



---

**Attendees:** Derrick Byrd, Nicole Lambert, Clif Lavenhouse Robert Chadwick, Jerry Dodson, Nikki McDougald, Kristin Feierabend, Shelia Reich, Gretchel Carter-Hinton, Verna Best, Tangela Keaton, Kathy Peterson, DeAnna Jackson, LaSonia Barnett, Aarnesia Harris, Tamara Perkins, Vielka Gabriel, Nadia Aguilera, Priscilla Awkard

## **Welcome, Review Agenda and Meeting Minutes**-Priscilla Awkard, Chair

- Clif Lavenhouse moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Derrick Byrd.

## **Executive Committee Report**

### **Information Presentation Kid Connect- Nikki McDougald, Wake SmartStart**

- See [PowerPoint](#) attached.
- SmartStart welcomes partnerships with any organization that is doing this work already in the community and wants to ensure these organizations have the tools they deserve. They are willing to offer space to provide this information if needed.
- What are some examples of challenges? Nikki says that some young boys with intense behavioral needs and being suspended. SmartStart can tailor the presentation to these specific needs.
- They will begin workshops in 2020. Contact [Nikki McDougald nmcdougald@wakesmartstart.org](mailto:nmcdougald@wakesmartstart.org) for more information.

### **2021-2025 Five-Year Consolidated Plan- Emily DeHoog, City of Raleigh, Neighborhood Planner and Chris Whitenhill, Wake County, Housing and Community Revitalization**

- See [PowerPoint](#) attached.
- Verna Best shared a quote regarding the Census. "The dollars don't follow the need, they follow the numbers."
- It's important that we do whatever work we can do to get people to understand that information is important to the allocation of resources. If your child was born before the April 1, please count them in the Census.
- It's important to note that Wake County and The City of Raleigh both have separate Five-Year Consolidated Plans. The City and County have partnered together to conduct stakeholder meetings, such as this Crosby Advocacy Group meeting, in order to better align the plans. The Five-Year Plans are required as part of the application for federal grant money.
- A one-year action plan is reported to HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) along with the Five-Year plan. It's important for the county and the city to visit with

stakeholders to receive input, determine any priorities, getting information and matching this information with the data.

- An attendee asked how the plans want to address homelessness and will the definition of homelessness be redefined? City: Homelessness is currently defined as anyone that is living on the streets. This definition does not include individuals who are sleeping on couches, etc. Funding for their homelessness program is through their emergency grant. They will hold a workshop where these individuals can apply. County: Funding for homelessness programs is dispersed to other nonprofits that are serving the homeless in the community already. There are a variety of different programs and they serve many different people.
- Gretchel Hinton commented that there needed to be more affordable housing for seniors in the plan? She added the price of housing is very high, especially in the SE Raleigh area. Property taxes are so high, and people are being forced out of homes that they have lived in for many years. It would be beneficial to use those financial resources to revitalize and renovate homes and education for seniors to keep them in their homes. It is ridiculous that there is a 3-year waitlist for most of these housing units.
- DeAnna Jackson added that perhaps more outreach efforts would be beneficial. Housing Assistance information can be shared via direct mail, the news channel and social security can send out notices as well. Online methods are not the only way that information should be received.
- Derrick Byrd asked if there are any funds allocated to housing for those reentering society from previous incarceration? There is a need for more housing for these individuals and for sex offenders. County and City: Currently there are no programs that specifically address this, but money is awarded to nonprofits that are doing this work in the community already. Grant money is awarded to nonprofits that build the housing. Also, grant money funds prison aftercare, but this is not directly related to housing.
- LaSonia Barnett suggested that there be a place to find housing resources. This could be a website or a one pager. Its important for service providers to know what resources exist so that they are better able to help.
- If a developer wants to rezone, they can voluntarily include affordable housing in their plan.
- Priscilla Awkard noted that the definition of the term affordable housing plays a role in how the resources are allocated. Those with income from 0-40% level have the highest need for housing. City: Many of their programs target those in the 30-80 % range. County: The county has a strong plan to address this and is better equipped than the City as they have help of Wake County Human Services Department.
- Tangela Keaton asked if the planning departments have been getting creative with increasing funding opportunities for a growing city? How is the county and city dealing with a growth rate of 68 people a day? City and County: Currently there is more demand than there are resources. The city is looking at the restructuring of programs that address housing. Also, a major challenge has been that there is a lack of availability of land to build on and the cost of construction continues to rise.
- Verna Best pointed out that the housing department should meet and talk with those that determine wages. The issue of affordable housing can't be solved unless wages and wage inequality are addressed. Also, have there been any pathways established for affordable housing for those who already live here versus those that are coming? The county funds job training programs such as Step Up Ministries, Duke Construction, the North Carolina Homebuyers Association, etc.

