



Old City Hall – Wilmore Conference Room 106
600 E. Trade Street
November 16, 2011, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- 11:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions Renata Henderson
- 11:40 a.m. Charlotte Housing Authority CEO Search Update David Jones
- 11:45 p.m. Committee Reports
 - Development and Service Integration David Furman
 - Community Engagement and Advocacy Rabbi Schindler
 - Research and Evaluation Lori Thomas
- 1:05 p.m. CMCH/HSN Joint Advocacy letter Carson Dean
(re: mentally ill residents in Adult Care Homes in NC)
- 1:15 p.m. Wrap-up and next steps Renata Henderson

Announcements

You are invited:
Steele Creek Senior Living –Grand Opening Celebration
Thursday, Nov. 17th 10:30 a.m.
4314 Branch Bend Lane

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Development & Service Integration – December 21st – 10-11:30 – 333 W. Trade Street
Research & Evaluation – December 14th – 11:30-1:00 – UNCC Uptown Building
Community Engagement & Advocacy – no December meeting

Coalition Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2012 – 11:30 – 1:30
Old City Hall, 600 E. Trade Street
Wilmore Conference Room

Upcoming Coalition Events

Interfaith Summit on Affordable Housing
and Homelessness
March 9, 2012 (8:30-12:00)
Location: TBD



AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

A Coordinated Timeline for 2012

DRAFT as of 11/10/2011

Thursday, December 1, 2011 – **Launch “Souls of Our Neighbors” Website**

(www.soulsofourneighbors.org)

- Promote the January 3 documentary premiere
- Share the trailers
- Other content on the same template as www.soulsofourteachers.org

Agency Responsible For Delivery: Crossroads

Agencies Contributing to Completion: Meck Min (Souls brand, DVD fulfillment in 2012), Temple Beth El (documentary content)

Tuesday, January 3, 2012 – **Premiere “Souls of our Neighbors” Documentary**

- Event at 11:30am at the Bechtler Museum
- Charlotte’s collective New Year’s resolution by Mayor: To get people into homes in the remaining 5 years of the Ten Year Plan (pending approval)
- Panel of 4-5 voices from the documentary: Dionne Nelson? David Chadwick or Steve Eason?, 2-3 families?
- Share the puzzle concept (artwork without individual pieces)

Agencies Responsible for Event: Crossroads (DVD production), Meck Min (RSVP, venue/menu, moderator? agenda?), Temple Beth El (guest invitation list, panel invitations, puzzle artwork)

Partner Agencies: Wells Fargo (funding request), Foundation For The Carolinas (funding request), Knight Foundation (funding request), Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing (5 Questions/5 Facts vetted)

Week of January 10th **Launch Media Campaign for “Souls Of Our Neighbors”**

- Mike Collins
- Social media
- Charlotte Observer and community newspapers
- WTVI airing of documentary with panel (same panel as premiere?)

Agency Responsible for Campaign: Crossroads

Partner Agencies (advocacy voices): Council for Children’s Rights, Temple Beth El, Meck Min, Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 – **Launch “Pick Up Another Piece of The Puzzle”** (working title) - the online gateway for citizens and congregations to do “more than shelter” to support agencies implementing the Ten Year Plan.

- The graphic with images from the “Souls Of Our Neighbors” documentary is divided into puzzle pieces in the categories of homeless people, support services, housing & advocacy.
- The user chooses which issue s/he cares about and clicks on the piece to learn more and to find agencies addressing that issue.
- Site accessible through soulofourneighbors.org and potentially through homelessservicesnetwork.org

Agencies responsible for website: Temple Beth El & Council For Children’s Rights
Partner Agencies: Crossroads (link to souls website), Homeless Services Network? (puzzle pieces, criteria for agency links, link to HSN site?), Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing? (vet data?), MeckMin (promote to congregations?)

January through May - **Crossroads Conversations**

- Fears, Fact and Affordable Housing – Why everyone having a home is good for Charlotte? What needs to change for us to get there?
- 5 Discussion Questions/5 Quick Facts on DVD packaging
- Online facilitators guide
- With 17,000 out of our 35,000 DNC guests being media - What do we want the world to know about Charlotte?

