



HOMELESS SERVICES NETWORK MINUTES

April 28, 2016 / 8:30am – 10:00am

Hope Haven Conference Center

ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1) Ron Clark | Cardinal Innovations |
| 2) Davena Mgbeokwere | Charlotte Family Housing |
| 3) Tony Marciano | Charlotte Rescue Mission |
| 4) Tameka Gunn | Community Link |
| 5) Joy Crosby | Crisis Assistance Ministry |
| 6) Emma Foster | Florence Crittenton Services |
| 7) John Burns | Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont |
| 8) Phyllis Pickens | Hope Haven |
| 9) Natalia Botella | Legal Services of Southern Piedmont |
| 10) Tameka Bellfield | Lutheran Services of the Carolinas |
| 11) Helen Lipman | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 12) Peter Safir | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 13) Courtney Morton | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 14) Ulinda Forehand | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 15) Erin Schroeder | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 16) Meg Robinson Arnold | Mecklenburg County Community Support Services |
| 17) Pamela Bennett | Men's Shelter of Charlotte |
| 18) Anita Leach | Men's Shelter of Charlotte |
| 19) Kathy Gauger | Safe Alliance |
| 20) Ann Gaddy | Safe Alliance |
| 21) Amber Snyder | Salvation Army Center of Hope |
| 22) Deronda Metz | Salvation Army Center of Hope |
| 23) Harry Mack | Salvation Army Center of Hope |
| 24) Pamela Jefsen | Supportive Housing Communities |
| 25) Kelly Lynn | Supportive Housing Communities |
| 26) Ashley Williams Clark | UNCC Urban Institute |
| 27) Mike O'Sullivan | Unitarian Church Universalist Church Advocacy Group |
| 28) Liz Clasen-Kelly | Urban Ministry Center |
| 29) Carolina Chambre Hammock | Urban Ministry Center |
| 30) Allison Winston | Urban Ministry Center |
| 31) Cassie Hazelip | Urban Ministry Center |
| 32) Josiah Daniels | Urban Ministry Center |

GUESTS PRESENT:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 33) Deborah Albritton | Another Choice for Black Children |
| 34) Ruth Amerson | Another Choice for Black Children |



35) Dimitri Cheatham	ARISE Association
36) Janice McNeely	Changed Choices
37) Julia Hanson	Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
38) Bridgett Williams	Discovery Home Care
39) Bill Brown	Hoskins Park Ministry
40) Melanie Sizemore	Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg
41) Jamie Matteo	Mecklenburg County Behavioral Health Department
42) Reneé Nicholas	Reliable Hands Corporation
43) Evelyn McGrant	Reliable Hands Corporation
44) Colin Pinkney	The Harvest Center of Charlotte
45) Debbie O'Handley	The Hope House Foundation
46) Jen Grenier	The Hope House Foundation
47) Phyllis B. Finch	Victory Christian Center

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MARCH MINUTES

- Meeting called to order by HSN Chair, Liz Clasen-Kelly, at 8:33am
- March meeting minutes were approved by vote.

VICTORIES

- Urban Ministry Center is glad to have Caroline Chambre Hammock back! (Liz Clasen-Kelly)
- Urban Ministry Center will celebrate the Moore Place Expansion on June 15th (Caroline Chambre Hammock)
- HSN Advocacy work continues and is making progress (Mike O'Sullivan)

GENERAL UPDATES

- **National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference Scholarship (Kelly Lynn)**
 - The NAEH Conference will be held from July 26 – 28, 2016 in Washington, D.C.
 - HSN will award 2 scholarships to an HSN member to cover the cost of registration. Costs for travel and lodging are not included. In order to apply, complete the Scholarship Application (attached) and send to Kelly Lynn by May 3rd. Odds are good if you apply now!
- **May HSN Fair Registration (Courtney Morton)**
 - The May HSN meeting is the annual HSN Agency Fair. All are welcome to attend the HSN Agency Fair, and new staff and interns learning the homeless services landscape in Charlotte are especially encouraged to attend. In order to have a table at the fair, you must be an HSN Agency Member and you must register with Courtney Morton by May 18th. Look out for an email in the next week!
- **Food Stamps Exemption Work**
 - Natalia Botella shared that they have seen the first round of terminations with individuals whose certification period ended on 3/31 and who no longer were eligible.



Natalia shared that they have also seen individuals who have disabilities have difficulty with verification.

- Liz Clasen-Kelly shared that at Urban Ministry Center the counselors received training and through this, have had success assisting individuals with the exemption work.
- Will continue to keep a pulse on this for the coming months.

