

MEETING MINUTES

**Town of Waynesville
Task Force on Homelessness**

Thursday, November 5, 2020

5:30—7:00 PM EST

**Locations:
Public Services Building
129 Legion Drive**

Zoom Option

Meeting Facilitator:	Amy Murphy-Nugen	
TOW TFH Members Roster		
✓ Police Chief David Adams or appointee	✓ Patsy Davis or Brooke Smith as proxy	✓ Amy Murphy-Nugen (Chair)
✓ Juleah Berliner	✓ Commissioner Kevin Ensley	Theresa Pierce
✓ Wanda Brooks	✓ Keri Guidry	Joslyn Schaefer
Dale Burris	Bill Guy	✓ Alderman Anthony Sutton
✓ Nathan Cartwright	✓ Mandy Haithcox	✓ Brandon Wilson
✓ Sheriff Greg Christopher or appointee	✓ Jon Lynn McDermott	
✓ Bob Cummings	✓ Neese Morris	

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m., and conducted a roll call. The meeting schedule for the next three months was reviewed.

Approval of Minutes, October 22, 2020

Alderman Sutton made a motion to approve the October 22, 2020 meeting minutes. Police Chief Adams seconded the motion, and the October 22 minutes were approved.

Chair & Working Groups Progress Reports & Action Planning

Summary of Chair Activities, October 26-November 5

Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen provided a summary detailing her activities between October 26th and November 5th. Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen reported attending the Economic Stability Work Group, Health Work Group, and Community and Social Connection Work Group meetings. Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen reported attending the Dogwood Health annual meeting. She also met with Lieutenant Tyler Trantham from the Waynesville Police Department. Crime data provided by Lt. Trantham from one week, spanning from October 13th-20th, was included in the document summarizing Chair activities. The data was reviewed with the Task Force by Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen. Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen reported that the date, time, and location for resident listening sessions, for residents who live within proximity to those experiencing homelessness, has also been finalized. Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen provided data collected on median household income for Waynesville and Haywood County from years 2017 and 2018. Numbers related to housing costs in Waynesville and Haywood County were also included in the document and reviewed. Definitions of "affordable housing" are in accordance with the Housing and Urban Development definitions. Each member of the Task Force also received a document outlining socio-demographic data prepared by intern Hannah Minick. Additionally, Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen reported speaking with Destri Leger who works with HERE in Jackson County about the January 2021 Point In Time count. Keri Guidry also reported she will be attending a training about the Point In Time count Tuesday the 10th. Brandon Wilson has preliminary 2020 Point In Time data he will provide to the Task Force. Task Force members were invited to the next Homeless Coalition meeting. Keri Guidry is to be contacted if members would like to attend Homeless Coalition meetings.

Information on the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Release Request for Application for Opportunity to Serve Justice-Involved Individuals related to COVID19 and Opioid Use was provided to the Task Force and discussed. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services released a request for applications to fund up to \$10.6 million in community-based projects to prevent opioid overdoses for people who are involved in the justice system. Applications are due December 14th, 2020. Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen is scheduled to present a preliminary proposal to the Board of Alderman on Tuesday November 10th, where she will be requesting approval to apply for the grant. The broad parameters of the grant were discussed. Communities have flexibility to apply for funds to be used in ways that will be of benefit to their specific community. Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen stated she can take the lead writing the grant application. She would have the assistance of a colleague at Western Carolina University whose work relates to micro and macro level substance use treatment and intervention. Brandon Wilson offered to assist with the grant writing processes. Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen confirmed that the grant

proposal would be submitted to the Task Force to be reviewed before submitting it to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. It was noted by Brandon Wilson that this opportunity would require a significant commitment from law enforcement. The award amount is \$350,000 per year, for two years. Commissioner Ensley stated he could take the proposal to the County Commission for support and a resolution, in addition to the proposal being taken to the Board of Alderman. A motion was made by Brandon Wilson to approve pursuit of the grant application. The motion was seconded by Neese Morris. The Task Force members voted unanimously to support the Town in pursuing the grant.

