



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION**

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**BROWARD COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (HIP)  
Homeless Continuum of Care Advisory (CoC) Board Meeting  
JUNE 24, 2020  
FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Time Called to Order:** 10:01 A.M.

**Location:** Virtual Skype Meeting

**Time Adjourned:** 11:01 A.M.

**Minutes by** Elizabeth Ortega

**Members Via Skype:**

**Senator Nan Rich**, CoC Chair; County Commissioner District 1; **Melida Akiti**; Memorial Hospital, CoC Rep.; **Howard Bakalar** Vice-Chair; Advocate for the Homeless, CoC Rep.; **Tom Campbell**, Ex-Officio, Broward Partnership for Homeless, Inc., CoC Rep; **Keith Cavanaugh**, Ex Officio, Broward Outreach Center, CoC Rep.; **Sandra Einhorn**, Advocate for the Homeless, CoC Rep.; **Tiffany Garcia**, Broward County Housing Authority (BCHA), CoC Rep; **Caryl Hattan**, Councilmember, Broward County Housing Council, CoC Rep; **Mason Jackson**, CareerSource Broward, CoC Rep; **Reniese McNeal**, Formally Homeless Representative, CoC Rep.; **Silvia Quintana**, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, (BBHC), CoC Rep; **Steve Werthman**, Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds recipient, Hollywood designee, CoC Rep.; **Captain Scott Russell**, Broward Sheriff's Office, CoC Rep.; **Commissioner Benjamin Sorensen**, City of Fort Lauderdale, CoC Rep.; **Cathy Stutin**, Fort Lauderdale Chamber, CoC Rep.; **Robin Martin**, Advocate for the Homeless, CoC Rep. **Danny Osley**, Formerly Homeless Representative, CoC Rep.

**Members Absent:** **Jamie Costas**, Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLDP), CoC Rep.; **Dwayne Chung**, City of Hollywood Police, CoC Rep; **Luke Harrigan**, Faith Based Representative, CoC Rep.; **JoAnn Anstett**, Co-Chair, Local Provider Stakeholder Council; **Jennifer Bullock**, Women in Distress, CoC Rep; **Yvette Lopez**, Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recipient, CoC Rep; **Maria Hernandez**, United Way, CoC Rep; **Carole Mitchell**, School Board of Broward County, CoC Rep.

**Staff Present/Skype:** **Rebecca McGuire**, PhD., Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP); **Darrell Cunningham**, Director of Community Partnerships Division; **Silvia Beebe**, Assistant Director of Community Partnerships Division; **Kavaja Sarduy**, (HIP); **Andrea Webster**, (HIP); **Elizabeth Ortega**, (HIP) **Tracie Bostick** (HIP).

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Nan Rich called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Completed by HIP Administrator, Rebecca McGuire, Ph. D. A quorum was confirmed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Rich asked for an approval of both February & May minutes.

**MOTION:** Approval of February 26, 2020 & May 27, 2020 Draft Minutes

**First:** Mason Jackson

**Second:** Caryl Hattan

**Declaration of Conflict:** None

**Discussion:** None

**Result:** Both the February 2020 & May 2020 minutes were approved.

**Census Update:**

Senator Rich shared that currently Broward County's overall Census response rate is 57.3%. She observed that there is a wide disparity in the response rates across Broward's 31 municipalities, where Cooper City has a response rate of 78% (the highest rate of any municipality in the State of Florida) while the Town of Pembroke Park's response rate is 32.1% (the lowest the municipal rate in Broward).

Senator Rich reported that the Census is still collecting data, and the Bureau has extended the deadline to respond from August to October 2020. The Senator also noted the difficulty of conducting traditional methods for Census outreach, given the restrictions on in-person meetings and gatherings as a result of COVID-19. That is why we must communicate the importance of filling out the Census to those individuals experiencing homelessness, and that we provide this information about the Census at meal sharing. The County has printed informational postcards that we include inside every bag or box at food distribution events. Senator Rich stressed the importance of everyone to remember to talk about the Census and make sure we achieve a complete count for our community.

Senator Rich commended Commissioner Sorensen, and the quality of his official newsletter. In particular, the Senator praised a terrific article about the Census that Commissioner Sorensen included in his most recent newsletter. She further noted that we need similar communications to come from other trusted figures in the community.

**Legislatively Updates:**

The Governor has the budget, which he has yet to sign. We are waiting on the Governor to publish his list of vetoes and budget cuts. It is projected that a billion dollars will be cut out of the budget, and we anticipate many of those cuts will be made to the funds for Human Services.

**Cares Act Funding:**

the State of Florida received 5.4 billion dollars from the CARES Act. Broward County received 340 million dollars, of which 30% will be held in reserve to make distributions to the cities. The County is not going to distribute funds to the cities on a per capita basis, rather the funds will be distributed based on needs. Also, there are Federal and State guidelines that govern how the funds can be spent.

*\*10:12 a.m., Rebecca McGuire stated for the record that both Melida Akiti and Cathy Stutin had joined the meeting.*

**Point in Time Homeless Count Final Summary Results:**

Ricardo Moore presented the high-level overview of the Point In Time (PIT) count and then opened it up for questions. The report is attached.