- **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Homelessness (Liz Clasen-Kelly)**

- Liz Clasen-Kelly gave a brief preview of what will be coming from Chris Prysock and Shakira Clarke regarding work on the issue of unaccompanied youth homelessness. Chris and Shakira hope to continue the next steps identified out of the February HSN Meeting and form a working group to address those steps. Plans are in the works for a kick-off meeting in June.

- **Report Out from Housing First Conference (Pam Jepsen)**

- Below are themes from the perspective of Charlotte attendees to the [Housing First Partners Conference](#) held in Los Angeles, CA from March 22-25, 2016
 - Peer Support was promoted and encouraged as a strategy.
 - Focus on isolation experienced by individuals who are housed, especially in scattered site locations, when they have to make choices between potentially, harmful social support systems and maintaining their housing. Pam shared that this particular topic is something she is considering as an area for continued work and will be sending an invitation for others to join in on addressing the issue.
 - Employment First was discussed, focusing on ways agencies can help individuals to find meaningful work and support staff on how to encourage and explore creative ways to connect individuals with work opportunities.
 - There were multiple presentations by individuals from Charlotte-Mecklenburg at the conference, which was encouraging. Reflected on fact that Charlotte-Mecklenburg is starting to be seen as leader on the national stage.
 - Links to Housing First Conference Presentations below:
 - [Workshop Materials for all presentations](#)

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016

Ashley Williams Clark, UNCC Charlotte Urban Institute

Courtney Morton, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services

- Ashley Williams Clark and Courtney Morton presented findings from [2016 Point-in-Time Count Report](#) that was released on April 28, 2016.
- Attached is a copy of the presentation and handouts given, featuring key findings, trends and residence information from the report.
- Following the presentation, the group was asked to break up into smaller groups and consider the following questions:
 - What is the most important thing you learned from this report?



- How will you use the information in this report?
- What step does Charlotte-Mecklenburg need to take *next* to address the “areas to pay attention”?
- Following small group discussion, each group shared their answers to the third question, which are listed below:

We need more advocacy around poverty and racial discrimination, and take the issue of race even a step further—looking at cultural dynamics and what is underneath.
We need for more emphasis on addressing unaccompanied youth homelessness, including understanding more about this population and sharing data with each other.
We need to have a common understanding of what family homelessness looks like and apply our learnings from veteran and chronic homelessness successes to work addressing family homelessness.
We need to look at why the unsheltered population went up, even though it was by a small number.
We need to explore whether there is a need for a safe haven in our community.
We need to look at the legal and criminal justice arenas and focus on how and why criminal charges play a role in housing.
We need to look at alignment with the work of the Economic Opportunity Task Force around issues of race and housing.
We need to explore the issue of individuals not feeling safe or comfortable in our shelters.
We need to offer an opinion on how the numbers from different groups about persons experiencing homelessness align and are different.

UPDATES FROM HSN AND NON-HSN COMMITTEES

HSN Advocacy Committee: Mike O’Sullivan shared progress on some of the committee initiatives:

- Since HSN adopted the position against the City Council proposal to eliminate garbage collection from multi-family homes, there has not been much additional work needed on it. They are currently waiting to see if it will be included in their budget that will be presented soon. Mike shared that Ken Szymanski stated that the voice of HSN in this work was the most compelling of all voices.
- Mike encouraged others to come to their Advocacy Meetings, held at McCreesh Place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is 5/17 at 3:30pm.

HSN Coordination of Services in Housing (COSH): Kathy Gauger shared update on work:

- Committee members decided to keep meeting on a quarterly basis with next meeting in August. They have stopped serving as the role of making referrals to AWH.

Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg: Continuum of Care (CoC) Committee:

- No update.



Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg: Coordinated Assessment Oversight Committee:

Helen Lipman and Pam Jefsen shared an update on work from the committee:

- Work is being done to improve the process on how families experiencing homelessness enter and move through the system. The committee plans to roll out changes in June 2016 with a Common Application for Rapid Re-housing and a prioritization process. Plans are to use the Family VI-SPDAT for prioritization, housing the most vulnerable families first while also accommodating program criteria.
- Coordinated Assessment has been in existence for about 2 years. Original consultants who helped with setting up the system shared that the community should give the system about 5 years to work out the kinks. Community can celebrate the work that has been done around the system for referring individuals for Permanent Supportive Housing. The committee is now focusing on Rapid Re-housing and communicating outcomes from coordinated assessment with the larger community. Stay tuned.

Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg

- There have been 279 individuals housed, which represents 42% of the amount needed to be housed by 12/31/2016 in order to reach goal.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing our Heroes:

- There have been 401 veterans housed with 25 remaining on the active registry list.

CHALLENGES

- Affordable Housing (Erin Schroeder)

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 9:59am.
- Minutes submitted by HSN Secretary, Courtney Morton.

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 26, 2016