



Thursday, October 12th, 2023 | 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	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.	HRSA Peer Support	Dr. Dhru Mukherjee	15 min.
IV.	Find Help	Alexandra Reed	15 min.
V.	Texas Homeless Network Conference Takeaways	Olivia Williams	10 min.
VI.	Workgroup Updates		20 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Denton County Homeless Coalition • Data • Healthcare • Diversion • Cross Care Collaborative • Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olivia Williams Elena Shehan TBD Isabel Rodriguez Megan Ball Michelle Conner Olivia Williams 	
VII.	Backbone Support Update	UWDC	10 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update • Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update 		
VIII.	Public Comment	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
IX.	New Business	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
X.	Adjourn	Chair/Co-chair	2 min.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, December 14th, 2023 | 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

8:00 am Thursday, August 10th,
2023

Hybrid Meeting in Person and Zoom

Welcome and Introduction

Dani Shaw welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order. There were quick introductions for those who were new like Jeff Coulter from Congressman Michael Burgess' Office and Sonny Muniz-Blake RRC.

Strategic Planning Committee Update by Megan Ball

Megan Ball discussed the Strategic Plan from the previous years and the progress that has been made in the plan overtime. Throughout time some things have been accomplished like maintaining our housing priority list and monitoring the system performance measures. They are in the process of identifying goals for each workgroup and by the next HLT meeting they will have the plan finished and be ready to be presented.

McKinney Vento & ISD Families

Jill Adams, Director of Counseling in Lewisville ISD, Lynn Charles from Denton ISD, Martha Chavez from Sanger ISD, and Ann Hughes from Sanger ISD discussed McKinney Vento and the statistics of the State of Texas, and school districts. They also talked about the barriers being faced as well as the resources and some of the solutions that they have come up with. At any time during the year, if they identify themselves as McKinney Vento, either through a SRQ or a conversation with the counselor, they are coded as McKinney Vento and they receive services. They are going to stay as McKinney Vento for the entire year regardless of their living situation. They are still going to provide those supports for the year, and then at the end of the year they are cleared from the system. LISD has about 49,000 students from 70 schools and 1,024 students were McKinney Vento students and as of the 1st day of school LISD already has 42 applications. Denton ISD has about 32,000 students from 43 schools and 543 were McKinney Vento students. Sanger ISD has around 2,700 students from 6 schools and as of May 2023, 115 from McKinney Vento students. The data will be shared with everyone from the meeting.

Workgroup Updates

Housing:

There are around 30 families/veterans on the housing list, and they can get through the list. Terry would like to be more focused on families in need.

Denton County Homeless Coalition:

Elena Shehan gave the updates on DCHC's last two meetings. A survey was launched to see how the coalition was working and gather opinions on what was good, bad, and what can be improved. There are 2 PIT Data Reveals for this year's data: the first one was First Friday in Lewisville and raised about \$200. The second one is coming up in Denton on August 21st.



Data Workgroup:

Leia Atkinson updated the group on the total number of households and individuals experiencing homelessness actively in the county is going up, putting us at about 491. A large portion of individuals whose journey with homelessness began more than a year ago, not necessarily in that county and coordinated entry, but that tell us that that experience of homelessness has been more than a year, and in some cases more than 10 years. Most of our population has some kind of disability, and a large portion of chronic illness as well, which puts them at a high-risk factor for COVID-19. In terms of demographic data, we continue to see disproportionate representation in this black and African American community, where bundled approximately Black and African households, make up about 30% of our homeless population in Denton County. In June we had a very high number of households who did attain permanent housing.

Healthcare:

Isabel Rodriguez informed the group about deploying a survey to reach the goal of awareness and access of healthcare services to the unhouse population as well as identified gaps services for them.

Diversions:

Megan Ball informs the group has been meeting bi-weekly for the last 2 months for the training guide. The training is being shared with different agencies for data to be collected. Policies and procedures are being reviewed and from the results of the training and the policies, further changes will be made if necessary.

Cross Care Collaborative:

Shanan Spencer gave the updates on behalf of Michelle Conner. The Ad-Hoc workgroup has been meeting once a month and by the next leadership team meeting, this workgroup will have a proper name. The focus of the group right now is to look at the system the way it is and map it to fix the barriers and gaps. The next meeting will be in the first week of September.

