



Human Services Department  
**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION / Homeless Initiative Partnership**  
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**BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (“HIP”)  
Homeless Continuum of Care Advisory (“HCoC”) Board Meeting  
April 28, 2021  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Time Called to Order: 10:02 A.M.**  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Time Adjourned: 11:35 A.M.**  
**Minutes by** Brittany Odom &  
Kenisha Bryant

**Members Present in Commission Chambers:**

**Senator Nan Rich**, HCoC Chair; County Commissioner District 1;  
**Tom Campbell**, Ex-Officio, Broward Partnership for Homeless, Inc., HCoC Rep.; **Keith Cavanaugh**, Ex Officio, Broward Outreach Center, HCoC Rep.; **Reniese McNeal**, Formally Homeless Representative, HCoC Rep.; **Steve Werthman**, Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) funds recipient, City of Hollywood designee, HCoC Rep.; **Lorraine Wilby**, HPSC Chair HCoC Rep.

**Members via Zoom:** **Sandra Einhorn**, Advocate for the Homeless, HCoC Rep.; **Caryl Hattan**, Councilmember, Broward County Housing Council, HCoC Rep.; **Silvia Quintana**, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, (“BBHC”), HCoC Rep.; **Commissioner Benjamin Sorensen**, City of Fort Lauderdale, HCoC Rep.; **Cathy Stutin**, Fort Lauderdale Chamber, HCoC Rep.; **Danny Osley**, Formerly Homeless Representative, HCoC Rep.; **Michael Barron**, Women in Distress, HCoC Rep.; **Maria Hernandez**, United Way, HCoC Rep.; **Tiffany Garcia**, Broward County Housing Authority (“BCHA”), HCoC Rep.; **Robin Martin**, Advocate for the Homeless, HCoC Rep.; **William Green**; Broward Health HCoC Rep.; **Carole Mitchell**, School Board of Broward County, HCoC Rep.; **Yvette Lopez**, Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant (“ESG”) Recipient, HCoC Rep.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Mark D. Bogen • Lamar P. Fisher • Beam Furr • Steve Geller • Dale V.C. Holness • Nan H. Rich • Tim Ryan • Barbara Sharief • Michael Udine  
Broward.org

**Members Absent:** **Melida Akiti**; Memorial Hospital District, HCoC Rep.; **Howard Bakalar**, Vice-Chair; Advocate for the Homeless, HCoC Rep.

**Staff Present:** **Darrell Cunningham**, Director of Community Partnerships Division; **Silvia Beebe**, Asst. Director of Community Partnerships Division; **Rebecca McGuire**, Ph.D., Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP); **Kavaja Sarduy** (HIP); Kenisha Bryant, Ed.D., (HIP), **Charlesy Nance**, (HIP); **Brittany Odom**, (HIP); **Tracie Bostick**, (HIP); **Arnold Maloney**, (HIP); **Lorraine Gary**, (HIP); **Natalie Woods**, (HIP).

**Call to Order:** Senator Nan Rich called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

**Chair Report:**

Senator Rich reported that the Sadowski fund is currently \$423 million, with an anticipated 14.4% revenue increase due to the state of the housing market. The Sadowski fund will be permanently divided into three parts in order to fund different issues. Senator Rich reported that approximately \$209 - \$225 million will continue to go into the Sadowski fund, and the remaining money will be utilized to address other issues such as sewer, wastewater, and sea level rise. Senator Rich expressed her opinion that these are important issues that should be funded through other means, as the Sadowski fund is a dedicated trust fund for affordable housing. Senator Rich reported that the division of the Sadowski fund will go through the Governor's office and will need to be passed in the legislature.

The County has launched a \$59 million Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Commissioner Dale Holness has assisted with this venture and has been active in raising public awareness about this program. Renters in Broward County that have past due rent and utility expenses may qualify to receive relief through the Covid-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program. Application for this program may be accessed through the [Broward.org/rent](http://Broward.org/rent) assistance or by calling 888-692-7203.

The Commission passed a "Faith Action ID card", sponsored by Commissioner Holness and cosponsored by all the commissioners. These ID cards will help vulnerable Broward residents, such as those experiencing homelessness, the elderly, those formerly

incarcerated, immigrants, and foster youth acquire a valid ID. The card has the support of local law enforcement, is being used in many cities and counties around the country, and will be helpful for individuals who need an ID to get a vaccination.

