Partnership for a Healthy Durham
Health and Housing (H&H) Committee Meeting Zoom
Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Present: Bria Miller (DCoDPH), Natalie Barnes (Alliance Health), Charlene Reiss (Partners for Impact), Angel Romero (Duke Health), Tobin Freid (Durham County Office of Sustainability), Elshona Hudson (Alliance Health), Uzuri Holder (Duke Health), Marlene McAuley (Alliance Health), Shelisa Howard-Martinez (Aging Well Durham), Caressa Harding (NCDHHS)		
Item	**Major Discussion**	**Recommendations and Action Steps**
Welcome/ Introductions *8:30-8:40* *Charlene*	Lightning round: Name, organization, and what's your favorite fall comfort food or drink? 1-2 words only please!	
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Action Plan for 2027 *8:40-9:25*	In 2027, what steps can the group take to achieve the goals in the current Health & Housing Community Health Improvement Plan? • Individuals have safe and adequate housing, free from interior hazards, that supports their health and well-being. • Advocate for health-promoting housing policies and procedures. • Strengthen the network of those providing housing resources to promote safe and adequate housing for people who live in Durham. Alignment with recommendations in 2026 Community Health Assessment (CHA) The Health and Housing CHA section writers have a list of recommendations that they would like to consider as we complete the current CHIP. • Provide more funding for Community Paramedics to provide safety and fall risk assessments before falls occur. • Foster authentic partnership with residents of new and existing publicly funded housing communities to gather recommendations for improving the safety and livability of the properties. • Increase inclusion of universal design principles in all publicly funded housing initiatives. • Fund local organizations to assist homeowners in making repairs and modifications to increase safety and livability of existing homes. • Raise existing caps on income limits for eligibility for housing repair programs. • Enforce ordinances and regulations concerning safety and livability of rental properties.	

	• Support efforts to educate residents about residential hazards, e.g. lead, mold, radon, and access to remediation resources. • Create mechanisms for renters to report property violations without fear of landlord retaliation. • Facilitate community-building programs to increase neighbor-to-neighbor support systems. • Plan and invest in adequate infrastructure before new housing is built to prevent flooding, sewer back-ups, and other hazards. • Increase assistance for homeownership. Discussion: Ideas for Addressing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Between Now and April 1. Increasing Visibility of Homeowner Assistance Programs • A CHA writer identified a correlation between homeownership and improved health outcomes. • Consider creating a database or tool that uses a series of questions to match residents with programs they are eligible for. • Discussed whether it is more effective to promote one or two programs at a time rather than presenting all available programs at once. 2. Continued In-Person Engagement • Continue hosting in-person meetings. • Ideas include roundtable discussions and a Healthy Housing Summit. 3. Community Engagement with Older Adults • Aging Well Durham has connections with seniors living in public housing. • Explore opportunities to speak with residents about their housing priorities. • Potential partnership with another Partnership committee.	

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	4. Safe and Adequate Housing: Boarding Homes and Related Issues • Many residents who rely on Social Security income live in boarding homes, often paying $600–$800 for a room. • Concerns highlighted include cost regulation, safety, and living conditions. • Suggest partnering with Coalition on Affordable Housing and Transit (CAHT) to explore regulatory or support options. • Concerns were also raised about commercial buildings being used for residential purposes and single-family homes housing multiple families. • Recommendation: Contact local fire stations or community paramedics to understand regulations or potential interventions. • Shelisa offered to reach out to the community paramedics for a potential speaker. 5. Regulatory Context • In North Carolina, boarding homes, adult care homes, and assisted living facilities are regulated by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), with oversight varying by facility type and size. 6. Potential Partnerships and Programs • Consider hosting a series with the Coalition on Affordable Housing and Transit (CAHT). • Encourage directing more housing-affordability funding toward repairing existing homes. 7. Barriers to Home Repairs • Some residents cannot receive home repairs due to issues such as insect or animal infestations, which prevent repair crews from entering the home.	The committee will spend upcoming meetings gathering information and data to

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	8. What the Committee Can Address Now • Natalie's team can help identify areas experiencing the most significant housing challenges. • The committee could spend upcoming meetings gathering information and data to develop policy recommendations for collaboration with CAHT and other partners. • Identify existing repair programs (e.g., Preserving Home, Habitat's repair program), assess capacity, and explore ways to expand capacity.	develop policy recommendations for collaboration with CAHT and other partners. Next Steps The committee will focus on gathering information and compiling findings into a white paper.
Next meeting: December 15, 2026 at 9:00 AM in person	The Health and Housing committee is combining November and December meetings and convening in person. It will be at Durham County Department of Public Health 9am-10:30am.	