LEAC minutes: 09/09/22

Attendance: Tonya Parker, Melissa Hewitt, Rachelle Dugan, Laurel McNamee (staff)

Tonya offered an inspiring uplift that Change begins with you and that you must change in order for other things to change.

Laurel explained that part of the CoC application asked for the professional development and employment opportunities available to people with lived experience and asked the group for their thoughts on what they would like to see as benefits to participating in the LEAC. Leadership and employment opportunities: Alyce, would like nonprofit leadership training, as well as harm-reduction and trauma informed care training, suicide prevention, anti-discrimination training. Rachelle – access to national conferences. Support for hiring people that have criminal charges relating to their experience of homelessness. This could work at a systems level with advocacy and scorecard additions to make sure regional providers are overlooking these charges, and at the personal level by providing references. Melissa - access to employment training workshops, both that group members seek out and that are selected by NCCEH. Tonya reiterated a need for training in how to communicate professionally, especially in the world of nonprofits. Alyce wondered if a mentorship program with NCCEH might be a way to foster learning. Rachelle wondered if there was a dedicated position at NCCEH that would not only foster that learning but provide the capacity in the LEAC member’s life

Tonya asked a question about how communities can use the vacant homes to house people experiencing homelessness. Alyce suggested talking to the city council and pressuring them to utilize CDBG funding, and noted that NC Builds may be a developer that could support. Laurel noted the challenge with Low Income Housing Tax Credits in helping and inhibiting rehabbing/developing affordable housing.