*\*Sandra Einhorn stated for the record she had joined the meeting.*

Dr. McGuire reported that this was the first year we had used the application, to conduct the surveys at a larger scale and to collect data. We received positive feedback on the use of the application. The numbers are lower than they were last year, but it is believed there would be a drastically different picture if the PIT was conducted today, given the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the common themes that continues to be a concern is the low number of families that participate within the PIT. Most of the heads of these families express fear that their children may be taken away because they are homeless. Next year, we will need to develop better strategies to work with the school board to make sure that we get a more accurate reflection of how many our families in our community are experiencing homelessness.

Dr. McGuire has been keeping track of some data regarding a family call. Kavaja Sarduy, Human Services Manager has been fielding a lot of calls as well. There has been an increase in the number of people who are experiencing situational homelessness

### **Questions**

**Question:** Mr. Robin Martin asked why was there is a difference in the shelter number? It seems like we have lost over two hundred, did we lose two hundred beds?

**Response:** Dr. McGuire responded, that as far as capacity goes, we have not lost no capacity within the CoC shelter beds. This is something we monitor daily. Tom and Keith will tell you; we are monitoring censuses very carefully because we must make sure that we can get people in whenever we have openings.

**Question:** Mrs. Sandra Einhorn, asked how confident we are regarding the accuracy of the point in time count? She shared that she went out to a camp and drove around for three hours only to find a couple of individuals to survey.

**Response:** Dr. McGuire responded that there is always a margin of error in any type of survey or self-reporting. The County agrees that we have the ability and opportunity to improve how we conduct our PIT count.

The Plantation and Davie Police are a good job at tracking individuals, and both departments have portfolios at their respective stations for individuals experiencing homelessness. We could achieve a clearer picture if we could convince additional law enforcement departments to replicate this system.

**Question:** Commissioner Ben Sorensen asked in 2020 if we have more volunteers and cover more area space than 2019?

**Response:** Mr. Ricardo Moore responded that yes, there were fewer volunteers this year, but it was not a significant drop. However, Mr. Moore clarified that we had a larger coverage area to canvass, and this challenge was exacerbated by the drop in our number of volunteers.

**Question:** Mr. Howard Bakalar asked if the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department would be initiating some of the best practices being performed by the Davie Police Department?

**Response:** Dr. McGuire responded that she did not believe that Fort Lauderdale PD was capturing this information to the degree and level of detail that we see in Davie and Plantation. Instead, the City of Fort Lauderdale relies on the Taskforce Outreach.

Senator Nan Rich, asked for a motion to approve the PIT numbers as presented for submission to HUD.

**Motion:** To approve the PIT numbers for submission to HUD.

**First:** Caryl Hattan

**Second:** Commissioner Ben Sorensen

**Declaration of Conflict:** None

**Discussion:** None

**Result:** Approved

### **Non-Profit Organization Contract Spreadsheet FY21**

Dr. McGuire reviewed the spreadsheet reporting FY21 contract amounts for general funds for each provider. There were no changes in funding for providers.

An explanation was provided regarding extending those contracts who would sunset on September 30, 2020, since there will not be a Request for Proposals (RFP) this year due to the pandemic.

Senator Rich, asked for a motion to approve the Non-Profit Organization renewals and extensions for contracts fiscal year 2021, as presented.

**Motion:** To approve Non-Profit Organization the renewals and extensions for contracts for fiscal year 2021.

**First:** Caryl Hattan

**Second:** Howard Bakalar

**Declaration of Conflict:** There was a conflict with the following members:

Danny Osley (BPHI employee), Tom Campbell (BPHI employee), Steven Werthman (HSF employee) Tiffany Garcia (BCHA employee), Sandra Einhorn (Executive Director of the Coordinating Council of Broward County), Cathy Stutin (Board member BPHI), and Keith Kavanaugh, (BOC employee).

**Discussion:** None

**Result:** Approved

### **CoC Updates by Dr. Rebecca McGuire**

Senator Rich asked Dr. McGuire to provide the CoC updates.

Dr. McGuire reports that the Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS), have been an incredible asset. The Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) is working in partnership with the Families Success Administration Division (FSAD), which has done a great job in helping this collaboration. The project is getting people who have tested positive off the street, quarantining them, and keeping them safe; as well as placing people who are COVID positive in the hospitals into a place to safely quarantine.

We also continue to dedicate five beds to individuals who we know are on the street. We send them for COVID-19 testing, they come into the NCS pending COVID results, then we safely continue to fill the CoC shelter beds.

The County has each room cleaned by a bio-hazard team after each discharge.

### **Ethics Refresher**

Dr. McGuire advised the Board that the Ethics Power Point packet they received is not a training, but a refresher and they should take the opportunity to look it over.

Should member have any questions, they can email Dr. McGuire and then she will direct those to the County Attorney's office. This Ethics refresher we are going to do annually to make sure that everyone is aware of their roles and responsibilities as an Advisory Board member for Broward County.

**Adjournment**  
**Next CoC Meeting: TBA**  
**Date, Location and Format: TBA**