



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
DRAFT 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 the County is currently at 57.3% for our overall response rate. The highest rate is 88% for Cooper City and the lowest rate of 32.1% for Pembroke Park, this gave the group an idea of the range municipalities.

Senator Rich reported the Census is still collecting data and have extended their date from August to October 2020. The meal sharing opportunities are important to continue to remind individuals experiencing homelessness about the Census. The strategies to

collect data for the Census has totally change because there are no in-person meetings and it is very difficult to implement some of the strategies that had been planned. The County printed up information cards that go into every bag or box for food distribution. Senator Rich stressed the importance of everyone to remember to talk about the Census and engage everyone to register.

Commissioner Sorensen does a great job with his newsletter by putting out a terrific article about the Census. So, we just need as much communication from trusted figures.

Legislatively Updates:

The Governor has the budget. We are waiting on his signature, and what will be the budget cuts. It is projected that a billion dollars will need to be cut out of the budget. It is anticipated a large amount will come from Human Services.

Cares Act Funding:

5.4 billion dollars was received by the State of Florida. Broward County received 340 million dollars and of that 30 % was distributed to the cities. The cities are to distribute this based on need, not per capital. There are guidelines to follow on how to spend the funds.

**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 had a lot of positive feedback on the use of the application. The numbers did go down from 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 families express being fearful that they might get their children removed or taken away due to their homelessness. Next year strategies will need to be discussed to work with the school board to make sure that we are getting a far more accurate picture reflecting of our families.

Dr. McGuire has been keeping track of some data regarding family call. Kavaja Sarduy, Human Services Manager fielding a lot of calls as well. There has been an increase in the situationally 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. That is something we monitor daily. Tom and Keith will tell you, we are monitoring census's very carefully right now and we have to make sure that we are being as good and diligent as we can to get people in when we have openings.

Question: Mrs. Sandra Einhorn, questioned 'how confident are we of the accuracy of the point in time count? She shared she went out to a camp and drove around for 3 hours and only found 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 does believe we have a lot of ability and opportunity to improve how we do the PIT count.

The Plantation and Davie Police are tracking incredibly well and have a little portfolio at their stations regarding individuals experiencing homelessness. Getting more law enforcement to do this would provide a clearer picture. They work on this throughout the year.

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

Response: Mr. Ricardo Moore responded that there were fewer volunteers this year however, the coverage area was larger, but the number of volunteers were a little bit less than last year.

Question: Mr. Howard Bakalar asked if the City of Ft. Lauderdale law enforcement was initiating some of the practices as Davie Police Department is doing?

Response: Dr. McGuire responded that she did not believe it was to the degree and level of detail. They rely on the Taskforce Outreach.

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

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), has been an incredible asset. The Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) is working in partnership with the Families Success Administration Division (FSAD), who has done a great job helping in this collaboration. The project is getting people who are positive off the street, quarantining them, keeping them safe; placing people who are in the hospitals who are COVID positive and need 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