

NC BoS CoC Racial Equity Subcommittee

September 20, 2023

Attendees: Kennet Melgar, Dr. Deneice Cole, Lori Watts, Christina Rary, Bonnie Harper

Staff: Andrea Carey, Teresa Robinson, Laurel Benfield, Elliot Rhodes

Icebreaker: 15 minutes

Dialogue Planning: 20 minutes

Working title: Affordable Housing: Rethinking Housing Solutions in NC

Potential panelists:

Brick Capital CDC (Kerry Bradshaw) - housing development & housing services (agreed)

Poder Emma: Latinx housing cooperative (contacted)

Looking for suggestions for other panelists

Looking for suggestions for questions for panelists

Requesting dialogue facilitator volunteer from subcommittee : **Kennet**

Laurel: we want to step outside the conversation about how there isn't enough affordable housing, we want to discuss options, new ideas, novel approaches.

Christina: Rowan County police department homeless liaison, share resources, gather information, build relationships. Have funds to relocate to family members. Rowan Helping Ministries is immediate shelter growing space with transitional housing. Received donation of older buildings being retrofitted to apartment units. Contact for Rowan Helping Ministries:

Dennis Rivers, Victims - Witness / Homeless Advocate, Salisbury Police Department

Office: (704) 638-5342 | Cell: (980) 234-7942 | dennis.rivers@salisburync.gov

Another example of taking old warehouse/building and creating housing options:

<https://www.salisburypost.com/2021/12/09/redevelopment-will-turn-old-ford-dealership-into-64-housing-units/>

Bonnie: more talk about shared living, PSH program has done for 2 households. Takes a lot of work to have roommates, get individuals agree to shared living (a lot of people don't want that) but there are

more 3-4 bedroom homes than 1-2 bedroom homes. Why providers don't offer classes about how to be a good roommate. Individuals with trauma, need to address that, support that.

Laurel: Allie & Laurel hosting forum for providers in emergency shelters on that topic the week before next RE Dialogue

Dr. Cole: study from 1998 about veteran shared housing, housing people with similar trauma, disaster. People not taking medication one of the biggest issues.

Dr Cole: Wake County buying extended stay hotels, converting to PSH.

Analysis Next Steps, Group Check-in: 20 minutes

Racial Equity Analysis: Action Steps

Naming impacts of committee:

Racial Equity Subcommittee impact

- Racial Equity Dialogue Series:
 - 12 events since 2020. Average attendance of over 50 people.
- Equity section in competition scorecards:
 - All applicants for both CoC and ESG submit responses based on their equity efforts.
- Racial Equity Analysis:
 - Annual dive into our data to determine where there are disparities and where the CoC should focus its efforts.
- Racial Equity Core Team:
 - Working to replace the VI-SPDAT

Christina on future work: barriers with social security card, birth certificates, barriers getting documentation. Blaming people once they turn 18 for their circumstances – how do we prevent abuse and get people empowered and tools they need to break cycles. Individuals who come from out of town seeking services, want to invite them into conversations. People without experience trying to make the decisions. Have individual relationships with housing authority, apartments to house people, seeking help shaping policies to formalize those informal practices.

Laurel: discussion of lived experience advisory committee, recruiting in eastern NC, looking for representation from people of color, collaboration is possibility.

Next Meeting: October 18th