

Community Leaders Announce Leadership, Implementation and Funding Plans for Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County

Triad -

Greensboro, NC – Guilford County leaders gathered today to announce new leadership, implementation, and funding plans for Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County.

David Miller, Leadership Council Chair, shared information about the council, which is made up of high-level public and private sector community leaders from the City of High Point, City of Greensboro, Guilford County, the Homeless Prevention Coalition of Guilford County, United Way of Greater Greensboro, and United Way of Greater High Point.

The leadership council has been given the task of providing strategic direction, oversight, and advocacy for Guilford County's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. The council will work to sustain the vision of the plan, set priorities, create community partnership action teams, coordinate current funding, and work to create additional resources. The ultimate outcome is to ensure that Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County is actively implemented, evaluated, and updated.

The council's first action has included contracting with Family Service of the Piedmont to hire a Jehan Benton as director to oversee the implementation plans. Instrumental in the development of the plan, the Council feels that she has the ability to work towards leading the community toward positive change around the issue of homelessness. As director, she will support the goals of the Ten Year Plan, which is to provide effective solutions and accessible services to eliminate chronic homelessness and to improve the local system's effectiveness.

Through the generous support of United Way of Greater Greensboro and the Moses Cone Wesley Long Community Health Foundation, the leadership council has received a two year grant for \$270,000 to implement Guilford County's Ten Year Plan. David Miller states, "All too often in life we are left to choose between doing the fiscally responsible thing or taking the course that improves a community's quality of life and social order. Fortunately in this case it looks like we have the opportunity to do both."

Philip Mangano, Executive Director for the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, presented remarks centered around the costs of homelessness to the community including the role that foundations, hospitals, police departments, newspapers, local housing authorities, and those that the community at large should play in order to make implementation in Guilford County effective.

Since the unveiling of the plan, Guilford County has received a \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and a 26 month grant for \$644,000 from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Service for a pilot project to create Housing Support Teams. The program is currently a partnership between Family Services of the Piedmont, Open Door Ministries, and the Greensboro Housing Coalition. Currently, 40 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness have been housed. In addition, a cost benefit analysis for Guilford County is being prepared by the Jordan Institute of Chapel Hill to track the costs of program participants two years before enrollment and two years after enrollment.

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