

**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (HIP)
PERFORMANCE, OUTCOMES, NEEDS, AND GAPS (PONG) COMMITTEE
January 10, 2019
MINUTES**

Time Called to Order: 2:34pm
Location: Governmental Center East, A-337

Time Adjourned: 3:52pm
Minutes by: Luis DeJesus, HIP

Members Present: **J. David Armstrong**, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Continuum of Care (CoC) Rep.; **Howard Bakalar**, Advocate for the Homeless CoC Board Rep.; **Scott DiMarzo**, North District Hospital CoC Board Rep.; **Maria Hernandez**, United Way CoC Board Rep.; **Steve Hudson**, Broward Workshop CoC Board Rep.; **Mason Jackson**, CareerSource Broward CoC Board Rep.; **Robin Martin**, Chair, Advocate for the Homeless CoC Board Rep.; **Scott Russell**, Broward Sheriff's Office CoC Board Rep.

Members Absent: **Sandra Einhorn**, Advocate for the Homeless CoC Board Rep.; **Silvia Quintana**, Broward Behavioral Health CoC Board Rep.

Guests Present: **Socrates Aguayo**, Anthem; **Tom Campbell**, Broward Partnership for the Homeless; **Marc Esko**, Consumer Advocacy Council; **Yushika Florence**, Handy Inc.; **Alysse Gossman**, The Salvation Army; **Manuchka Joseph**, HOPE South Florida

Staff Present: **Rebecca McGuire**, HIP; **Luis DeJesus**, HIP; **Odilanda Brito**, HIP; **Kenisha Bryant**, HIP; **Esau Williams**, HIP

**Welcome &
Introductions:**

R. Martin, Chair, called meeting to order, attendees introduced themselves, and quorum was confirmed.

**Approval of
Minutes:**

MOTION: To approve December 13, 2018 Minutes.

First: S. DiMarzo

Second: M. Hernandez

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

New Business: R. Martin introduced new PONG members: David Armstrong, Mason Jackson, Steve Hudson, and Howard Bakalar.

Update on By-Name List by E. Williams and K. Bryant, HIP:

The Unaccompanied Youth Workgroup – phone conference with Gulf Coast, Henderson, Covenant House, and Broward Behavioral Health, concerning the barriers for youth obtaining housing: 1) youth unable to adhere to chronicity rule; 2) sustainability of housing; 3) youth aging out of foster care; and 4) Juvenile Justice. Next meeting will include discussion on prioritization criteria, how by-name list and coordinated assessment looks, accessing name by providers, and justify need of unaccompanied youth.

The Family Workgroup – phone conference was had with Family Intake Coordinators at the Central Homeless Assistance Center concerning 195 families on list between all the shelters from January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019. Some of the barriers that the families face is: not enough permanent housing options, insufficient room for shelter placement for

families, families with behavioral health and/or substance use. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28th.

[An unaccompanied youth is defined as youth ages 18-24 who do not have a parent or guardian and are experiencing homelessness. Permanent Supportive Services include permanent housing options and social services assistance. Additional information concerning unaccompanied youth statistics can be provided at the next meeting after meeting with Carole Mitchell, who is the Broward County School Board Homeless Assistance Education Resource Team representative. It is noted that the School Board defines youth experiencing homelessness as “doubling up” or living with another person or family; which differs from the Housing and Urban Development’s definition.]

The By-Name lists were formed to be able to review the different lists of persons experiencing homelessness to literally discuss person by person barriers to find solutions and/or resources and meet the goal of functional zero.

A request was made concerning the report to be provided to the committee: it is to include a breakdown of sheltered, unsheltered, age range, newly added, housed, and other relevant information. In other words, for the list to show where there is movement.

The Veterans By-Name is actually monitored primarily by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with HIP’s assistance. One of the barriers we face is that the VA’s system is not able to communicate with the Homeless Management Information System and vice-versa. The By-Name List mitigates this. After review of the list, the VA takes on Veterans to ensure housing. HIP assists any ineligible veterans. Actual list can be provided upon request.

The Chronic Workgroup is meeting next at TaskForce offices and we will be looking at the top utilizers of different systems (referrals sent to HIP, hospitals, jails). Top 5 have been identified and now we will be working on housing options.

There was an expressed concern regarding United Way’s available assistance with only one case received, but so many people are experiencing homelessness. Perhaps it is due to the VA’s inability to refer approved clients back to United Way. HIP is to follow-up on this matter at the next meeting.

Setting meetings for Consolidated Plan Discussion by R. McGuire, HIP:

There are a number of meetings, forthcoming regarding the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Consolidate Plan funding to review needs and gaps, provide DCF funding priorities, and how to leverage funding to obtain more when matched (the Homeless Management Information System may be able to use some of the funds) which is important considering the submittal due in March. There will be a workshop scheduled to explain more details concerning the DCF Unified Grant.

New PONG Members by R. Martin, Chair:

Addressed above.

Discussion on need and purpose of Sub-Committees by R. McGuire, HIP:

Currently, HIP, providers, committee members, and community members attend not only our Board meetings, but also 7 other sub-committees and a Council, not including internal

meetings, other non-committee meetings. Much of what is discussed is similar and more informative rather than action driven.

Recently, the Permanent Housing Committee has considered and agreed to reconfigure itself into a Housing Action Committee with additional members who are interconnected and can make impactful changes. Some of the sub-committees are necessary for Notice of Funding Availability (NoFA) purposes. Those should remain but can still be reviewed to consider action items to be addressed. Staff is to make recommendations to PONG on changes to sub-committees, provide attendance records, and level of staff attending meetings. Staff is also to provide information on any committees that requires creation to address components of the Homeless Continuum of Care. One of the goals of PONG is to obtain a dashboard of necessary and relevant information, to include some of the actionable items from the different sub-committees.

System Update by R. McGuire, HIP:

Previously, we advised that we were defunded for two projects: City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward Housing Solutions. There were projects that were ranked above those two projects and were actually funded. Monies would be utilized to house additional persons experiencing homelessness.

2019 NoFA Released by R. McGuire, HIP:

The NoFA has been published and we are to register by March 29th.

Budget Meetings Update by R. McGuire, HIP:

General Fund budgets are to be submitted by May, we will be looking at the current Homeless Continuum of Care needs to submit those proposals. The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a key indicator of the amount of monies we consider submitting. The Committee discussed how much money will it take to reach functional zero.

Old Business:

Encampment Update by R. McGuire, HIP:

7 hotel rooms will be gone from the hotels and another 7 will be gone by the 15th; 32 hotel rooms are currently waiting to be placed in permanent supportive housing. Some of the barriers faced include, but are not limited to, locating units within the rent voucher amount and are there any utilities included. There are some people who have opted to relocate outside of the state (family reunification). Some landlords have waived criminal backgrounds. Some people are waiting on birth certificates (for identification purposes). Furniture inside units has not been an issue as City Furniture has provided some and those units waiting for furniture, receive air-mattresses, etc. Additional updates are sent by Broward County Office of Public Communications.

PIT Update by R. McGuire, HIP:

The PIT is taking place the 23rd, 24th, and 26th, and we need volunteers. Broward College has made it a formal volunteer opportunity for students and staff. Training will be provided. We are waiting to hear back from the County Administrator on giving staff a 4-hour hiatus from work for participating.

**Adjournment &
Next Meeting:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:52pm; next meeting will be held on February 14, 2019.