- Another attendee asked if there were any resources for homeless women? City and County: They are looking into connecting affordable housing resources to transit and job centers.
- Another attendee noted that it is a great idea to connect affordable housing to public transportation resources however, the issue of public transportation should be addressed as well. If it still takes buses hours to get people where they need to go, this will still be a barrier to access. There is also an issue for nonprofit organizations and service providers applying for the funding to help in these areas. This can be a barrier. Also, some requirements to qualify for funding can also be a barrier for nonprofit and service providers. Income verification can also be a barrier.

The city and county will offer workshops and classes that explain the five-year draft process to them more frequently and how to navigate these processes.

- Sheila Reich said housing plays a major role in the social determinants of health. Homelessness and affordable housing can affect children getting to school on time. City and County: They are hoping to get some housing partnerships with the City of Raleigh and Wake County Human Services. These partnerships will help focus and develop attention and effort to those aspects.
- The County will hold their public hearing where residents can share their input on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 PM at the Justice Center at 300 S Salisbury St, Raleigh. The second public hearing will be sometime in February or March 2020 to review the draft. [Find more information on their website here.](#)
- The City will hold their public hearing on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM at the Council Chambers at 222 W Hargett St, Raleigh. [Find more information on their website here.](#)

## **Social & Economic Vitality Update** Verna P. Best, SEV Program Manager

### Action Team Priority Strategies

- Community Leadership Action Team: Currently they are working on developing messaging for the action team and how to carry this work to 2020.
- RESJ: Derrick Byrd is going to hold a workshop to define equity. The RAF will be held after the rollout of the new legislation on December 1.
- Training for Upward Mobility: TUM will be concentrating on 3 more communities, Birchwood, Eastwood Court, and Heritage Park. There was also a suggestion made to

### End of Year Survey

- Dr. Brookins and Kristin Feierabend have been working jointly to provide a solid foundation to move the work of the action teams forward. The input of community residents and the Crosby Advocacy group and partners is always valued.
- There will be a survey sent out on Crosby Advocacy Group and Joint Action Team meetings. Please indicate the pros and cons of the Crosby Advocacy Group.

### Hiring Updates

- There will be two new full-time program assistants, one will be in East Wake and the other will SE Raleigh. Applications submitted so far will be reviewed. Verna is talking with HR to make certain that she understands fully the screening process. Once this is completed, they will repost

the position or begin interviewing people. SEV wants to be intentional about hiring someone with similar interests and values.

- Dynasty's service term will end in January. SEV will be reviewing applications for multiple VISTAs focused on areas such as ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences), Food Security, and the Eastern Regional Center.

#### Upcoming Programs at the Crosby-Garfield Center

- CCERC provides low to no cost counseling services for people ages 14 and up, supervised by professors and students. Call 919-512-20000 or email [ccerc\\_admin@ncsu.edu](mailto:ccerc_admin@ncsu.edu) to schedule an appointment. Classes are being offered at the Crosby Garfield Center. They also offer family therapy and 1 on 1 counseling.

#### Community Partner Update All CAG Members

- Durham and Orange County Living Wage is focused primarily on creating a living wage within the food service jobs and other areas. This may be a good group to speak with the CAG. [Find more information here.](#)
- There is a need for Spanish speaking bank tellers at Coastal Credit Union starting at \$15.50/hour, \$16.50/hour if you have experience. Contact [pawkard@coastalfcu.org](mailto:pawkard@coastalfcu.org) for more information.
- On December 17, Learning Together will have a pancake breakfast from 8:30-10:30 AM. If you would like to share any information or resources with family, please send that information to [Stephanie Sims](#)
- D2D Dads new cohort begins January 9<sup>th</sup>, there are informational flyers available at the Crosby Garfield Center. You can also find information in the SEV newsletter.
- Wake County Reentry Council will be taking appointments Wednesdays between 9-12. Anyone in need of assistance that was recently incarcerated please contact Stephanie Sims.
- Dec. 11 Pancake Breakfast 830- 1030Get resources to Dec. 10 for info packets
- (include in email) Parking will be a challenge, park between Chavis
- Derrick Byrd ask that coffee be included in CAG meetings since the meetings begin at 9 AM.
- Ask a Lawyer is held monthly at the library. There are 1 on 1 sessions for up to 15 mins on civil matters.

**Next CAG meeting: December 17, 2019 9:30 AM**