Partnership for a Healthy Durham
Health and Housing (H&H) Committee Meeting Zoom
Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Present: Charlene Reiss, Krista Kicsak, Natalie Barnes, Liv Gladlin, Angel Romero, Marlene McAuley, Caressa Harding, Shelisa Howard Martinez, Sarah Vinas, Derek Uejo, Charita McCollers

Item	Major Discussion	Recommendations and Action Steps
Welcome/ Introductions *8:30-8:40* *Natalie to welcome/ Ice Breaker*	Lightning round: Name, organization, and what's giving you joy right now? 1-2 words only please!	
Presentation *8:40-9:00* *Sara Viñas, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services, City of Durham*	Sara Viñas, Director of Housing & Neighborhood Services, joined to talk about the Housing in Place program for Durham's older residents, along with other programs offered by the city. The City of Durham went through a reorganization process over a year ago, which created the department of Housing & Neighborhood Services. Their mission is to "build a Durham where everyone has affordable, safe and fair housing". This team is responsible for the City's affordable housing efforts, with the exception of homelessness (another department is in charge of this), code enforcement functions (i.e. safety, compliance) and fair housing (i.e. the City's nondiscrimination ordinance). This team responds to complaints made related to housing or employment discrimination. City website for the new housing plan: https://www.durhamnc.gov/5578/Affordable-Housing-Plan-Investment-Strat How this work connects with health and housing: • Community centered approach to code enforcement. Not only do they respond to code violation complaints, they also provide education for residents on how to keep their housing safe. This education is often around areas of concern they most often see. • They partner with organizations like Preserving Home and Habitat for Humanity to assist lower income homeowners with resources such as repair services. • When a code violation is detected in a low-income homeowners' home and the owner does not have the resources to fix the violation, they are	

	connected with their home repairs program to fix the issue. More funding has been allocated to these programs recently. o This is especially helpful as many code violations have a direct connection to health, such as peeling exterior paint, mold, biological growth, holes in roofs or floors, no heat or air conditioning, etc. o Last year, the housing code was updated to include the need for air conditioning in homes that have had air conditioning (AC) previously. If the home has never had AC, it isn't required. o Minor repair program: https://www.durhamnc.gov/489/Repair-Rehabilitation-Program • This team also works in the space of building new housing by supporting developments underway that are 100% affordable, projects including new constructions, built to the latest standards, green building, etc. • They are launching an effort to create a new affordable housing and investment plan for the City, which will help determine housing priorities for the next five years. The kickoff was in September (add project webpage), and there will be additional opportunities to engage with the team moving forward. o Working with HRNA and Brick and Story to create the plan; there will be stakeholder engagement opportunities through targeted focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and general opportunities to engage. o The goal is to have an initial plan to present to City Council in December, with a final plan ready in February. o The most recent housing plan, Forever Home Durham, was a five-year plan, of which the timeline has ended. The $95 million bond approved by voters in 2019 has been fully dedicated to projects. o The team working on this plan will be dedicated to incorporating not only data but lived-experience of housing insecurity. Sarah encourages this group to stay connected, especially to share knowledge and resources the City could use.	**Stay tuned for opportunities to engage with development of the new housing plan** **If there are existing sources of data that might be helpful in determining what homeowners may be eligible for the repair programs, please send to Sarah and her team**

	Q&A 1. *Are you planning on using data from the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and related community listening sessions?* The team would love to if it's possible for the data to be shared, as they don't want to reinvent the wheel and draw from existing sources where possible. 2. *Is there a waiting list for the home repair programs and, if so, how long is the waitlist?* There are waiting lists for both programs and varies on the housing needs of the household. The best way to learn more is to reach out to the partners directly: if it's a smaller scale repair, it goes through Habitat for Humanity and larger scale repairs go through Preserving Home. (**She should have sent a link to go to)** 3. *Do people apply through Preserving Home or Habitat for Humanity and then get connected to Durham's programs, or do they apply through the City of Durham and get connected to which program they might benefit from?* Current state, applications must be done through the partners, but a centralized intake form is something they would like to explore in the future. Sarah encouraged attendees to highlight this if joining an engagement opportunity so that it can be incorporated into the plan. 4. *How is the City factoring in the long waiting lists for Section 8 vouchers?* The City's goal is to create affordable housing options for households up to 80% Area Median Income (AMI), which in Durham for a family of four is $101,000, and are emphasizing housing for the full range of no income to 80% AMI. Durham Housing Authority (DHA) received millions of funds in the last cycle, some of which are done and others currently underway, and the	

	City fully acknowledges the need for a range of housing projects and opportunities for no income all the way up to 80% AMI. Specific to the waitlist piece, the City is looking at what the need is across income levels. The City also recognizes the burden placed on families to provide the required documentation for receiving housing, particularly those federal funded opportunities. As they are developing resources, they are keeping low barriers in mind. 5. *How many homeowners in Durham qualify for the repair programs and if so, is there targeted outreach to these areas so they are aware?* At this time, no, but the hope is that this will be addressed with the new housing plan. There is some data from programs with both the City and County, but it doesn't always have all the necessary information, like the salary of the occupants, if the occupants are the homeowners, etc. This is another reason the City is working with HRNA to get more specifics City-wide, so they hope they will have better data soon. 6. *What is the best way to get information to the program? Where can people give feedback and voice concerns?* There will be open opportunities upcoming, as well as a **survey** on their webpage to provide input, which is open to **everyone.** There will also be workshops to provide input on proposed ideas. The survey is open until at least December.	**Complete and share the feedback survey, available at https://www.durhamnc.gov/FormCenter/Housing-and-Neighborhood-Services-20/Affordable-Housing-Plan-Feedback-429**
CHIP Progress Report *9:00-9:25* *Natalie & Charlene*	Reviewing progress made toward the Health & Housing Community Health Improvement Plan The group looked at the CHIP document and recorded additional progress made towards the strategies.	

Partnership for a Healthy Durham
Health and Housing (H&H) Committee Meeting Zoom
Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Next meeting: October 27, 2026 at 8:30 AM on Zoom		

Partnership for a Healthy Durham