

MEETING MINUTES

**Town of Waynesville
Task Force on Homelessness**

Thursday, September 24, 2020

6:00—7:30 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	✓ Commissioner Kevin Ensley	✓ Amy Murphy-Nugen (Chair)
✓ Juleah Berliner	✓ Keri Guidry	Linda Nulsen
✓ Dale Burris	Bill Guy	Theresa Pierce
✓ Nathan Cartwright	Mandy Haithcox	✓ Wanda Brooks
✓ Sheriff Greg Christopher or appointee (proxy, Sgt. Doug Carver)	Laura Howell	✓ Joslyn Schaefer
✓ Bob Cummings	✓ Jon Lynn McDermott	✓ Alderman Anthony Sutton
✓ Patsy Davis (proxy, Brooke Smith)	Neese Morris	Brandon Wilson

Welcome and Introductions

Welcomed new member to the Task Force, Wanda Brooks, who is replacing Joey Reece who has officially resigned.

Approval of Minutes, Sept 3, 2020

Motion was moved to approved meeting minutes from the last meeting and minutes were approved.

Work Plan & Process

Each work group presented a summary from their first meeting and/or plans to conduct their first meeting. Summaries from all Work Groups follow:

1. Community Connections & Social Cohesion Work Group

Keri Gudry presented update

Met Sept. 17th from 6-7

- Added Michael Blackburn and Alderman Feichter to the work group
- Starting from a framework of focusing on support systems of people who are unsheltered and then work to identify gaps
- Team reviewed work group description and goals
- At their first meeting the working group discussed:
 - Visibility of homelessness during this time of covid-19 being exacerbated.
 - Housing first models, where it worked, what it did, and why it worked. Discussed gathering information on communities who have housing first models

Plans for the work group:

- Want to know how many evictions have not made it to the court yet—need numbers
- Identify gaps in mental health needs that are going unaddressed—*want to add community mental health service provider to group*
- Identify gap in detox and in-patient treatment center in Waynesville
- Explore low-barrier shelter to permanent housing continuum gap in these areas
- Substance use and mental health resources for single dads//LGBTQIA+//elderly//registered sex offenders//unaccompanied youth//undocumented individuals
- Create questionnaire for individuals who are homeless to address some of these gaps/barriers, looking into Emergency Solutions (ESG) grant.
- Next Steps: invite homeowners from Hazelwood, Allen's Creek, etc. who can have a discussion—to have better idea about what that looks like

Next meeting: Oct 15th at 6pm next meeting likely at First United Methodist Church

2. Economic Stability Work Group

Alderman Sutton presented update

Read attendee list

Invitations extended for Stephanie Sutton and Brian Cagle to join

Met 9/15 @ Grace Church

- Discussed impact of homelessness on businesses//questionnaire for businesses being developed
- Clarification on loitering—someone cannot currently be arrested for loitering although they can be asked to move (get clarification from law enforcement on this)
- Low-barrier shelter—Gap Identified

- Want to do a point in time count immediately
- Want to research effectiveness of low-barrier shelters in other municipalities
- Want data from Maggie shelter

Next meeting: Sept 29 at Bethel Resource Center

3. **Education Work Group**

Bob presented updates

Meeting planned this coming Monday 9.28.20 at 7:45am

- Discussed providing life skills education to people who are homeless
- Substance use prevention in schools and long-term planning/thinking
- Safe Dates—dating safely program
- Bringing the broad spectrum into detail will be the goal of first meeting
- Alderman Dickson will be joining

Next meeting: Sept 28, 7:45 AM

4. **Eviction, Foreclosure, Crisis Response and Winter Preparation Work Group**

Commissioner Ensley and Vicky presented

Met 9/17 on zoom

- Wanted to identify resources for renters and subsequently, made resource list
- ABCCM—identify federal funding for veterans
- Other supports available from Disability Partners, Salvation Army and Mountain Projects
- In addition, Haywood Christian ministries has shifted from offering heating assistance to providing more food through Manna foodbank
- Stated when people have food resources they do not need as much assistance with utility and rent
- Michelle Rogers also attended—manages rentals in county—1% eviction rate through this time. Provided insight into landlord and tenant issues.
- How to help landlords and renters will be one focus of group
- Work Group also wants to assist with Winter Preparation

Next meeting: TBD

5. **Health Work Group**

Juleah update

Met 9/16/20 from 5-6

The Work Group is addressing mental health, physical health, & substance use issues.

- Conversation about gap identification: discharge from jail and prison, especially if people are incarcerated elsewhere but from Waynesville and brought back here. In addition, there is a lack of some mental health services with the closing of Balsam Center.

Further, when people needed services, they may be difficult to access due to having assessment conducted at multiple agencies, lack of transportation and access to a low barrier shelter.

- Brainstormed gaps and identified providers from whom data will be requested (including, local substance use and mental health treatment providers-- i.e. how many people who are homeless are accessing services)
- Gap in lack of transitional housing

Next meeting scheduled 10/5/20 from 5:30-6:30pm

OPEN DISCUSSION POST WORKING GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

- Discussed housing continuum of care with multiple entry points, i.e. low barrier shelter, to longer term shelter, to transitional housing, to affordable housing.
- Discussed low barrier shelter—Kasey Valentine updated TF on shelter said she would connect with members of a local homeless coalition to provide summary and outcome data to the TF.
- Discussed talking to Scottish Inn hotel owners and inquiring about their occupancy—the Scottish Inn is for sale. Decent location. 1 million. \$750,000---trying to bring down to \$650,000. 21 rooms. Apartment in the middle of the unit.
- Discussed point in time count—Joslyn suggested doing one before January.
- Peer support in jail working with people transitioning.
- Tyler, with the Town of Waynesville Police Department, reported 6 homeless encampments within Waynesville city limits
- A discussion involving privacy concerns was raised in how to address information regarding homeless encampments and other sensitive information in meetings.

Defining Homelessness

Tabled discussion for next meeting.

Actions Between Now & Next Meeting

--Each working group will meet and report back

--Make plans to attend the October 15 Packing Party from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Allen's Creek Baptist Church, coordinated by ABCCM and VSC's Outreach Program for Homeless Veterans in collaboration with the Task Force on Homelessness and local law enforcement.

Anticipated Items for Next Meeting Agenda, October 8

Work Group Progress Reports

Definition of homelessness

Point-in-Time count

Discuss frequency of meetings; possibility of 2-hour meetings if we move to once a month

Discuss creating a google folder for the work groups to share their information

Reminder about Packing Party on October 15

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 September 28, 2020.