Backbone Support Updates

UWDC Homelessness Initiatives:

Amanda Adams gave the updates on behalf Olivia Mata-Williams. The city of Lewisville Mortgage program expended \$145,000 by the end of July, assisting 12 households with covid mortgage assistance for 53 months paid and the average Ami pulling between 80 and 90%. The City of Denton Barriers Fund has fully expended the \$80,000 which is on 109 households to increase housing stability for Denton residents. The city of Lewisville Barriers Fund has a remaining \$13,000 for those who are still residents. The City of Lewisville, Senior Gap assistance has assisted 35 unduplicated seniors in Lewisville, with 292 months of gap rental assistance totaling right under \$25,000 and one and a half months. The first collective community onboarding took place July 28, with over 35 in attendance, representing 14 organizations throughout the county and receiving a lot of feedback from the community. The 2023 National Conference on ending homelessness has 4 priorities: Increasing government funding for another 200 million dollars, frontline staff funding. Increased NOFO timeline (notice the funding availability) timeline from one to 2 years for federal grants and funding for mainstream housing to encourage housing stability.

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team:

Shanan Spencer updated the team on the process map that the substance use group has developed that can be distributed at local offices, hospitals clinics, etc. so that people can see what resources are available for



treatment in our community. Their First Recovery in the Park is coming up on September 16th at the Denton County Courthouse Complex. The suicide prevention work group partnered with Texas health resources & their behavioral health component to offer free suicide and prevention training (QPR training) which is free, online and held once a month. A new Veterans, Mental Health Counseling program has started in July and is for veterans surviving spouses and dependents, regardless of discharge status free of charge to the veterans. The group will soon start working with Representative Stucky's office, to start crafting some legislation that can be taken to the next legislative session.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team:

Shelby Redondo shared that the DCWSLT's Economic Mobility workgroup met for the first time to begin work on the strategic plan and to look at an asset map. Vocational Rehab said that one of their client's biggest barriers to stability is housing. Which led to a conversation around HMIS, so their staff can engage in the housing system within Denton County. MHMR Tarrant came out to host an event on parent support groups and child development from birth to 17. Eight different agencies sent their case managers to learn more about these programs and how to get their clients involved.

Public Comment

No Comments.

New Business

The June meeting minutes were approved with a majority vote from the Homelessness Leadership Team.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 am. Next meeting is Thursday, October 12th.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

AUG -SEPT 2023

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 6 times between August and September 2023 for Case Conferencing. During each case conferencing meeting, members discussed clients that each agency is actively working with, including client strengths, barriers, and housing-focused actionable 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 community wide data, as well as receive training and guidance on how to document a client's "housed" status in HMIS.

Housing Workgroup will continue to meet Mondays from 3-4 PM with a hybrid option either in person at United Way of Denton County or virtually via Zoom.

- 1st Monday – Veteran CC
- 2nd Monday – General CC
- 3rd Monday – Veteran CC
- 4th Monday – General CC
- 5th Monday – Families CC

SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- Continue to increase consistent attendance across agencies.
- Barriers Fund access and funding availability
- Considerations for increasing frequency of Family case conferences

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Dedicated increased time to agency collaboration on a program level & transparency.
- Collective Onboarding for agency staff was well received and had great attendance.

CONCERNS

- Service provider capacity to conduct follow up on action items identified in Case Conferencing
- Ability to remain in contact / locate clients with little means of communication and transportation for service follow up.

NEXT MEETING DATES

October: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

November: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: ELENA SHEHAN

AUG-SEPT 2023

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met twice from August 2023 to September 2023. The following was discussed:

- Improved collaborative communication of live resources across our agencies and community partners
- Goals for strategic plan to accomplish within the next 12 months

SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- Identify advocacy focus to connect to Barriers Fund and fundraising efforts.
- PIT planning committee is building representatives across agencies

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Increased collaboration and sharing of active information between service providers and community partners.
- Dr. Jones heading the Panel Discussion Initiatives upcoming discussion: *Persons with Lived Experience* on September 11th at 3 pm on Zoom.

CONCERNS

Agencies continue to report an increase in housing assistance requests while local shelters remain at capacity (both in Denton and in the broader DFW area).