Agency Responsible for Program: Crossroads

Partner Agencies(?): Meck Min (DVD fulfillment) Temple Beth El (facilitators guide), Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing?, Council for Children’s Rights?, DNC Host Committee?

Friday, March 9, 2012 – **Interfaith Summit** hosted by Mayor & Housing Coalition (pending approval)

- Reverend Floyd Flake speaks to motivate 100 congregations/public
- “Souls of Our Neighbors” documentary viewed & DVDs distributed
- Willie Ratchford moderates “Can We Talk” discussion w/5 questions for audience seated in lecture hall chairs
- Call to action for congregations: SOON discussion, staff/lay leader, pick up a new piece of the puzzle
- Agency showcase for all HSN member agencies

Agency Responsible for Event: Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing

Agencies Contributing: Community Relations Committee & Community Building Initiatives (“Can We Talk”), Meck Min (“Can We Talk”, assist w/congregation invitations), Homeless Services Network (agency fair), Crossroads (DVD production), Temple Beth El/Council For Children’s Rights (puzzle)

Concepts Below Still Under Development

April – August, 2012 **Project SOON** (working name)– A collaborative program of faith congregations assisting agencies move families into scattered site housing

- Packaging congregational participation into templates for easy use by both agencies & congregations
- Creating a shared resource for agencies working with landlords.

Agencies Responsible for Project: Council for Children’s Rights, A Child’s Place, Crisis Assistance Ministries

Partner Agencies(?): Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing? Meck Min? participating housing agencies, participating congregations (incl Temple Beth El)

Spring/Summer 2012– **Incentive-Based Inclusionary Housing Action Plan** – Creating a long-term inclusive Charlotte

Lead Agency: City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services,

Partner Agency: Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing

September 2012 - DNC – **Celebrate our Success**

- Utilizing Street Soccer Event - Find opportunities for choirs from McCreesh Place, Hope Haven, and Urban Ministry Center to highlight our successes.

Lead Agencies: DNC Host Committee

November 2012 - **Thanksgiving Evaluation**

- What do we have to be thankful for?
- How can we get more Charlotteans home for their holidays?
- Reevaluating the Ten Year Plan at its halfway point

Lead Agencies?: Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing & Meck Min (Tues Nov 20 Interfaith Service?)

Partner Agencies?: Temple Beth El

Date TBA - **Assisted Housing at Transit Station Areas** – City of Charlotte

**Interfaith Summit on Affordable Housing and Homelessness
Proposed Framework -March 9, 2012
(Summit to be open to the public as well)**

- 8:15-9:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee
Agency Showcase – (All members of HSN will be invited to participate – tables will be provided for their use)
- 9:00-10:00 a.m. Mayor Foxx Welcome
(Mayor to note Inclusionary Policy in remarks?)
Rev. Floyd Flake Keynote
The Greater Allen Cathedral's operations are a national paradigm of church-centered, faith based, public/private community educational and economic development.
- Q&A
- 10:15-noon Can We Talk? Discussion facilitated by Community Relations Committee
- View Souls of Our Neighbors Documentary
- Dialogue (structured around 5 SOON questions)
- Call to Action
- Commit to having a dialogue on affordable housing and homelessness in congregation using Souls of Our Neighbors documentary
 - Commit to Identifying and assigning staff or volunteer in congregation to act as a community outreach to agencies
 - Commit to their congregation or partnering with another congregation to adopt one or two families for an entire year
(Resources for adoption project would be coordinated with City, County, Charlotte Housing Authority and soulsofourneighbors.org- realistic estimate would be 200 families could be helped)
- Noon-1:00 p.m. Agency Showcase

