



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

115 S Andrews Avenue, Room A360 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-8647 • FAX 954-357-8204

**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (HIP)
Homeless Continuum of Care Advisory (CoC) Board Meeting
February 26, 2020
DRAFT MINUTES**

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

Location: Government Center GC430

Time Adjourned: 11:32 A.M.

Minutes by Elizabeth Ortega

Members Present: **Senator Nan Rich**, CoC Chair; Commissioner District 1; **Melida Akiti**; Memorial Hospital, CoC Rep. **Howard Bakalar**, Vice-Chair, Advocate for the Homeless; **JoAnn Anstett**, Co-Chair Local Provider Stakeholder Council; **Jennifer Bullock**, Women in Distress CoC Rep; **Tom Campbell**, Ex-Officio, Broward Partnership for Homeless, Inc., CoC Rep; **Keith Cavanaugh**, Ex Officio, Broward Outreach Center; CoC Rep; **Dwayne Chung**, City of Hollywood Police, CoC Rep; **Sandra Einhorn**, Advocate for the Homeless, CoC Rep; **Jaime Costas**, Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLDP), CoC Rep; **Tiffany Garcia**, Broward County Housing Authority (BCHA), CoC Rep; **Luke Harrigan**, Faith Based Representative, CoC Rep; **Caryl Hattan**, Commissioner, Broward County Housing Council, CoC Rep; **Mason Jackson**, CareerSource Broward, CoC Rep; **Yvette Lopez**, Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recipient, CoC Rep; **Maria Hernandez**, United Way, CoC Rep; **Reniese McNeal**, Formally Homeless Representative, CoC Rep.; **Danny Osley**, Formerly Homeless Representative, CoC Rep.; **Silvia Quintana**, Broward Behavioral Health (BBHC), CoC Rep; **Steve Werthman**, Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds recipient Hollywood designee, CoC Rep.; **Scott; Russell**,

Broward Sheriff's Office, CoC Rep.; **Commissioner Benjamin Sorensen**, City of Fort Lauderdale, CoC Rep.

Member via Phone: None

Members Absent: **Carole Mitchell**, School Board of Broward County, CoC Rep.; **Cathy Stutin**, Fort Lauderdale Chamber, CoC Rep.; **David J. Armstrong**, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, CoC Rep; **Lee Ghezzi**; **Robin Martin**, Rebuilding Together Broward County, CoC Rep.

Guests Present: **Linda Gutierrez**, National Alliance on Mental Illness; **Jessica Abou**, Broward Regional Health Planning Council; **Brandon Stewart**, United Way; **Chania Somarriba**, Hope South Florida; **Anthony Truntz**, Hollywood PD; **Andy Centeno**, Broward County HFCRD; **Herbert Brotspies**, Broward County HFCRD; **Griselle Walters**, Hope South Florida; **Lisa Vecchi**, Broward Housing Solutions; **Gayle Giese**, NAMI; **Linda Gutierrez**, NAMI; **Betsy Syphen**, Covenant Hose; **Mitch Rosenwald**; Barry University

Staff Present: **Ricardo Moore**, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); **Rebecca McGuire**, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP); **Stuart Rakowsky**, HMIS; **Kavaja Sarduy**, (HIP); **Andrea Webster**, (HIP); **Elizabeth Ortega**, (HIP).

Call to Order: Senator Nan Rich called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. She informed the attendees the mayor of Wilton Manors Justin Flippen passed away due to a brain aneurysm. She stated the wonderful development in Wilton Manors would never have happened without him. She asked for a moment of silence.

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

Approval of Minutes: Senator Rich asked for an approval of minutes.

MOTION: Approval of December 4, 2019 Draft Minutes

First: Sandra Einhorn

Second: Scott Russell

Declaration of Conflict: None

Discussion: None

Result: The minutes were approved.