NEXT MEETING DATES

October 25th (Lewisville; Next Steps), November 29th (Denton; Giving Grace)

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

AUG-SEPT 2023

The data dashboard has been updated with data up to August 2023. As of August 2023, there are currently 505 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. The 505 total number for April breaks down into:

- 48 families
- 475 individuals
- 17 fleeing domestic violence
- 30 Veteran households
- 175 households experiencing chronic homelessness

No changes in reporting for ISDs

Denton County school districts' data was updated in February 2023. The two largest school districts reported the following:

- Denton ISD: 587 students (increase from October 22; 347)
- Lewisville ISD: 1,024 students (increase from October 22; 820)

Housing intervention prioritization breakdown:

- Diversion Services: Households (8.1%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention: Households (50.6%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention: Households (41.2%)

Short-term action items

- Address errors with HMIS export by advocating to CoC leads and cross-checking inflows with agencies.
- Identify goals for 2023 dashboard improvement and collaboration with other workgroups.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Data Dashboard has been updated with new categories for 'Homeless Start Date' & Disability/Chronic Illness

CONCERNS

- Data accuracy from agencies utilizing HMIS continues to be a concern UWDC staff supports in resolving.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HEALTHCARE WORKGROUP | CHAIR: ISABEL RODRIGUEZ

AUG-SEPT 2023

This group is currently in the knowledge-gathering phase, identifying gaps in the current healthcare system as it relates to the unhoused population and determining what can be done on a local level to address these gaps. The ultimate goals of this group are to reduce emergency room visits that could be handled in primary or urgent care, increase funding for primary care and community health services targeted at this population, increase number of options for patients experiencing homelessness with acute needs at discharge, and increase the unhoused population's awareness of healthcare services, measured by repeatedly administered knowledge survey.

Short-term action items

- Assess goals and priorities for the next 12 months
- Identify resources to create a toolkit for front line staff

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Analyzed results from assessment survey to determine next steps
- Administered survey of community health care providers to get database on services available and their accessibility to the unhoused population.

CONCERNS

- There are currently very few pathways for a person experiencing homelessness to access medical care other than utilizing the emergency room.
- Few options are available for the aging population with long term needs, few facilities prepared to meet this need accept Medicaid or Medicare.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DIVERSION WORKGROUP | CHAIR: MEGAN BALL

AUG-SEPT 2023

This group has agreed upon a training curriculum and has a schedule to implement the in-person training.

Short-term action items

- Implement diversion training for staff at front door agencies providing coordinated entry.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Agreed on a strategic focus that prioritizes agency staff training and data collection.
- Provided feedback and approved rollout of diversion training to front door agencies providing coordinated entry for late Summer and Early Fall 2023.
- **Oversaw the implementation of agency training on diversion.**
- **Served as a forum for problem-solving to agencies trained on diversion.**

CONCERNS

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

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

Cross Care Collaborative WORKGROUP | CHAIR: MICHELLE CONNER

AUG-SEPT 2023

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 mapping of Behavioral Health and Housing Systems
- Continue identifying entities/organizations that are at the primary integration level of the response systems.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- First meeting had a wide array of county representation to discuss the system interactions between mental health and homelessness.
- Identified existing resources connecting jail to mental health resources to start the system mapping.

CONCERNS

- Understanding the volume of resources to the capacity of each organization

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

Strategic Planning Committee WORKGROUP | CHAIR: Megan Ball

AUG-SEPT 2023

The committee is gathering 2-3 goals from each workgroup to make a formal recommendation to the team.

Short-term action items

- Review goals from each workgroup to formalize recommendations to the leadership team



Ending Homelessness Conference

Debrief, Takeaways, and Next Steps

Denton County working collaboratively to continue to move the needle for housing and homeless solutions

Denton County Representation



Key Takeaways

- Persons With Lived Experience focus + compensation
- Volunteerism
- Workforce First model
- Landlord Engagement
- Storage solutions
- Advocacy



Next Steps

- Strong focus on inclusion of PWLE + funding opportunities for compensation
- Increasing outreach + volunteer contracts
- The Other Ones Foundation
- Remodeling the structure for effectiveness
- Creative nomadic storage for the unhoused
- Building + Connecting plans, people, & orgs

