



Thursday, August 10th, 2022 | 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	5 min.
II.	June Meeting Minutes	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
	• VOTE – Approval of Meeting Minutes		
III.	Strategic Planning Committee Update	Megan Ball	10 min.
IV.	McKinney Vento & ISD Families	Jill Adams Lynn Charles Marta Chavez	35 min.
V.	Workgroup Updates		30 min.
	• Housing	Terry Widmer	
	• Denton County Homeless Coalition	Elena Shehan	
	• Data	Leia Atkinson	
	• Healthcare	Isabel Rodriguez	
	• Diversion	Megan Ball	
	• Joint Ad-hoc BHLT+HLT	Michelle Conner	
VI.	Backbone Support Update	UWDC	10 min.
	• UWDC Homelessness Initiatives		
	• Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team Update		
	• Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team Update		
VII.	Public Comment	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
VIII.	New Business	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
IX.	Adjourn	Chair/Co-chair	2 min.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, October 12th, 2022 | 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, June 8th, 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 Madison from Salvation Army who sitting in proxy for Christy Plemens.

2023 Denton County Homelessness Data Report by Leia Atkinson

The agenda for the presentation was to go over the Denton County's Collaborative Approach to Homelessness Solutions, Local Homelessness Data, 2023 Point in Time (PIT) Count Results, and Community Analysis & Findings.

Workgroup Updates

Housing:

Olivia Mata-Williams talked about how Leia & the team are working to improve attendance/participation. Terry's comments mentioned Terry's comments about additional training and support needed for the staff.

Denton County Homeless Coalition:

Daphne Houston reported that she will be stepping down as Coalition Chair and Elena Shehan will be stepping in her place.

Data Workgroup:

Leia Atkinson presented the Homelessness Data Dashboard, updated April 2023. Black African American households make up majority of our homeless population. In our community, different solutions are needed for different age groups and 55–64-year-olds experience the health conditions of someone who is 65 years old due to being homeless. Chronic illness puts you at a high-risk factor and a 3rd of our population is currently battling chronic illness. Denton currently has 21 shelter rooms for families. School districts work together through the McKinney Vento Act and by spring break, 580 students have experienced homelessness or some kind of housing stability. There are many factors as to why someone is experiencing homelessness but "at its core, homelessness is a housing affordability crisis". In 2022, we helped 156 households attain permanent stable housing. 2023 had over a 100 PIT count volunteers. 40% of Denton County clients suffer from chronic homelessness. Leia reported an update from the ISDs, which included an expected increase in LISD.

Healthcare:

Isabel Rodriguez informed the group about finishing a survey which will be distributed to the healthcare providers. They are also developing another survey for those experiencing homelessness and for the representatives' agencies.



Backbone Support Updates

UWDC Homelessness Initiatives

Olivia Mata-Williams announced the launch of the Senior Rental Assistance Program from the City of Lewisville, facilitated by both United Way of Denton County and CCA. Additionally, the Mortgage Assistance in Lewisville is anticipated to close out by August 2023.

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

Shanan Spencer updated the team about the Mental Health Navigators Program is still moving and working on training the launch and preparing for launch this summer. The financial assistance grant from Texas Veterans Commissions for this year was not renewed and will not be available beginning July 1, 2023. UWDC did get an award for \$200,000 from TBC to start providing clinical counseling to veterans. The substance use work group has developed a process map giving information to our 3 main front door agencies that have access to substance use treatment.

Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team

Shelby Redondo shared there are 2 new appointees to their workforce success leadership team. The leadership team has completed their strategic planning and will be voting on it next Friday for approval. They have also been building economic mobility work group that shifted from financial coaching to now capacity building economic mobility for ALICE in Denton County. Child Care work group will be meeting in June and a Child Care listening session on June 21st at 9:30 am at UWDC. The childcare task force will be advocating for a Senate bill 1145, which would be a property only for childcare centers.

Public Comment

Behind the Scenes Panel was discussed. The first one was on Unsheltered Homelessness. The second one was called Follow the Money. The next one coming up in September is going to be talking to those who are experiencing or have experience of homelessness and what that looks like.

New Business

LISD ended the year with 1,127 who served in the McKinney Vento and finished the first year of their grant called the Reach Project. The April meeting minutes were approved with a majority vote from the Homelessness Leadership Team.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 am. Next meeting is Thursday, August 10th.

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT HOUSING WORKGROUP | CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

JUNE 2023-JULY 2023

The DCHLT Housing Workgroup has convened 6 times between June 2023 and July 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
- **Increase of families entering Denton County with unmet needs and resources**

NEXT MEETING DATES

Aug: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Sept: 11th, 18th, 25th

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DENTON COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION | CHAIR: ELENA SHEHAN

JUNE 2023-JULY 2023

The Denton County Homeless Coalition met twice from June 2023 to July 2023. The following was discussed:

- Improved collaborative communication of live resources across our agencies and community partners
- Texas Legislative Housing Advocacy wins
- Review of PIT survey questions to provide feedback to THN
- Interest feedback survey results

SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS

- Identify advocacy focus to connect to Barriers Fund and fundraising efforts.
- PIT data reveal dates planned for Friday Aug 4th in Lewisville and Monday Aug 21st in Denton (NCTC with special guest, Lady Cass and the Fellas)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Increased collaboration and sharing of active information between service providers and community partners.
- Dr. Jones heading the Panel Discussion Initiatives upcoming discussion: *Follow the Money* on June 6th at 1 pm on Zoom and FB Live.

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

August 30th (Lewisville; Next Steps), September 27th (Denton; Giving Grace)

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT DATA WORKGROUP | CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

JUNE 2023-JULY 2023

The data dashboard has been updated with data up to July 2023. As of July 2023, there are currently 491 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. The 491 total number for April breaks down into:

- 47 families
- 444 individuals
- 32 fleeing domestic violence
- 31 Veteran households
- 188 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: 33 households (7%)
- Rapid Rehousing Intervention: 251 households (53.4%)
- Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention: 186 households (39.6%)

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

JUNE 2023-JULY 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

- Administer survey of community health care providers to get database on services available and their accessibility to the unhoused population.
- Plan for study of unhoused population and agency staff's knowledge of healthcare services.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Procured representation from hospitals, community health agencies, street outreach, shelter staff, permanent supportive housing staff, and community organization entities.
- Drafted community health provider survey to gather information on services and services accessibility, which will be administered and translated into a database accessible to case managers.

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

JUNE 2023-JULY 2023

This group has agreed upon a training curriculum and will be setting a schedule with each agency to deliver the in-person training.

Short-term action items

- Implement diversion training for staff at front door agencies providing coordinated entry.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures for implementation of diversion across Denton County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The diversion workgroup has agreed on a strategic focus that prioritizes agency staff training and data collection.
- **Additionally, this workgroup has provided feedback and approved rollout of diversion training to front door agencies providing coordinated entry for late Summer and Early fall 2023.**

CONCERNS

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

DCHLT Workgroup Reports

DCHLT AD HOC WORKGROUP | CHAIR: MICHELLE CONNER

JUNE 2023-JULY 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

- Re-name group
- Identify a new BHLT co-chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- First meeting had a wide array of county representation to discuss the system interactions between mental health and homelessness.
- Significant list of barriers and resources created to start system mapping

CONCERNS

- Resources available to address systemic gaps