**Recommended Speaker
Faith Based Event
(Wikipedia Biography)**

**Rev. Floyd Flake
Senior Pastor, Greater A.M.E. Cathedral, Jamaica, Queens NY**

Born in Los Angeles, California, Flake grew up in Houston, Texas as one of fifteen children of Robert Flake, Sr. and Rosie Lee Johnson-Flake. During his childhood, he was influenced by his parents' Christian moral beliefs. After high school, he obtained his BA degree from Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, becoming the first member of his family to graduate from college. He served as a social worker and then worked for Xerox as a marketing analyst. Flake next worked as Director of Student Affairs at Lincoln University, PA, and subsequently dean of students and director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Afro-American Center at Boston University. In 1976, he was asked to head the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church (now The Greater Allen Cathedral of New York). Under Flake's leadership, the church grew from having about 1,400 members to over 23,000 parishioners.

Flake is married to Margaret Elaine McCollins and has four children. He is also a fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

Presently, Flake serves as President of Wilberforce University. He is a political patron of New York Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm Smith and Democratic U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks. Despite his affiliation with the Democratic party, in 2006 he was the co-chair of conservative Republican Ken Blackwell's (R) campaign for governor of Ohio.

Flake is the senior pastor of the Greater Allen A. M. E. Cathedral of New York in Jamaica, Queens County, New York City. According to the published marketing message, "The church and its subsidiary corporations operate with an annual budget of over \$34 million. The church also owns expansive commercial and residential developments; a 750-student private school founded by Flake and his wife Elaine, and various commercial and social service enterprises, which has placed it among the nation's most productive religious and urban development institutions. The corporations, church administrative offices, school, and ministries comprise one of the Borough of Queens' largest private sector employers." The Church is recognized as a major real estate developer. Flake earned a D.Min. degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Additional studies were conducted at Payne Theological Seminary and Northeastern University School of Business. His numerous honorary degrees include awards from Boston University, Fisk University, Lincoln University (PA), and Cheney State (PA). Flake serves as a member of the following boards: (1) The President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education; (2) The Fannie Mae Foundation; (3) The Princeton Review; (4) The New York City Investment Fund Civic Capital Corporation; (5) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Advisory Committee on Banking Policy and (6) the Bank of America National Advisory Board.

In 1986, he was elected to the 100th United States Congress from the 6th New York Congressional District, which included Jamaica, Queens and most of its surrounding neighborhoods, stretching from Ozone Park and Woodhaven to the border with Nassau County. He remained in the House of Representatives until 1997, when he resigned in the middle of a term in order to return to work at his church full-time.

In Congress, Flake garnered a reputation for working across the partisan divide with conservative Republicans, despite representing an overwhelmingly liberal, Democratic district. He also endorsed Republicans George Pataki for New York State Governor and Rudolph Giuliani for New York City Mayor. In 1990, Flake and his wife were indicted for alleged fraud and embezzlement of church funds. The couple pled not guilty. They won a measure of vindication in 1991 when, after hearing three weeks of prosecution witnesses, the judge dismissed so much of the prosecutor's case that he opted to drop all remaining charges. Interviews with jurors afterward indicated that, had the prosecutor opted to continue prosecution, the jury would not have found the couple guilty of any of these remaining charges.

On July 30, 1991, at the request of then-Mayor David Dinkins, the New York City Council enacted Local Law 78 prohibiting "the possession or transfer" within New York City of "assault weapons" and certain ammunition feeding devices. (Administrative Code §§ 10-303.1(a), 10-306, 10-131(i) (6)) Plaintiffs: (1) Richmond Boro Gun Club, Inc., (2) the National Rifle Association of America ("NRA"), (3) the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc., and (4) six New York City residents identified as "John Does I through VI, brought action for "declaratory judgment and injunctive relief against the City of New York and its Police Commissioner." Defendants explained the legitimate governmental purpose behind Local Law 78 as "the promotion of public safety." They noted the high density of New York City's population and the disturbingly large number of homicides annually caused by gunfire within its borders. Three briefs were filed by Amici and 12 individuals, including Floyd H. Flake, then serving as a Representative to the United States Congress, supported the Defendants. Summary judgment was entered in favor of the City of New York on all federal claims and the Plaintiffs' state claim was dismissed for lack of independent federal jurisdiction. (*Richmond Boro Gun Club v. City of New York*, 896 F. Supp. 276)