The Broward County Commission, in conjunction with Miami-Dade County and a team of partners, launched a grassroots, multi-lingual, vaccine hesitancy education campaign on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Partners in this campaign include The Health Foundation of South Florida, the Florida Department of Health in Broward and Dade Counties, Memorial Healthcare, Baptist Health Jackson Health, the Children Services Council, among others. Senator Rich recognized the efforts of Melida Akiti, Chair of the Health Foundation of South Florida and Lauren Chant, CEO of the Health Foundation of South Florida in this campaign. The “I Did It” campaign was put together in six weeks and its mission is to increase vaccine confidence in vulnerable and underserved families and individuals in our community. The campaign stars real people sharing their story as to why they got the vaccine through media outlets including billboards, social media, newspapers ad, tv commercials and radio spots. The empowering message is optimistic, hopeful, powerful and empathetic. The timing of this campaign is critical, as the supply of vaccines has outpaced vaccine demand. The campaign’s website is [www.ididitsfl.com](http://www.ididitsfl.com). Senator Rich advised that sharing this education campaign is critical to help the community stay healthy and getting life in Broward County back to normal.

Senator Rich listed the vacant board positions and asked that Board members to let Dr. McGuire know about anyone interested in any of the vacancy positions. A packet for Brian Donovan from the City of Pompano Beach has been submitted and is under review. Fort Lauderdale Law Enforcement has a possible appointment pending as well. It appears that Broward Sheriff’s office may have a pending appointment as well. Senator Rich advised that the outgoing representative from BSO, Captain Scott Russell, will be recognized for his contributions to the community at a future meeting. There were no recommendations for the vacancies offered by Board members at this time.

### **Point in Time (“PIT”) Survey Updates: Rebecca McGuire, Ph.D.**

Rebecca McGuire, Ph.D., advised that PIT Count was successfully completed from March 20 – 30, 2021. The count took place over ten days, with teams of hired temp staffs working shifts of 8 hours each day and surveying the County in ten regions. Dr. McGuire thanked Scott DiMarzo and the Taskforce team as well as Captain Scott Russell and his team and Deputy Marcus Hall for their contributions to the success of the Count. Dr. McGuire introduced **Ricardo Moore**, the Homeless Information Systems Supervisor, who presented a PowerPoint presentation containing an overview of the PIT Count results.

Ricardo Moore advised that the U.S Department of Housing & Urban Development (“HUD”) granted the HCoC exceptions for the unsheltered PIT count, due to the impacts of COVID-19. Specifically, HUD approved modifications of the PIT Count, allowing the HCoC to reduce the survey length to just 9 questions, and expand the PIT Count to period of ten days. HUD has also modified how PIT Count data will be submitted and extended

the submission deadline to May 14, 2021. Ricardo advised that the HCoC will submit its PIT Count data well in advance of the May 14<sup>th</sup> deadline. The 2021 PIT data reveals a significant increase in the number of unsheltered homeless individuals in Broward County, as compared to 2020 data. The increase was noted in many municipalities, most notably in Tamarac.

**Discussion:** The PIT data be shared with municipalities There was discussion on plans to continue to use the current methodology.

**Motion: Approval of the PIT Data**

**First: Robin Martin**

**Second: Caryl Hattan**

**Declaration of Conflict: None**

**Vote: Approved**

Senator Nan Rich offered an addition to the Chair Report, advising that the Homeless Challenge Grant has been put back into the state budget and will be fully funded. Additional funding for mental health services was also announced and recurring funding for senior projects was restored and increased.

**HCoC Updates: Dr. Rebecca McGuire**

**Dr. McGuire** reported that COVID-19 testing has been continuous at the HACs and Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS). The County continues to work with the Department of Health to facilitate vaccination events for people experiencing homelessness. There have been some outbreaks in the shelters and the shelter providers continue to follow the appropriate protocols to keep everyone safe. Mobile showers remain operational and the HCoC intends to continue to extend those given the positive feedback provided by the individuals that use this service.

**Phase 1 Money/Phase II Money: Dr. McGuire**

Dr. McGuire advised that it took an extended period of time to operationalize Phase I funds from the Department of Children and Families (\$1.170.000 million). This delay caused a hold up in award of the Phase II funds (\$2.8 million). HIP has created a plan to spend all Phase I funds by June 30, 2021. The plan will be submitted to DCF for approval and involves shifting money from some providers to the NCS.

**Presentation of how to Request Funding: Dr. McGuire**

**Senator Rich** advised that at the previous Commission meeting an item relating to funding permanent supportive housing was deferred to the budget workshop. Members of the public that had been waiting to speak were not presented an opportunity speak on this item for two meeting. Senator Rich advised that she felt this HCoC meeting would be an appropriate forum for these speakers to express their point of view on the Permanent Supportive Housing (“PSH”) item, and therefore she

has invited them to use the public comment portion of this meeting as an opportunity to speak. Senator Rich further advised that she has asked Dr. McGuire to present an overview of the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) process to the guests prior to the public comment portion of the meeting.

