



## Leadership Team Meeting Agenda

March 18, 2024 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill Carrboro and [Teams](#)

**Attending:** Members – Jessica Aldave, Donna Carrington, Tim Daaleman, Caitlin Fenhagen, Catherine Fray, Bernard Miles, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Blake Rosser, Beth Schehl, Rachel Valentine (Vice-Chair); Guests – Katie Chappell, Jackie Jenks, Thomas Johnson-Bean, Jamall Kinard, Staff - Rachel Waltz

### **Opening**

Vice-Chair Valentine opened the meeting and honored Women’s History Month.

### **RE session**

LIFE Group Consultants Thomas Johnson-Bean and Jamall Kinard led the group in a discussion of cultural development, including adding how group members address the difference between intention and impact. “Own it if/when you misspeak”. Recognition is crucial to repairing relationships and reducing resentment. The group then discussed a desire to not get bogged down in information gathering at the expense of action. The group reflected on the stated [90 day goals](#) and common traps that can halt progress. Consultants shared a prompt from Dr. Martin Luther King’s [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#) “Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection”. The group discussed that the impacts of inaction on people who are unhoused are suffering and early death. This imperative drives the need for action.

### **System-wide Racial Equity Assessment**

UNC MSW Intern Katie Chappell presented the [2024 Continuum of Care Racial Equity Assessment](#) using the Stella Performance program and system data through September 2023. She directed attention to the three primary drivers in the system performance – length of time people experience homelessness in the Orange County homeless system, exits to permanent housing, and returns to homelessness following exits to permanent housing. At the system point of entry, there remains a significant underrepresentation of white people accessing homeless services (34% despite comprising 76.3% of County residents). Black and African American households continue to experience homelessness at significantly higher rates (56% despite comprising 12% of County residents). When looking at program entry, Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing are serving households in proportion with who is experiencing homelessness in the community. Permanent Supportive Housing has been closing the racial disparity in recent years though a disparity still exists. FY22 system performance measures indicated that 53% of head of households were white and 31% identified as Black or African American and FY23 indicated that 39% of households identified as Black or African American and 39% identified as white.

### **Homeless System Gaps Updates (Discussion)**

OCPEH Leadership Team members shared progress closing the following [system gaps](#):

- Bridge Housing – Cait Fenhagen reported that the Bridge Housing located on Homestead Road cleared a regulatory hurdle. Funding for Bridge Housing operation, short-term housing for people experiencing homelessness who are exiting from jail and prison, is included in the OCPEH Expansion budget request that is before the four local governments.
- Overflow Cold Weather shelter – Blake Rosser reported progress with overflow sheltering planning for the 2024 winter season. The 2023 winter season operated approximately 35 nights of shelter and served over 120 community members. The location at Southern Human services was not ideal due to the distance from public transportation and local resources like the IFC Community Kitchen. County staff are in talks with Town of Carrboro to identify space at the 203 project which will mitigate several of the concerns with the Southern Human Service disadvantages.
- 24 Bathrooms in downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro – Donna Carrington shared that the Community Empowerment Fund presented a [petition](#) to the Town of Chapel Hill requesting funding and support for well-maintained bathrooms in the downtown area and funding incentives for the local downtown merchant community until these bathrooms are established. Multiple community members, including people with lived experience of homelessness spoke in support of the petition.

- Household Goods – Donna Carrington reported out the Welcome Basket workgroup progress. Local non-profit Lotta Love will be exploring grant opportunities to develop welcome baskets for people exiting homelessness with CEF administering the referral and distribution of these goods.
- Increasing access to Affordable Housing – Jackie Jenks shared that the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition presented a [petition](#) requesting a \$50 million bond to Town of Chapel Hill. Jackie shared the importance of reviewing the petition and attending Council meetings.
- Increase Permanent Supportive Housing – Jessica Aldave shared progress closing the gap for PSH. She described hiring a Team Lead and interviewing for a PSH case manager. She also reported that the program has recently accepted three more referrals and has capacity for approximately seven more people.

### **Minutes**

The motion to approve the [February minutes](#) passed unanimously [C. Fenhagen, B. Miles]

### **Wrap Up and Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** April 15, 2024

**Remaining 2024 Meetings:** 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17, no July meeting, 8/19, 9/16, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16