



## Leadership Team Meeting

### Minutes

April 15, 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, Everett McElveen, Bernard Miles, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Blake Rosser, Aury St. Germain, Rachel Valentine (Vice-Chair); Guests –Thomas Johnson-Bean, Jamall Kinard, Andrea Carey, Anne-Marie Vanaman; Staff – Kat Wies

**Opening** (Vice-Chair) - recognized [Second Chance Month](#) and highlight local efforts including documentary premiere and panel on April 17th, Bridge Housing funding request before the four elected boards, and collaboration with the Local Reentry Council on the housing workgroup.

#### **Housing Policy presentation**

Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, Director of Housing Policy at the [NC Housing Coalition](#) will be asked to reschedule due to the schedule conflict she had for this evening.

#### **Racial Equity session** (LIFE Group)

Leaders started with the House Rules and emphasized the need for change agents to lead with hope and good will in order to focus on what we want to achieve. Leaders showed the group with a video with a horse to prompt thinking about how we determine progress. Members shared indicators like the number of people experiencing homelessness and the Homeless System Gaps Analysis. Facilitators asked the group to react to the 90 day progress update. Members described lack of progress and feeling like the goalposts are always moving and getting entrenched in the minutiae can add to frustration. Members talked hopefully about collaborations and pending legislation. Group was cautioned about how we weigh in with policy because policy can be dismantled as elected officials change. The Facilitators also highlighted the need to focus on what we want to achieve rather than the things we want to avoid - Believing in the Possibility and Moving Towards Accountability. The group used the Racial Equity Filter to inform OCPEH's goals statement after being grounded in OCPEH's Why – Human people w lived experience (everyone matters) and Mantra – We know how to end homelessness, and here is how – By making power visible, considering race in major decisions, and centering people with lived experience in order to equitably share power/resources. Discussion of how we determine equity included the need to disaggregate data by race to ensure that the gains of one subpopulation are not at the expense of another subpopulation (e.g. making significant gains for white people experiencing homelessness while Black/African American people experience homelessness longer or return to homelessness faster than their white counterparts).

#### **OCPEH Updates**

OCPEH staff provided updates on Coordinated Entry (CE) Roundtables. The CE Planning Committee will be evaluating access to homeless system assessments and referrals via peer-led Roundtables in May and June. Community members currently or formerly experiencing homelessness will be compensated with HUD CoC Planning grant funds. Roundtable results will be shared with the community following June's CE Planning meeting.

Recruitment is underway for 2024-2026 Project Review Committee. Community members were invited to see <https://www.ocpehnc.com/project-review-committee> for more info, including background and how to apply.

The four elected boards are currently considering the [Partnership's Expansion request](#) for FY24-25. The Expansion request includes continuation funding for Partnership operations, SOHRAD, a portion of Rapid Rehousing not covered by HUD grants, and adds funding for Bridge Housing for people exiting jail / prisons via Coordinated Entry and a portion of Housing Helpline not covered by HUD grants. Managers will be presenting their recommended budgets in the coming weeks. Members requested that OCPEH staff announce the dates for when the elected boards are considering items related to housing and homelessness.

Staff provided an update regarding the recently reformed Unsheltered Workgroup, OCPEH has been working with partners to support people living unsheltered in Carrboro. Our unsheltered neighbors who are camping off of Jones

Ferry Rd are being trespassed despite lack of complaints from local business owners and residents. Members discussed the significant impacts to health and safety when people's survival structure gets disrupted and displaced. Members raised the action of a joint letter to the Towns' Managers and Mayors that if an action is being contemplated, that there is a joint discussion to analyze all of the needs presented by displacement and request a reasonable, thorough, and deliberate response. A letter and joint meetings could then develop into a local policy. Members further highlighted the role of OCEH Executive Team members as being able to champion this.

**Minutes**

The motion to approve the [March minutes](#) passed unanimously [ A. St. Germaine, B. Miles].

**Wrap Up and Adjourn** passed unanimously [ D. Carrington, B. Miles].

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