Commissioner Rich had a few legislative and policy items. There was a proposed legislation in Tallahassee regarding homelessness issues and the Continuum of Care. This item was placed on hold. It corresponds state laws with federal statutes to eliminate some outdated provisions. It increases the amount of the Challenge grant funds. Each CoC lead agency may receive annually from \$500,000 to \$750,000. The additionally funding was not approved.

The Senior Services Council Bill creating an independent taxing district for seniors did not pass this year. There are 420,000 seniors in Broward County and the fastest growing population is 85 and older.

Senator Rich wanted to reiterate the push is on for the census to be online making it difficult for seniors. Case managers and social workers are being trained to assist seniors complete the form online.

Another difficult to enumerate populations is children. Every single person in the household needs to be counted. Ten years ago, the County got an under count on children and lost Head Start money.

The business community has been helpful increasing funding for marketing which will be for ads for radio stations. The U.S. census ads started last Monday. They're going into ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN and that kind of marketplace.

Sandra mentioned they had their Nonprofit Executive Alliance CEO meeting. More than one member indicated while doing outreach they are finding a trend that people are associating voting with census. It is important to articulate the difference.

Senator Rich welcomed Keith Cavanaugh as the newest CoC Board member. Mr. Cavanaugh is the Broward program supervisor at Broward Outreach Center, Miami Rescue Mission. He is the representative for the South Homeless Assistance Center.

Updates on open CoC seats was provided. Lee Ghezzi from the North Hospital District has put forth someone to replace him. There was a candidate a portable housing developer who has been out of town. Broward Workshop had a candidate who lives outside Broward County. During the Sunset Review, it has been recommended that the Broward Residency requirement be lifted.

Robert Hernandez was introduced as the Deputy City Manager for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

United Way Broward County Business Council on Homelessness

Lynne Wines was not present.

Maria Hernandez reported in December they finally secured a contract and a leasing grant from the City of Fort Lauderdale. The contract they have been executed includes services for day respite and housing programs.

Homeless Providers Stakeholders Council

Joann Anstett, Co- Chair of the Council, stated January was an engaging meeting where there was a brainstorming session to identify gaps and needs in the community.

In February, Erin Weiss did a presentation on HIV and aging populations and how services are critically needed, and Ricardo Moore, HMIS Manager, did an HMIS presentation on the new systems and updates.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Performance, Outcomes, Needs, and Gaps (PONG)

Sandra Einhorn encouraged members to attend the PONG meetings. They go over some critical items. They approved the NOFA Policy and Procedures during the last meeting.

They were presented with an updated project scoring template for new and existing projects, which was deferred to the next meeting. They wanted more of an opportunity to look at some of those scoring items specifically related to bonus points. They wanted to make sure the scoring was clear and concise and fair to everybody. There was a discussion around what that should look like and how to prioritize bonus points and some existing outcomes.

The date and time of the PONG meetings has been changed to the fourth Friday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in A337.

Consumer Advocacy

Danny Osley reported last month they were in the process of looking at by-laws. For the last two or three years they have been recruiting individuals that were homeless and they are moving to expand the recruitment to advocates.

Youth and Families Assessment

Carole Mitchell, Broward County School Board was not present.

Housing Action Committee

Tom Campbell reported they did not meet in February.

Tom reported last year Broward Partnership was awarded a \$25 million low income housing tax credit through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to build a 72-unit affordable housing project on the parking lot of the Central Homeless Assistance Center. They are in the design phase. Permits should be submitted within the next couple months. Shovels should go into the ground September or October of 2020.

Senator Rich reported Fran Esposito and her team went out to the homeowners in the area, brought them together and had multiple meetings. They learned working together can remove negative feelings.

CoC Annual Calendar

A member pointed out a calendar for all committee meetings has been developed along with the CoC board. Holidays have been included.

Motion: To approve the CoC calendar.

First: Sandra Einhorn

Second: Reneise McNeal

Declaration of Conflict: None

Discussion: None

Result: Approved.

HMIS Manual for 2020 HUD NOFA

Ricardo Moore, HMIS Manager reported there were no changes in the policies and procedures manual.

Motion: To approve HMIS manual.

