



Human Services Department  
**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION / Homeless Initiative Partnership**  
 115 S Andrews Avenue, Room A370 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-6167 • FAX 954-357-8204

**BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (“HIP”)  
 Homeless Continuum of Care Advisory (“HCoC”) Board Meeting  
 June 23rd, 2021  
 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Senator Nan Rich at 12:30 pm

Board of Directors	Present	Excused	Absent	Board of Directors	Present	Excused	Absent
Senator Nan Rich Board Chair	X			Martin, Robin	X		
Akiti, Melida	X			McNeal, Reniese	X		
Bakalar, Howard-VP	X			Moffett, Ron	X		
Barron, Michael	X			Mitchell, Carole	X		
Campbell, Tom- Ex-			X	Osley, Danny	X		
Cavanaugh, Keith – Ex-officio			X	Quintana, Silvia	X		
Donovan, Brian	X						
Einhorn, Sandra	X						
Garcia, Tiffany	X			Commissioner Ben			X
Green, William	X			Stutin, Cathy	X		
Hattan, Caryl	X			Werthman, Steve	X		
Hernandez, Maria			X	Wilby, Lorraine	X		
Lopez, Yvette	X			Wines, Lynne	X		

**Staff Present:**



**Darrell Cunningham**, Director of Community Partnership Division; **Rebecca McGuire, Ph.D.**, Homeless Initiative Partnership, (HIP); **Kavaja Sarduy**, (HIP); **Kenisha Bryant, Ed. D**; **Brittany Odom**, (HIP); **Stephanie-Ann Elie** (HIP).

## **1. Introductions/Roll Call**

Roll call was completed by the HIP Administrator, Rebecca McGuire, Ph.D. A quorum was not confirmed. However, Dr. McGuire stated that Sandra Einhorn would be late and later affirmed that a quorum was reached after three other members joined.

## **Updates**

Senator Rich shared updates on the Broward County Affordable Housing Trust Fund. She did a recap on what was discussed in the May minutes regarding the Housing Trust Fund. The main points were:

- 1) Proposals for the 2021-2022 budget include 50% of the sunseting CRA (approximately \$8 million) be placed in the Housing Trust Fund.
- 2) Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act are available to be used for shovel-ready affordable housing projects. It is estimated that over \$30 million of these projects may be funded. These dollars must be used by 2026.

She has also mentioned that the Commission approved the update of the FIU Affordable Housing Needs Assessment study, and it will begin as soon as the census data is available. She believes that there will be a significant increase in need, especially for multi-family rental units, as well as in the cost.

## **2. Approval of minutes for May 2021 meeting**

With corrections to the minutes, **a motion was made by Howard Bakalar and seconded by Cathy Stutin**. The Board unanimously approved the May 26, 2021, meeting minutes.

## **3. Cancellation of July Meeting**

Senator Rich recommended the cancellation of the July meeting. The board voted to cancel the July meeting.

## **4. Action Items**

Dr. Rebecca McGuire presented an excel worksheet that shows the Request for Proposal (RFP) recommended by HIP for the Community Partnership Division that was equivalent to \$20 million. She requested to have the members vote by each service category. In any case that a member has a conflict of interest, they should mention it to the board.

The agencies that were awarded the allocations are the following:

**A. HIP- Domestic Violence/ Family Homeless Street Outreach** was awarded to HOPE South Florid in the of amount \$112,000.00. They were awarded 100% of their requested proposal.

**Conflict of interest:** Lorraine Wilby and Steve Werthman

**Motions** : Lynn Wines & Robin Martin

**Results** : Approved

**B. HIP-Street Outreach for Individuals** was given to TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness Inc. in the amount of \$87,625.00. They were awarded 100% of their requested proposal.

**Conflict of interest:** Lorraine Wilby

**Motions** : Melida Akiti & Robin Martin

**Results** : Approved

**C. HIP- Shelter Coordination Services** was awarded to HOPE South Florida Inc. in the amount of \$150,931.00

**Conflict of interest:** Lorraine Wilby and Steve Werthman

**Motions:** : Howard Bakalar & Silvia Quintana

**Results** : Approved

**D. HIP- Specialty Shelter** was awarded to Henderson Behavioral Health, Inc., in the amount of \$835,375.00.

**Conflict of interest:** Tiffany Garcia

**Motions:** : Silvia Quintana & Robin Martin

**Results** : Approved

**E. HIP-Medical Respite Care** was awarded to Broward House, Inc., in the amount of \$421,634.

Melida Akiti requested to have more information regarding the program and wanted to know what medical respite entails and how many beds are required. Dr. McGuire mentioned that they do not have that number but will provide more information once she goes over the contract negotiations process.

Mr. Darrel Cunningham added that the Community Partnership Division has implemented a service delivery program that provides a detailed outcome.

This document will be a shorter version of the contract and this information will be presented to the board at the next meeting.

**Motion** : Lorraine Wilby & Lynn Wines

**Opposed:** Melida Akiti

**Results** : Approved

**F. HIP- Case Management** was awarded to three providers. Two providers are new and include Women in Distress of Broward County, Inc., which was awarded \$52,741.00, and Community Rightful Center, Inc., which was awarded \$94,231.00. Henderson Behavioral Health, Inc., was awarded \$386,984.00.

