



uniting central alabama to end homelessness

It is the mission of One Roof to equip and empower our community to prevent and end homelessness through advocacy, education and coordination of services.

AGENDA Membership Meeting June 5, 2014 YWCA Central Alabama

I. Welcome & Roundtable Introductions ([see attendance](#))

II. Special Presentations

- A. Turning Point/Project H.E.L.P. , Speaker: Lisa Borden, Pro Bono Shareholder, Baker Donelson
 - 1. Turning Point through City of Birmingham Municipal Court ([information](#))
 - i. Once a month, Lisa recruits lawyers who sit down with the client and their case manager
 - ii. Including June docket, 51 people have participated in Turning Point
 - iii. Turning Point was developed after Judge Sparks saw the need at Project Homeless Connect; now they are at a place where they can expand because the process is more fluid; Turning Point gives the judges one-on-one time with individuals
 - iv. If a client is afraid to go through Turning Point, contact Michelle Farley first (205-254-8833)
 - 2. Jefferson County cases
 - i. Met recently with DA, has appointed a person in their offices to review cases of homeless people, hopefully, they will work out a way to deal with cases in ways that benefit client
 - 3. HELP Clinics
 - i. Every other Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at First Light or Firehouse
 - ii. Lawyers will address any legal concern
 - iii. If client doesn't have time to wait for the next HELP Clinic, case managers can contact Lisa directly (lborden@bakerdonelson.com)
 - 4. Other Municipal Courts ([Legal Resources for Low-Income People](#); [Judicial Inquiry Commission Opinion](#))
 - i. The problem is that they are putting people in jail who don't have money to pay for a lawyer or court costs
 - ii. Earlier this spring, the Judicial Inquiry Commission issued an opinion and sent it to all the judges in the state - the opinion basically says that poor people cannot be put in jail for being poor, judges must make inquiries into a person's ability to pay and must make a lawyer available if they may go to jail
 - iii. If clients are going to municipal courts, they need to know this information and understand that it is a part of their constitutional rights
- B. City of Birmingham Municipal Court; Speaker: Mankinta Holloway, Court Administrator - Operations
 - 1. City of Birmingham Municipal Court uses the motto "where compassion meets accountability"; they have partnered with other agencies to be able to offer alternative sentencing or fee payment
 - i. Includes GED classes, literacy classes (for GED prep), and community service
 - 2. Special Courts - use expertise in agencies outside of court
 - i. Drug Court, DUI, Curfew Violation Program, Environmental Court, Veterans Court, Defensive Driving School
 - ii. By offering special services, they want to get to a point where people aren't afraid to go to the courthouse; they want to give the best service the city has to offer
 - iii. Hoping to find a partner to help start "Johns Court" for patrons of sex workers
 - iv. Speaker: Michelle Farley - We need Housing Court for clients who are evicted, about to be evicted, have landlord issues, etc.

III. Old Business

- A. None

IV. New Business

- A. No July Membership Meeting

- B. Next Membership Meeting is August 7th
- C. Homelessness 101 Workshops scheduled for new employees or for people who need a broader understanding of homelessness - July 22nd and October 10th - contact Stacy Oliver to register (stacy@oneroofonline.org)
- D. Speaker: Rene Elliott - VA Walk & Roll went well, [CHALENG Meeting](#) coming up on June 18th - agencies can present on services - contact Willie Fields to register
- E. Speaker: Torie Hill - Dannon Project has moved to 2324 5th Avenue North; open house information coming soon
- F. Speaker: Michelle Farley - Point-in-Time numbers (website)
 - 1. Mostly good news, numbers continue to drop
 - 2. No new HUD money has come in to establish new PSH program and none is anticipated - this is bad for our homeless numbers
 - 3. Veterans continue to drop - VA is getting 50 new vouchers; SSVF programs continue to serve Veterans and Veteran families
 - 4. Bad news - DV numbers are up
 - 5. Had difficulty finding youth on PIT night; next year we need volunteers who can help us locate them to be included in the count
- G. Speaker: Karen Hall - JCHA Quarterly newsletter to 852 public housing residents is looking for community resources for low-income families; send info to khall@jcha.com
- H. Speaker: Rick Gish - UAB REACT is looking for a vendor that will pick up and move furniture and that can remove and dispose of furniture from infested apartments - contact regish@uab.edu or 934-9715