Dr. McGuire provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the HCoC’s permanent housing capacity and an overview of the RFP process. Dr. McGuire further advised that HIP anticipates a HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be published in July 2021.

**Public Comment:**

Commissioner Dale Holness thanked Dr. McGuire for the presentation and Senator Rich for offering an opportunity for BOLD Justice to speak at today’s meeting. Commissioner Holness advised that BOLD Justice is a coalition of 28 religious organizations that have identified a need for increased permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness with mental illness in Broward County. Commissioner Holness reported that he has worked with BOLD of Justice for close to a year and has been engaging with cities and the County to try to get more housing opportunities for this population. Commissioner Holness reported that more than 70% of the individuals in Broward jails have mental health issues and that jail is the largest cost in the County budget. He further advised that PSH may reduce the cost of jail expenses by housing individuals instead of incarcerating them, and that people in PSH can offer contributions to the community while those in jails cannot.

Dr. McGuire stated the ground rules for public comment, advising that it is a rule of the commission that guests will have a maximum of two minutes to speak. Guests should “raise their hand” using the Zoom feature in order to be recognized.

**Sergeant Edward Rafailovitch of BSO** recognized the achievements and contributions of Captain Scott Russell and offered to do anything he can to support the Board recognition of Captain Russell. He also advised that the Multiple Agency Taskforce (“MAT”) team assisted with the PIT Count.

**Francisco Gomez** of Care Resource advised that Care Resource is providing vaccinations of Broward County residents in need and people can register for a vaccine on the Care Resource website.

**Reverend Kennedy McGowan** advised that he is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Hollywood and Co-President of BOLD Justice. Reverend Kennedy McGowan advised that not everyone from BOLD Justice who wanted to speak is present today, as they had been advised in the last Commission meeting that they would have an opportunity to speak on May 11, 2021 at the budget workshop. He went on speak about the proposal for additional PSH funding, which he stated was inspired by the HCoC plan to end homelessness and developed with Commissioner Holness and in consultation of Dr. McGuire and other County staff and NAMI representatives. The proposal aims to

significantly expand the availability of PSH and specifically address the unique needs of people experiencing homelessness, as they represent a large sector of the County's homeless population. He advised that BOLD Justice fully expects this expanded funding to go through the RFP process. He advised that funding PSH is much less costly than continuing in the current state. He urged everyone to endorse the proposed increase in PSH funding.

**Marie Turner** stated that she is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fort Lauderdale and Oakland Park and she lives in Lauderdale Lakes. Marie Turner stated she believes in PSH and that the goal of the proposal is to obtain 65 additional PSH units under the CoC. She expressed that she was upset about BOLD Justice not being able to speak and she stated that some untrue statements were made. Marie Turner advised that BOLD Justice is not seeking to build anything but is rather pushing for additional PSH funding for individuals experiencing mental illness and homelessness. Marie Turner described that turn of events that resulted in a member of her congregation experiencing a mental health crisis and homelessness.

**Janean Baumal** stated that she serves on the Board of BOLD Justice, attends Trinity Lutheran Church in Pembroke Pines and lives in Coral Springs. BOLD Justice created this plan with HIP staff to fund 65 PSH units and the plan is based on what HIP staff has seen be effective. The Assistant County administrator also reviewed the plan and came up with a different more costly budget with higher personnel cost and amount per unit. Janean Baumal advised that even with additional costs, funding these units is still less costly than leaving people experiencing homelessness on the street.

**Andrew Dearing** stated he is a resident of Fort Lauderdale. Andrew stated he would like to second the comments of Commissioner Holness, Marie, Janean, and Reverend Kennedy and urged this Board to endorse it. He further advised he will attend the May 11, 2021 meeting.

**Vanessa Edwards** stated she is a team member of BOLD Justice and a member of United Methodist Church. Vanessa stated she can attest to the fact that PSH is the best remedy for homeless in Broward County. She stated that her son has mental illness and received PSH through Henderson Behavioral Health. Vanessa stated that food and shelter are apart of basic physiological needs. Vanessa stated we can and need to do more to ensure that people's basic needs are met. She suggested the County can follow the example of Atlanta and she advised that more PSH is needed in Broward County.

**Mary Kelley** stated she has lived in Broward County for 48 years. She quoted 2020 PIT data and noted that she has a brother that suffers from schizophrenia. She described how her brother's illness has affected him and how he is grateful to have a roof over his head. Mary Kelley thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

**DeAnne Connelly** stated she has lived in Broward County for 28 years and that her father suffered from mental illness. She advised that is it dangerous for people with mental illness to be on the street. She thanked her colleagues of BOLD Justice and

Commissioner Holness and urged the other Commissioners to support this cause of adding PSH units in Broward County.