**Conflict of interest:** Tiffany Garcia & Michael Barron

**Motions** : Lorraine Wilby & Howard Bakalar

**Results** : Approved

**G. HIP-Legal Assistance** was given to Legal Aid Service of Broward County in the amount of \$159,644.00.

**Conflict of interest:** N/A

**Motion** : Howard Bakalar & Robin Martin

**Results** : Approved

**H. HIP- Rapid Rehousing** was awarded to five providers. The two new providers under this category are Women in Distress of Broward County Inc., which was awarded \$105,186.00, and Housing Opportunities, Mortgage Assistance and Effective Neighborhood Solutions, Inc., which was awarded \$162,534.00. Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc. was awarded \$210,000.00; HOPE South Florida, Inc. was awarded \$430,273.00; and The Salvation Army was awarded \$21,481.00.

Ms. Silvia Quintana requested more information about the rehousing program and the effect it has on families already being assisted. Dr. Mcguire then responded that they have developed a new model so that families that are being helped can at least get two years of assistance. The Homeless Initiative Partnership has been negotiating with the providers to make sure that the providers do not close their housing contract prematurely.

**Conflict of interest:** Steve Werthman, Cathy Stutin, & Michael Barron

**Motion:** : Silvia Quintana & Lorraine Wilby

**Results** : Approved

**I. HIP-Transitional Housing**, was awarded to Henderson Behavioral Health, Inc. in the amount of \$237,689.00.

**Conflict of interest:** Tiffany Garcia

**Motion** : Steve Werthman & Lorraine Wilby

**Results** : Approved

**5. Section Updates:**

➤ **Update on discharge planning with jail**

Dr. McGuire mentioned that she had a meeting with the psychologist at the North Detention Center to discuss discharge planning with the jail. An HMIS presentation will be provided to the entity to help the discharge planners especially when they have inmates coming through. The HMIS Software will allow them to know if the inmate was homeless prior to coming to jail and reduce the possibility of going back out in the streets.

➤ **Update on COVID-19 Projects**

Dr. McGuire updated us with the different initiatives the department has going on since the pandemic started. They have partnered with HOPE South Florida for mobile sanitations and have been getting positive feedbacks. The division has noticed a tremendous decrease in the numbers of homeless receiving the vaccine. Dr. McGuire mentioned that they will continue to make efforts to set up monthly vaccination events at least twice to help the homeless community.

➤ **Update on Emergency Vouchers**

Dr. McGuire shared that a partnership with Broward County Housing Authority and the City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority has started to help disseminate and prioritize emergency housing vouchers. A total of 251 vouchers have been approved.

➤ **Update on the Multiple Listing Site-**

Crystal Kirby from Emphasis Software provided a presentation of the Multiple Listing Site (MLS). She mentioned that the service will be embedded on the Broward County website making it easier for providers/case managers to navigate through it. Each case manager/provider will receive unique credentials and will have access to updates and listings at any time.

Crystal Kirby shared some interesting features about the new portal which includes some of the following:

- Each listing in the system is plotted on Google maps, so you can do directions, see nearby amenities and features with the search tools and functionality of the website.
- Various housing filters on the website.
- Translations to multiple languages.
- Alerts can be set up by providers/case managers for a specific requirement and emails will be sent to them.
- Searches may be saved depending on the criteria and filters on which they were based. Clients can be identified by their specific ID.

According to Ms. Kirby, two live webinar trainings will be provided to learn the functionality of the website. In case some providers are not able to attend trainings, a pre-recorded video will be available for later use on how to properly navigate on the website. Dr. Rebecca McGuire and Ms. Brittany Odom will email the information regarding the training so people can register.

➤ **Update on the City of Fort Lauderdale Shelter Project**

Senator Rich provided a quick update on the shelter situation stating that many people were staying at hotels in the Fort Lauderdale area. Because housing units are not available, the homeless are staying in hotels rather than going back to the streets. The County is funding this project in the amount of \$800,000.00 until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

➤ **Update on Dashboard**

Mr. Ricardo Moore announced that two dashboards were bought, and they are in the process of finalizing everything before they go live. The dashboards should be fully functional in about two weeks.

➤ **Update on Housing Opportunities with Persons with Aids (HOPWA)**

Dr. McGuire gave a quick update on the new partnership with the State of Florida, as well as another provider of HOPWA housing services. The contract is set for \$950,000.00 and more information will be provided at the next meeting.

➤ **Update on reopening of overnight beds**

Dr. McGuire reported that the overnight bed program will reopen on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 50% capacity at both the South Homeless Assistance Center and the Salvation Army. The non-congregate shelters are still open to serve as a backup in case something unexpected happens or if they have been infected with the virus and need a safe place to stay. The organization with whom we will be in close contact is Taskforce Fore Ending Homelessness. They will help coordinate and facilitate the process.

Lorraine Wilby took the opportunity to introduce Carl Falconer as the new CEO of that organization.

After Dr. McGuire's presentation on the opening of overnight beds, two board members had questions which are the following:

- 🚩 Mrs. Sandra Einhorn asked if the shelters will be asking for vaccination status and will it be required to get into the shelters. What precautions are being taken to limit the spread of Covid and what can be done to increase the vaccination rate from the homeless group?.

Dr. McGuire replied to Mrs. Einhorn stating that they will continue with the vaccine campaign to try to empower and get as many people vaccinated as possible. However, they cannot force it upon people to be vaccinated.

✚ Mrs. Melida Akiti inquired about the entry protocols from the different shelters pertaining to Covid 19 testing requirement.

Dr. McGuire indicated that Broward Partnership for the Homeless Inc., as well as South Homeless Assistance Center require testing prior to entry.

## 6. **Public Comments**

Mark Esko inquired about the procedure for attending the meeting that will be held in person on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. McGuire explained the steps to follow for access to the meeting.

## 7. **Good of the Order:** N/A

## 8. **Adjournment**

Next HCoC Meeting – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:00 AM.

Community Partnerships Provider Directory:

<http://www.broward.org/HumanServices/CommunityPartnerships/CPDirectory/index.html>