“Souls of Our Neighbors”
Fears, Facts & Affordable Housing

FIVE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (draft)

1. What are the myths and realities about the impact of affordable housing on surrounding property values?
2. Who are the people in our community that need affordable housing?
3. What are the factors that cause low-income families to become homeless? What causes them to become successfully housed?
4. How does homelessness affect the lives of children? How does affordable housing change those impacts?
5. What is the impact on the entire community when affordable housing is an option for families experiencing poverty?

FIVE QUICK FACTS (draft: pick 5 of these 6)

1. Did you know that you drive by affordable housing on Providence Road (Glade Dale), by SouthPark Mall (Ashley Square), uptown on 7th Street (First Ward) and near [non-south location]?
2. Did you know that many people in our community such as bus drivers, customer service reps and health aides typically spend more than 50% of their paycheck on rent & utilities each month? Housing is considered affordable when it costs 30% or less of your income.
3. Did you know that during the 2010-2011 school year, 4,711 children in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools experienced homelessness, for example, spending the night in an emergency shelter or on a neighbor's floor?
4. Did you know that only 1 in 4 homeless children graduate high school, compared to 2 out 3 children in the general population, and that a high school dropout is 8x more likely to commit crimes than a high school graduate?
5. Did you know that there are 807 adults in Charlotte who have been homeless for more than a year or more than 4x in three years, and have a disability? While they constitute about 10% of our 8,000 homeless population, they use 50% of the community's homelessness resources.
6. Did you know that emergency shelters cost taxpayers \$8,000 more per year per person than a government rental voucher for a family apartment?



November XX, 2011

Secretary Lanier M. Cansler
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
2001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2001

Dear Secretary Cansler:

This is a critical time for North Carolina's mentally ill residents. The proposed plan to stop funding of agencies that provide services to mentally ill residents of Adult Care Homes in North Carolina will dramatically impact the homeless services systems and providers throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Every effort must be made to prevent any mentally ill adults already placed in Adult Care Homes from becoming homeless. Our community has more than 5,000 homeless citizens and is ill-prepared for any additional influx.

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing is strategically overseeing our local Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. This group has recently developed a Memorandum of Understanding that aligns the resources of the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and the Charlotte Housing Authority. The result of this funding collaboration will increase, over time, housing units with wrap-around services that will serve many of our most vulnerable neighbors. The Homeless Services Network is an association of approximately forty homeless services providers operating throughout Mecklenburg County. These key partnerships are essential in the planning efforts towards ending homelessness.

We understand this very complicated matter and that time is of the essence in determining alternative solutions. We implore the state to ensure that utilizing homeless services resources not become part of any strategy to address this situation. Not only is allowing mentally ill adults to become homeless detrimental to their well-being, but doing so will prove much more costly to communities and our state, than intervening with appropriate housing and supportive services that keep them stable.

Respectfully yours,

Michael P. Rizer, Chair
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing

Carson Dean, Chair
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Homeless Services Network

Cc: Mayor Anthony Foxx
Commissioner Jennifer Roberts

North Carolina's mentally ill could face loss of homes

By Mandy Locke

PUBLISHED IN: HEALTH & FAMILY

For years, North Carolina has been warned to take better care of its mentally ill residents. This summer, federal officials have declared they're tired of waiting.

Federal agencies that provide substantial funding for services to people with mental illness say that far too many of them are living in adult care homes, and the agencies are threatening to stop paying the bills. Last month, the federal Department of Justice stepped in, saying the state has violated the Americans With Disabilities Act by failing to provide housing for mentally ill people other than institutions such as mental hospitals and adult care homes.

The Justice Department says it will sue the state if it doesn't agree to find alternative housing.

The seemingly sudden standoff is a result of years of failed state mental health policy. And within months, it could force as many as 1,200 mentally ill people out of adult care homes. Those people live in 38 such homes that federal regulators say may be acting as mental institutions because more than half of their residents are there because of mental illnesses.