Work Group Reports

Health Work Group:

Hannah Minick presented for the Health Work Group. The Health Group has met one time since the last Task Force meeting. Attendance at the last meeting was reported. Hannah reported the Health Group started their meeting with a review of their data collection points. The group discussed the identification of key stakeholders as well as including people who are currently homeless and/or directly affected in our working group. The group noted that if anyone had feedback on the data collection plan presented at the last Task Force meeting, that they could provide it to the group. The Health Working Group spent most of their meeting beginning to create a comprehensive list of health care providers in Waynesville and Haywood County. The group has a working list of 13 agencies currently. Each member of the group was assigned one or two agencies to contact and begin collecting data/information about each agency. The group has a google spreadsheet where each member will enter agency information. Key stakeholders identified during this meeting included Patrick Johnson, recently retired from the Haywood County Health Department and Shelly Foreman with Vaya Health. Patrick Johnson will be speaking at their next meeting. A group member is also tasked to reach out to Shelly Foreman with Vaya Health. These stakeholders will be invited to attend a meeting or participate in the working group on an ongoing basis. The Health Group reported regular bi-weekly Monday meetings scheduled via zoom.

Economic Stability Work Group:

Alderman Sutton presented for the Economic Stability Work Group. The group has met once since the last Task Force Meeting. Attendance at the last meeting was reported. Alderman Sutton reported that the group reviewed and revised the business survey questionnaire at the last meeting. Alderman Sutton read the seven questions from the survey to the Task Force. The survey aims to gather information such as businesses location, if the business is impacted by individuals experiencing homelessness, what their concerns are, what suggestions they would like to offer, additional comments, and if they would be open to discussing the feedback provided. Surveys have been sent out to 400 businesses

as of today. The surveys were sent through the Chamber of Commerce email. The surveys are anonymous, with the option of providing identifying information. People can elect to add their contact information or not. Two notices are going to be sent out on November 11 and November 18 to those businesses who have not yet completed a survey. An additional goal of the survey is to identify business owners to participate in listening sessions. The work group reported adding affordable housing as an issue to their task list. The group would like to know who is working on affordable housing in Waynesville. They are asking questions such as what agencies are involved in affordable housing in Waynesville? What barriers exist to affordable housing? What agencies are receiving federal and/or state funding for affordable housing? Alderman Sutton reported their group also discussed the need for not-for-profit collaboration and sharing of information in Waynesville. The group has ideas for listening sessions involving law enforcement, not-for-profit board members and executives, and health providers. Alderman Sutton mentioned an update on the 'pre-trial' program. Their group is working on this and are going to wait and learn more about how 'service resistant' individuals are being identified. Mental health issues were identified as a major issue in the group's report out. They stated that the closest locations for law enforcement to take people who are involuntarily committed and need specific in-patient treatment is Winston Salem. The group has their next meeting scheduled to meet before the next Task Force meeting. At the end of the report out a question was raised about not-for-profit collaboration in Waynesville. A community member reported that there is an Inter-Agency Council meeting that happens once a month in Waynesville. John S. at the Senior Center coordinates the meeting. Conversation around resources from law enforcement being used to take people who are involuntarily committed to a hospital out of town was also further discussed. How law enforcement resources are being used to transport people to other parts of the state are identified data points that the Task Force would like to gather. It was stated that there are only a few institutions/treatment centers who are able to accept individuals who are involuntarily committed. Limited beds for in-patient treatment, due to the coronavirus, was also discussed.