**Nicole Manu** stated that the County is talking about money and pointed out the fact the County is receiving \$180 million in COVID relief in May. She stated that Atlanta took advantage of their COVID relief in October and housed 400 people by March. Nicole stated that the robust landlord recruitment program the County has talked about will help house individuals experiencing homelessness. She stated that BOLD Justice has faith that the Commission will make this proposal happen.

**Norma Sinclair** stated she is a resident, voter, and taxpayer in Plantation. Norma stated she fully supports the proposal to provide \$3.8 million to fund 65 additional PSH units for the mentally ill homeless. She expressed thanks for the opportunity for BOLD Justice to speak after having been summarily dismissed by the Commission in the last two Commission meetings.

#### **Discussion by the Board:**

**Senator Rich** advised that the Board is fully committed to the expansion of PSH in Broward County. She further advised that many community advocates are advocating that 2/10 of a mill be added to the ad valorem tax to fund the housing Trust fund that was created by the voters in 2018. She suggested that BOLD Justice might want to support that effort, as it will put in a significant amount of money into the affordable housing trust fund.

**Lorraine Wilby** stated she thinks what BOLD Justice has done is exceptional. She further stated that with \$3.8 million dollars could fund 175 units. She inquired about where the RFP process is within this proposal, to which Senator advised that the proposed funds are not being committed to particular project but rather the RFP process would determine which providers receive the funding.

**Commissioner Holness** advised that he would like to acknowledge that Commissioner Michael Udine was on and joined the meeting. He then thanked the members of BOLD Justice for coming on to speak. He stated that the proposal is one way to help people and save tax dollars at the same time.

**Steve Werthman** stated there are additional ways to propose projects, including through the Homeless Services Council and the PONG meeting. He then thanked BOLD Justice for speaking today. He further advised that he found elements of the proposal out of the ordinary and that the budget was vague. **Motion: Steve Werthman made a motion to support the \$3.8 million proposal through the RFP process, with a timeliness standard and a clarification about whether renting from oneself is permissible.**

**Commissioner Udine** stated he wanted to acknowledge the hard work of BOLD Justice and this Board. He stated he felt it was important for him to attend the meeting and hear from BOLD Justice to better understand their proposal and the views.

**Sandra Einhorn** echoed the sentiments and comments of BOLD Justice and encouraged the BOLD Justice members to learn more about the County efforts and to advocate for the 2/10s of a mill to increase the housing affordability trust fund. She further mentioned that churches are some of the largest landlord holders in the County and stated that it would be a great strategy to advocate for churches to allow affordable housing to be built on their land. She stated this housing could potentially be built using funding from the trust fund.

**Senator Rich** advised that this was meant to be an opportunity to all BOLD Justice to speak. She advised that resolving homelessness is the most critical need in Broward County.

**Lorraine Wilby** stated she would like to **second Steve Werthman's motion.**

**Steve Werthman** clarified the motion he put forth, stating that the motion is to recommend the \$3.8 million in PSH funding, that is goes through the RPF and budget workshop process, that the model be left open so it could be either project or tenant-based, that it include a timeliness standard and consistent rule regarding renting from oneself. He also stated he endorses the 2/10s of a mill in a separate motion.

**Commissioner Ben Sorenson** stated he just wanted to go on the record supporting this and he thanked BOLD Justice.

**Silvia Quintana** stated she would like to support the 2/10s of a mill initiative, as it will result in far more funding for PSH.

**Sandra Einhorn** stated that she agreed that the 2/10s of a mill will produce more funding for RRH & PSH than the proposed \$3.8 million initiative for PSH alone. The 2/10s of a mill could produce more than \$30 million on a recurring basis.

**Caryl Hattan** stated she believes the Board should go forward with two motions, in case does not pass.

**Motion: Recommendation to the Commission that a minimum of \$3.8 million be allocated for PSH**

**First: Steve Werthman**

**Second: Lorraine Wilby**

**Declaration of Conflict: None**

**Vote: Approved**

**Motion: Recommendation to the Commission that 2/10s of mill be allocated to the housing affordability trust fund**

**First: Steve Werthman**

**Second: Maria Hernandez**

**Declaration of Conflict: None**

**Vote: Approved**

**Ben Sorensen** stated that it should be noted that both motions passed unanimously.

**Commissioner Holness** thanked everyone for helping to strengthen the Broward community.

Senator Rich thanked everyone and commended the HIP staff for its contributions.

**Adjournment**

**Motion: Motion to Adjourn**

**First: Silvia Quintana**

**Second: Lorraine Wilby**

**Declaration of Conflict: None**

**Vote: Approved**

**Next HCoC Meeting**

May 26, 2021 @10:00 a.m.

Zoom Platform