People with mental illnesses could be scattered to the streets, to homeless shelters and into emergency rooms as social workers and relatives scramble to find scarce beds in mental hospitals or in group homes.

Thousands more could join the exodus in years to come as the federal government forces the state to stop relying on adult care homes to house them.

State leaders are begging the feds for more time to sort

- More trouble coming?

The state is facing pressure in a third way that could affect people in adult care homes.

North Carolina recently stiffened eligibility to receive Medicaid reimbursement for at-home personal care services. It now requires that recipients have three, not two issues that need assistance. Medicaid officials say they must apply the same rules to those in adult care homes receiving Medicaid reimbursements.

This could force hundreds, maybe thousands, of people to lose their Medicaid coverage for adult care facilities. Disability Rights of North Carolina has sued the state to stop the eligibility changes. The feds have given a February deadline to fix the inequity. Last week, the state asked that the deadline be extended to October 2012.

- Where do the mentally ill live?

Residents with mental illnesses in North Carolina who need full-time residential placement live in a variety of state-supported facilities:

Adult care homes. An estimated 6,000 people with mental illness live in these facilities; the state doesn't have an accurate count. These homes provide 24-hour supervision and assistance with meals and medicine. Unlike nursing homes, they offer no medical assistance and employ lower-skilled workers.

through the crisis.

"It's the perfect storm," said Lanier Cansler, state secretary of health and human services. "We're trying to figure out how not to have a catastrophe here."

Cansler said he needs to meet with legislators when they reconvene in September to find money and get changes in the law to allow more flexibility in housing options.

Everyone is worried

Advocates for people with mental illness are worried that counties aren't prepared to care for those who are displaced. Relatives of some residents in adult care homes fear the return of an instability they have battled for years. Adult care facility operators are panicked that their businesses will be forced to close.

And politicians are blaming their counterparts across the aisle for letting down a fragile population.

No one seems to have a solution that can roll out as quickly as it's needed.

"This is the result of a decade of neglect," said Vicki Smith, executive director of Disability Rights North Carolina, which has pushed the federal government to pressure state officials. "It's all coming together right now, and it couldn't be a worse time."

The failure of reform

Federal law requires that states ensure these citizens get the care they need locally, in the least restrictive setting possible. The state must now challenge the federal government's findings or work furiously under federal supervision to create a community-based system of care.

This is a familiar story for North Carolina. In 2001, the state passed a broad reform bill aimed at providing more treatment in the community. But it forced county providers out of the business and turned the work over to for-profit companies, some of which charged far more and provided inferior care.

A News & Observer investigation and a resulting audit showed the state had wasted more than \$400 million. And mental-health treatment deteriorated.

Now, the state is being forced to reconsider how it cares for the mentally ill. The most immediate issue involves the percentage of residents in adult care homes who are there because they are mentally ill.

Medicaid threatened

These facilities, which house about 35,000 aged and disabled residents, are regulated by the state.

Mental hospitals. People with acute mental health issues are often housed in hospitals such as Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro and John Umstead Hospital in Butner. The state has been decreasing capacity at these hospitals over several years; Dorothea Dix in Raleigh closed last year. Most are at capacity nearly every day and those in need often must wait.

Group homes. These are smaller homes where aides work with the mentally ill on life skills. These residents can function somewhat independently. Advocates for the mentally ill say they want more of them placed in group homes or with relatives who have access to needed services.

Related Stories

[38 homes where reimbursements are in jeopardy](#)

Related Images

Under federal guidelines, Medicaid can't be used to fund institutions in which a majority of residents are ages 22 to 64 and are there because of mental illness. So far, the state has identified 38 facilities that may be in jeopardy; those homes are housing as many as 1,200 mentally ill residents aged 22 to 64.

The state will be visiting these residents and reviewing case files to determine whether they are there for a mental illness or some other medical issue. The feds will stop paying Medicaid to the residents at facilities found to be in violation, even for prescriptions and doctor visits.

