

**Partnership for a Healthy Durham
Health and Housing Committee**

ZOOM – Link in email

June 16, 2020

Minutes

Facilitator: Caressa Harding

Meeting Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Housing rental assistance funding
- Outcome 2: Co-chair Nominations

Present: Charlene Reiss, Don Bradley, Manuel Hyman, Tamar Chukrun, Kelly Warring, Alyssa Platt, Brian Goings-Reid, Erica McCleskey, Caressa Harding, Marissa Mortiboy
Guest: Janeen Gordon

Project/Topic/Goal	Major Discussion Points	Recommendations	Action Steps
Welcome & Introductions	What has brought you joy in the past week?		
Review of May Minutes	Send Marissa edits to the May minutes.		
Available housing rental assistance funds <i>Janeen Gordon, Durham County Department of Social Services</i>	<p>Janeen Gordon is the Assistant Director Aging & Adult Services with the Durham County Department of Social Services (DSS). The goal of the housing programs is to prevent housing crisis.</p> <p>Janeen facilitates the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program for people living with HIV and AIDS. She also works closely with the Durham Housing Authority and landlords. There are multiple sources of funding, but individuals have to meet certain criteria to qualify.</p> <p>There are funds for people impacted by the COVID pandemic. Some County housing funds are emergency assistance programs for adults with disabilities or over a certain age. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency assistance is for families. There is a small pot of housing money for those involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS).</p>		<p>Reach out to Janeen at jgordon@dconc.gov to find out more about available housing funds.</p> <p>Janeen will share the rental assistance program information with Caressa to share with the committee.</p>

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There is a large pot of money called Opening Doors for those experiencing homelessness who have found stable housing but need help with security deposits and first month's rent. Eviction diversion funding with Legal Aid is for anyone who has had a filing for eviction, to prevent the case from going to court. This fund provides legal representation in court and mitigation to prevent the eviction. DSS can pay arbitrated funds once the case has been closed. The program is looking for people behind one month or more on rent.

Durham County is the #1 county per capita for eviction filings in NC, prior to March and COVID. Before courts closed in April, Durham had 900 eviction filings for the first three weeks in March. There is concern about three months' worth of eviction filings hitting the courts in July 2020. There were peaks in eviction in 2011 and 2012 and a decline since them.

To access funds, call DSS at 919-560-8000. Only Durham County residents are eligible. Ask for the rental assistance team and they will send you to appropriate staff. HOPWA funds don't have to go through DSS but funding is limited. The funds can help with rent and utilities. About 80% of people who apply get funded. All cases are being handled over the phone and not in person. Documentation needs to be submitted through fax, DSS app, mail or Durham County Human Services dropbox.

Due to the malware attack, couldn't spend funds from early March to mid-May. Funds that weren't spent during that time period need to be spent by June 30. Additional funding will be available July 1, but may be less due to the tighter County fiscal year 2021 budget. Unspent money will be returned to County or federal accounts.

County COVID dollars will be exhausted June 30. DSS is trying to determine the appropriate way to fund individuals if they are eligible for other programs to preserve COVID funding.

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	<p>Eligibility requirements include at 200% Federal Poverty Level or less, client contributes 20% of amount and DSS 80%. DSS will use eligibility for other programs to pay for 20% responsibility. People denied because untruthful about amount of income, over 200% limit, number of people living in house, crisis that started months earlier and the amount can't be handled by the program.</p> <p>Individuals can only use one pot of funding per year. But you can tap into different pots eligible for, but you may not qualify for the same pot. No limitations in housing program for criminal history. Do not have to be a citizen but do need to be a Durham County resident.</p> <p>DSS is getting ready to enter a contract with City of Durham for emergency assistance for a situation cannot pay rent or not been able to pay utilities for up to three months of assistance.</p>		
<p>Co-chair Nominations All</p>	<p>Committee co-chairs are elected annually for one-year terms. The first step in the process are nominations. You can nominate yourself or others- https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020HealthHousingCoChairNom. Marissa will check in with anyone nominated to see if they would like to run. Elections will take place online in June as well. Ideally, co-chairs would have been part of the committee for at least a year before the July 1 term. But anyone who is interested is encourage to nominate themselves.</p> <p>Caressa Harding shared about her experience being co-chair learning a lot about the relationship between health and housing and working with wonderful people. Talk with Caressa or Donna offline about the co-chair roles. Marissa really helps the co-chairs acclimate to their roles. Meet with the other co-chairs to learn about the Partnership as a whole.</p> <p>The Partnership is a wonderful collaboration and networking opportunity. Caressa encourages everyone to serve as co-chair to</p>		<p>Nominate yourself or others for co-chairs.</p>

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	keep the energy going. Residents who voted affordable housing #1 priority should see the work continue.		
Announcements <i>All</i>	Alliance Healthcare has funding for rental assistance and utilities, but they need to be involved in behavioral health care. The provider part of the Alliance network has to submit the application. Trainings are 1-3:30 pm every Wednesday. Contact Manuel Hyman for more information, 919-698-0015 or mhyman@alliancehealthplan.org .		
Next Meeting: July 21, 2020, 8:30 am			