Community Cohesion and Social Connections Work Group:

Keri Guidry presented for the Community Cohesion and Social Connections Work Group. The group has met once since the last Task Force meeting. Attendance at their last meeting was reported. The group is including community member(s) who are currently unsheltered/experiencing homelessness. Keri stated the group reviewed charge of their working group at the beginning of the meeting. Goals that the group has identified are starting to compile a 'resource list' to identify housing service providers, who the key partners for providers are, and how referral processes work at service agencies. Keri reported that they feel confident in their list of providers and that a collaboration with the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition is going to be helpful in gathering information. The group reported looking at continuums of care for housing, from emergency shelters, through transitional housing, into permanent housing. The group

reported discussing a lack of transitional housing in the surrounding area. The group is still working on identifying key stakeholders. Haywood Christian Ministries and Salvation Army were identified as important stakeholders for housing in Waynesville. Habitat for Humanity and Mountain Projects were also listed. The group decided to narrow their stakeholder list to approximately 10. Lt. Trantham has been added to work group, bringing a law enforcement perspective to the group. The date has not yet been set for the groups next meeting. They will be meeting via zoom.

Eviction, Foreclosure, Winter Preparation Work Group:

Brandon Wilson presented for the Eviction, Foreclosure, Winter Preparation Work Group. The group has met two times since the last Task Force meeting. Attendance at their last meeting was reported. The group focus has shifted over the last two meetings as they reported prioritizing the winter preparation plan. The "TOW Winter Cold Grace Plan 2020" was presented in the form of a flyer to the Task Force. The document is a draft, and one or two phone numbers need to be corrected before it is distributed to the public. The winter preparation plan includes 'who is able to stay where and who is supporting who' when the temperature drops below 32 degrees. There is a 24-7 call number set up where people can call to get assistance with shelter resources. The streamlined process for "TOW Winter Cold Grace Plan 2020" involves case managers at Pathways screening everyone who needs shelter and referring them to 1 of 3 programs/options that are going to be working together. The three organizations are Veterans Services of the Carolinas, Pathways, and Helping Hands. Brandon reported local churches are providing money to help pay for hotel rooms for families with children. Clients who are not appropriate for Pathways will be referred to Helping Hands to be put up in a hotel. Everyone will be screened by Pathways, which can happen over the phone. The goal of the plan is to get people indoors and effectively use resources in the county. The Cold Grace plan is in place as of now. Pathways will provide people who stay there overnight when temperatures are below freezing with a bagged breakfast and lunch to go. Multiple agencies have come together to work to ensure people are safe in cold winter weather.

Education Work Group:

Bob Cummings presented for the Education Work Group. The group has met once since the last Task Force meeting. Attendance at their last meeting was reported. Bob stated that Patsy has a curriculum for a 3-4-hour interactive rental curriculum that she has used previously in Raleigh. Landlords can get involved with this curriculum as well. Bob reported that Patsy is at a standstill in terms of who would find participants to take the course. Additionally, Bob reported that he, Jeremiah, and Patsy have discussed prevention strategies primarily for middle and high school curriculum addressing substance use and domestic violence. The group is looking into evidence-based curriculums such as Safe Dates. It was noted that the logistics of going into schools are challenging at this time due to

COVID19. Substance use prevention in schools is reportedly on hold right now due to coronavirus. RHA was mentioned to have provided some of these services in the past. Bob stated the group is going to look more into programs and who is doing what in schools. Bob reported the group feels that they are somewhat at an apex and are wondering what their next steps are and who is going to follow through with what. Chair Murphy-Nugen indicated she would follow-up with the work group.

Actions Between Now & Next Meeting

Work groups will continue to meet. Work groups will upload their meeting notes into the shared google document.

Prepare for Next Meeting

Chair Amy Murphy-Nugen will report back on any outcomes of the Board of Alderman Request for Action. Work group members will report out to the Task Force at the next meeting scheduled for December 3, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Additional Information:

The Task Force on Homelessness is committed to providing opportunities for community feedback.

Community members: Please feel welcome to provide feedback here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFHSept3Feedback>



Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Murphy-Nugen on November 11, 2020.