



## News Release



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City and County Discuss Homelessness Initiatives

**FAYETTEVILLE** - The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and Fayetteville City Council met jointly today to discuss homelessness. Both the City and County have identified reducing homelessness as a strategic objective. During the three-hour session, the boards developed a list of potential initiatives to address homelessness in the next year.

Denise Neunaber, executive director of the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness, and AnneMarie Maiorano, Wake County's division director of housing and community revitalization, spoke to the boards about practices being used in Wake and other counties to reduce homelessness.

Warren Miller, president of Fountainworks Inc., facilitated the discussion between the elected boards, which resulted in a list of short-term actions for the local governments to consider in addressing homelessness. The list included establishing a designated point-person to facilitate coordination of homeless efforts throughout the community, as well as developing a multi-service intake process for identifying homeless individuals and referring them to the appropriate resources, with the longer-term goal of establishing an intake center.

The boards also called for engaging the faith community in a coordinated program to sponsor homeless families, similar to an effort Maiorano told them about in Wake County.

A homelessness analysis and needs assessment was completed in November for the Continuum of Care and Cumberland County Community Development Department. The boards recommended additional resource analysis, as well as developing a clear definition of who needs assistance and including those who are within 30 days of being homeless.

The boards directed City and County staff to work jointly to prioritize the actions outlined and develop projects accordingly. City Manager Ted Voorhees and County Manager Amy Cannon said they have included funding in their FY2016 recommended budgets for homelessness projects.

More than 50 people attended the meeting, including representatives from organizations that work with the homeless. Stedman Mayor Billy Horne and Spring Lake Mayor Chris Rey also attended.