And if the facilities don't get in line, they could lose all Medicaid funding, even for residents who are elderly and have other disabilities.

Ruin seen for some homes

Lou Wilson, a lobbyist for the North Carolina Associations of Long-Term Care Facilities, said this will be the financial ruin of many facilities.

"They don't know where to go and what to do," Wilson said. "They feel like they've taken care of these people when no one else would and that they've been good partners in North Carolina. They don't like the way the state is treating them now."

Rep. Nelson Dollar, a Wake County Republican, blamed Gov. Bev Perdue and other Democrats for letting the problem persist for years.

"It's fair to say these issues have been out there for years, and the Democrats have been in charge," said Dollar, who was chairman of the House appropriations committee that wrote the budget for the state Department of Health and Human Services.

"The governor kicked this can down the road, and the federal government won't let us get away with it much longer."

Perdue, however, had allocated \$75 million in the budget she submitted to the Republican-controlled General Assembly this year to boost community based support, including housing, for the mentally ill. Legislators removed it from the budget as they tried to reconcile a \$2.7 billion shortfall.

Decades of struggle

As politicians swapped blame, Jim Glenn of Charlotte drove each week to an adult care home in Mooresville to visit his 47-year-old son, oblivious to the brewing problem that could force his son back into the streets.

For more than two decades, Glenn, 73, had watched his son, James, struggle to find his place in the world.

James Glenn had his first break with reality in his mid-20s. Doctors diagnosed him with schizophrenia.

Ever since, the Glens have been on a roller coaster. James spent time in psych wards. He lived on the streets and in jail cells.

A father's long struggle

Years ago, Jim Glenn found a place for his son in a group home near Charlotte, a smaller facility for people who need help but don't require 24-hour supervision. But James vanished.

It took a year before a retired FBI agent hired by Glenn located James in Utah. Police had found him sleeping in an empty classroom on a college campus and locked him up. James Glenn couldn't tell officers who he was and how he came to be there.

When Glenn got his son back home, he found a place for him in an adult care home, where aides are available around the clock. That was 15 years ago.

"These places fill a gap," Glenn said. "My son is a step above being in a mental hospital and a step below being able to be in normal society."

Thought worries were over

Aides give James Glenn his daily medicine and three meals a day. Glenn said he takes his son out to lunch once a week and brings him home for occasional weekend visits. He had stopped worrying about what would happen to his son when he dies.

Then, this summer, Glenn got a call from Amy Hart, administrator at Crown Colony, the adult care home where James lives. She called a meeting with relatives of her residents to warn them of the trouble stirring in Raleigh.

Both Crown Colony and another facility Hart runs, Hunters Village, are among the 38 adult care homes with substantial populations of mentally ill residents.

Hart didn't want the residents and their families to be caught flat-footed. She told them to call their legislators and urged them to get on waiting lists at group homes.

As a girl, more than 30 years ago, when her parents ran an adult care home, Hart remembers talking to residents who had been sent there after being discharged from mental hospitals. Over the years, their numbers grew. Some never left.

"We are their home," Hart said.

The state never asked for a count of residents with mental illnesses at these facilities.

If Hart's mentally ill residents are evicted, she said, she will be forced to cut her staff by half. Even with that she's not sure how long she can keep her doors open.

Not for the mentally ill?

Advocates for the mentally ill say that even though some facilities are well-run and clean, it's not the right place for people with mental illness. They receive no psychiatric care in the facility and no one is working to help them become more independent, said Smith of Disability Rights.

When Smith's group visited facilities across the state last year, it found many residents with mental illnesses desperate to go home. Smith's group said these residents are warehoused and often forgotten.

Now, state officials are being forced to see them, and find a place for them to go.

The state is asking Medicaid officials for more time to make the transition. Officials are coordinating with local mental health organizations and social workers to explore other placements. They know it will be difficult.

Glenn is just hoping it will all blow over and the state and feds will leave him and his son alone.

"They are playing poker with people's lives," he said. "They have no business."



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