating to promote responsible giving in the community. The Coalition provided feedback on language and usage for the City of Denton to discuss internally during the rollout of this new initiative. 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.

In the July meeting, dialogue around the Texas Homeless Network (THN) exploring modernizing the supports and geography of the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) occurred. THN is working with a technical assistance team to research the splitting of the 215-County Continuum of Care that is the TX BoS CoC and they have begun conversations with a variety of audiences on their input in this conversation. Discussion at the Coalition meeting revolved around ensuring Denton County agencies would continue to receive their annual renewal amounts for current projects, continue to have access to additional funding if new projects or agencies are identified, what localized supports would look like, which communities we most closely collaborate with that we would not want to be separated from and more. This conversation led to the suggestion of revisiting the analysis created in 2021 and determining if this analysis or something similar should occur again before the TX BoS CoC splitting to determine what is best for Denton County.

Both meetings walked through future events and committees that Coalition members could be involved in the future as well.

Short Term Action Items

- Recruit more volunteers to participate in planning and outreach
- Next planning events: Policy Bridge Memorial, and Fun Run

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Accomplishments

- Progress towards strategic goals created has been consistent.
- Approved letters of support for 4 CoC-funded nonprofits that will compete in the CoC competition this Fall. (Agencies include: Christian Community Action, Denton County MHMR, Giving Grace, and United Way of Denton County)
- Hosted a networking opportunity for Coalition members to learn skills and develop connections with each other this Summer.
- To date, the fundraising efforts have raised nearly $2,000 towards the Barriers Fund.

Concerns

- Continue to focus on volunteer engagement and recruitment
- Explore opportunities for businesses and individuals to sponsor upfront costs, raffle items, signage, and other business needs as they arise

Next Meeting Dates

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

August 28, 2024- Next Steps Lewisville 9 AM – 10 AM

DATA Workgroup: June 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 557 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. The 557 total number for breaks down into:

38 families	32 Veteran households
557 individuals	163 households experiencing chronic homelessness
17 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 (17.1%; 95)
      Rapid Rehousing Intervention: Households (60.9%; 339)
      Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention: Households (22.1%; 123)

The team discussed the importance of 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

September 4, 2024

August 2024 Backbone Support Updates:

Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team

- Launched Homelessness 101 training to Denton County nonprofits and agencies. This was formerly named Collective onboarding and is designed to introduce staff at agencies with educational and technical understanding of the Housing Crisis Response System and the network it functions within.
- Planning for the 10th annual Denton County Veteran Stand Down kicked off in July. The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th.

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

- Sponsors for Recovery in the Park annual event are still needed. This event occurs on the 3rd Saturday in September and provides a scholarship to someone receiving treatment. Last year's awardee was granted $900 towards their recovery completion. This year, the event will be held on September 21st from 11 AM – 1 PM.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team

- Expanded Target Occupations Pathways to include student tracks.
- Planning 18 digital literacy classes to be hosted at three various locations. Courses will include Computer Basics, Internet Basics, Internet Safety, Email Basics, Mobile Device Basics, and Video Conferencing.