

Attending: Natasha Adams, Jessica Anderson, Nate Broman-Fulks, Rebecca Buzzard, Nancy Coston, Christy Croft, Caitlin Fenhagen, Kathleen Ferguson, Barbara Foushee, Sally Greene, Chinita Howard, Jackie Jenks, Megan Johnson, Will Quick, Corey Root, Beth Schehl, Diiv Sternman, Emila Sutton, Katie Wright

Welcome & Updates

Sharing /agency updates

- Jess Anderson attending webinar on systemic racism, will bring back updates to the group
- Reports of domestic violence have quadrupled during pandemic, DSS providing housing for DV clients
- Christy Croft did a panel for Freedom Network USA on housing solutions for LGBTQ human trafficking survivors, this leading to further trainings and work on Queer Persons of Color (QPOC) Mutual Aid Efforts

OCPEH updates

- Call and email volume on the Housing Helpline has been high and is increasing:

Month	# People	# Calls	# Emails	
April	113	210	5	<i>Emails started 4/28/20</i>
May	350	617	116	
June	162	501	59	

The Partnership, supported by Orange County Housing & Community Development, is in process to hire temp and permanent staff to help with processing calls and emails, in addition to setting up the HUD Coordinated Entry grant in the coming weeks.

- Housing Help Rapid Re-housing program has housed four people since May 2020. This program is prioritizing people at high risk for COVID, in addition to people in temporary hotel stays from the beginning of the COVID pandemic.
- Orange County Homeless System Gaps – filling these would help efforts to redirect policing efforts, working on Street Outreach program proposal in particular with OC Criminal Justice Resource Department; Also working on plan to update homeless system gaps for 2020
- Several funding opportunities are in the works
 - Emergency Solutions Grant has COVID specific funding – round 1 for this will be \$341,633, round 2 could be around twice this, there could be around \$1 million for local housing initiatives coming online quickly
 - The Back@Home program may use some of these funds for rapid re-housing, the Safe@Home eviction prevention program
 - The Continuum of Care (CoC) funding competition is slated to start soon
 - If there are decisions needed from the Leadership Team on funding opportunities prior to the next meeting in August, Corey will be in touch

Orange County Homeless System Work during COVID-19

Many agencies have shifted work and as our community responds to the Coronavirus pandemic. Here are updates from agencies working on the front lines:

- IFC – single adults moved to hotel in May, extended through at least July 6, space for 66 residents, families remaining at HomeStart; modifying shelter spaces to comply with social distancing recommendations as feasible; outreaching to people living unsheltered at IFC Community Kitchen for to go meals, giving out tents, tarps, masks, hygiene kits and providing financial assistance
- CEF – beginning to reopen slowly, taking precautions as they do; no orientations for now, but keeping up with existing members
- Orange County Housing & Community Development
 - Proposed legislation at NCGA would provide rental assistance, utility assistance, and eviction prevention
 - Looking at process and policy for people returning for assistance
- Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department – received \$20,000 grant for supplies and housing for people exiting from jail or prisons, have used \$11,000 for hotels and Oxford House payments; have also received \$20,000 for supplies and housing for people in specialty courts, including Outreach Court; using CARES Act funds for MSW court navigator to start in July, 6 month position; need for pre-trial reform continues to be urgent, have reduced pre-trial population by 70% by using different methods, hopefully will result in long-lasting changes
- Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness continues to administer weekly meetings for the overall Homeless Coordination group and for the Unsheltered Workgroup. Much of current work is examining how Orange County is meeting parameters set out in the [framework](#) produced by The National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The Partnership will collate this feedback on the framework into a working document for policymakers in the coming weeks.
- Town of Carrboro – partnering with OCHCD and OCPEH on Emergency Housing Assistance program; AHAC setting goals for next year
- Town of Chapel Hill – working on Emergency Housing Assistance with other Towns and County, increase in need, looking for additional resources for EHA; Town looking for plan for affordable housing for bond funded projects, projected to support 270 new affordable units
- Carolina Outreach – seeing clients, supplying clients with phones through the MCO/LMEs, continuing to enroll new clients, seeing clients virtually either from their home/phone or can go into office and use on-site tech, making plans to reopen as is safe to do so

OCPEH Leadership Team and Racial Equity

Leadership Team members reviewed feedback from former racial equity consultant, Tina Vasquez, who had three areas of concern:

1. Corey cancelled the March 16 Leadership Team meeting without prior notice to Tina – Tina’s expectation was that she would have been contacted in advance to take into account her scheduling -- Corey will contact guest speakers in advance of cancelled meetings.
2. There was a three week gap between when Tina reached out via email and when Corey returned email; Tina’s expectation was a one week turnaround -- Corey will clarify communication expectations with future contractors.

3. Tina feels that the Leadership Team and Corey are not in a place to move forward with racial equity and not a good match with Emergent Equity – this is a larger issue
- Tina thinks the Leadership Team meeting time is too heavy on data and there is not enough input from people in room, not enough input from people with lived experience, and service providers who know the day-to-day realities of homelessness in Orange County
 - What is the right role for data at Leadership Team meetings?
 - What is the Leadership Team’s agenda and vision?
 - Need to have a strong voice on racial equity at the system level
 - Tina is not interested to meet with small groups of the Leadership Team to discuss further. Tina recommends that OCPEH tap Jackie Jenks’s skills and experience. Tina did not have recommendations for other racial equity firms.
 - OCPEH has funding available for racial equity consultant – what is the process for identifying our next firm?
 - What do we want to accomplish? What does success look like?
 - There has to be a will to do racial equity work because it’s deep and hard work. Must be willing to deeply engage in order to make differences in the work to end homelessness.
 - Are we conducting ourselves with racial equity? There are limited resources, but we don’t need to settle into limitations
 - OCPEH has paused board development during this racial equity work – what are the next steps for people that have applied to be on the Leadership Team?
 - Tina recommends leadership development for Corey – Corey will look into this.
 - Need to look at larger systems work as well as individual work as Leadership Team members
 - Look at new options for racial equity firms, have a recommitment from Leadership Team members
 - The Equity Paradigm <http://www.theequityparadigm.com/> is a good choice
 - Volunteers will help with racial equity issues – Barbara Foushee, Kathleen Ferguson, Jackie Jenks, and Emila Sutton; This group will work on planning for racial equity and bring proposal to larger group

Next Meeting: August 17 via Zoom

Upcoming meetings: NO JULY MEETING, Aug. 17, Sep. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21