First: Howard Bakalar

Second: Silvia Quintana

Declaration of Conflict: None

Discussion: None

Result: Approved

Reallocation of Funding 1st Quarter

There are routine utilization meetings with lengthy discussions. The providers have made a significant effort making great improvements. The County is reallocating funds as it relates to service categories. The only service category where money was reallocated the first quarter was Rapid Rehousing. The amount reallocated was \$135,000 and was divided between two other Rapid Rehousing providers.

The HIP Staff are working through cleaning up the coordinated entry process. The goal is to make this a smooth process that holds providers accountable for processing referrals in a timely manner.

The transition at the North Homeless Assistance Center continues to go well. There is still a lot to be done. Work on bathroom facilities is being prioritized. Due to age of the building a complete renovation of the bathrooms is being planned. A vendor removed the invasive trees from the East side of the property. An installation of a fence in front of the property to the South of the facility will begin shortly. This property is the Broward County Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division Building.

Motion: To approve 1st Quarter Reallocation of Funding.

First: Commissioner Benjamin Sorensen

Second: Caryl Hattan

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

Danny Osley, Tom Campbell, Steven Werthman

Discussion: None

Result: The motion was approved with three abstentions.

System Performance Measures Presentation Ricardo Moore, HMIS Manager

There was a comparison from last year to this year's submission. The data quality framework gives a snapshot of the data and the information being put into the system including errors. Time was spent walking agencies through reports that are generated showing how errors can be handled.

Attendees had a comparison of the breakdown of the measures and metrics.

Motion: To approve the System Performance Measures Report.

First: Captain Scott Russell

Second: Sandra Einhorn

Declaration of Conflict: None

Discussion: There was a discussion of percentages of each matrix and the overall score as well as the error rate on data.

Result: The motion was approved.

New Language for the PONG Committee

At the December meeting there was discussion of conflict for the chair of the PONG committee. The county attorney's office reviewed it and new language was proposed.

It was pointed out that the motion should also reflect that the committee will solicit data and opinions on unmet needs and gaps in service from all stakeholders.

Motion: To approve the addition of the sentence dealing with needs and gaps.

First: Mason Jackson

Second: Caryl Hatton

Declaration of Conflict: None

Discussion: None

Result: The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the Main Library Encampment

Dr. McGuire provided an update on the 80 individuals removed from the encampment. Originally 37 households were placed in Rapid Rehousing. That number is down to 20. Most have been moved to Permanent Supportive Housing. The goal is by September of 2020 the remainder will be self-sufficient.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Rich announced the Point in Time Count (PIT) information will be available next month.

Dr. Greer expressed desire to partner with organization who are providing meals. Dr. Greer expressed his gratitude to the Children's Services Council who is helping address needs of homeless children by providing funding for services at the Day Respite. The United Way provided half the funds needed and Children's Services Council provided the other half.

Anthony Ginsberg announced they are providing early voting transportation for the homeless.

Steve Werthman brought up concerns about the Coronavirus potential epidemic. Senator Rich stated the County administrators are working with the Department of Health.

Calls are being received from Palm Beach. They are in crisis mode for an encampment and are looking at Broward County's model for addressing the downtown encampment. Dr. McGuire will reach out.

A church in Fort Lauderdale has an initiative known as Laundry Love. Once a month a group of volunteers assist and provide vouchers to individuals experiencing homelessness to launder their clothes. In the past five months they have washed eight tons of laundry. For future events we are working on getting outreach workers there to connect.

A question was posed regarding panhandlers. An attempt is being made to deploy signage around the City of Fort Lauderdale discouraging panhandling. There is a lawsuit claiming it is free speech.

Senator Rich brought up the Lazarus Project in Miami Dade County. Jackson Memorial is engaged with the CoC on the project. Funding for Broward County is being sought.

Yvette Lopez announced, the they are updated their five-year consolidated plan. A questionnaire will be sent municipalities and stakeholders.

Adjournment

Next Meeting

**The next meeting will be on March 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
Governmental Center Room GC430**