



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
May 27, 2020
DRAFT WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

Time Called to Order: 10:05 A.M.

Location: 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.; **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.; **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; **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.; **Carole Mitchell**, School Board of Broward County, 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.

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
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Members Absent: **Jamie Costas**, Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLDP) CoC Rep.; **Dwayne Chung**, City of Hollywood Police, CoC Rep; **Danny Osley**, Formerly Homeless Representative, CoC Rep.; **Luke Harrigan**, Faith Based Representative, CoC Rep; **Lee Ghezzi**, Broward Health, 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).

Call to Order: Senator Nan Rich called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Roll Call: Completed by HIP Administrator, Rebecca McGuire, PH D. a quorum was confirmed.

Senator Rich thanked the CoC Board and staff for attending their first virtual skype meeting. Senator Rich acknowledges both the staff & Rebecca for an amazing job that they have been doing.

Senator Rich led a discussion regarding the need to analyze data and coordination efforts as we move forward in these unprecedented times. The feeding programs are in high demand and the need continues to increase. In April, a total of approximately 9,000 meals were served. Our Partners have served a total of 6,000 meals so far in the month of May.

The Census is still collecting data. 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.

Senator Rich noted that the Senate President Bill Galvano sent out a General Revenue Collections report and a COVID-19 update in late April and has recently updated it. An article that was written that was published May 26, 2020. There was discussion about a possible Special Session for the Florida Legislature. As of now this will not be schedule.

There was discussion regarding the articles in the paper about Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. The County is working to assist the City with placement for the 111 adults and 4 children in the City's hotel voucher program.

Rebecca McGuire stated for the record that both Sandra Einhorn and Mason Jackson had joined the meeting.

Continuum of Care Board Update:

Shelter Services (COVID-19 Response):

Rebecca McGuire reported that our shelter providers have done an incredible job working through COVID-19, keeping people safe and we are learning as we go to write policies and procedures.

Shelters are now operating at approximately 62% collectively of our capacity. Intakes were suspended for about a month; however, they have not resumed if the individual or family can produce a negative COVID-19 result.

Last week, the South Homeless Assistance Center admitted its first family of five. This week, we have been working on a list, of families on the street. The list had over 1,800 people on this list. While TaskForce is working remotely, one of their projects is to call each one of these families to find out their status. There are 17 families that are ready to admit into the Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS). The Non-Congregate Shelter is going to play an important role on how admissions occur into CoC shelters. We have a location, it is set up, there is security and a shelter manager.

The TaskForce will be working with the 17 identified families and they will get tested. Immediately after being tested they will be taken to the Non-Congregate Shelter where they will be awaiting their test results. Once the test results are negative, they will be immediately admitted into one of the emergency shelters on rotation. The TaskForce continues to be the point of entry for all shelters. When Lorraine and her team have a question about a situation, we talk about it and decide how we can make the best-informed decision to continue to keep the shelters as safe as possible. Our goal is not to go above 75% to 80% capacity so that we can continue to be within the CDC regs and keep people as safe as possible.

Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS):

We have secured a location with 15 rooms, that has separate air conditioning units, the rooms are stocked with plenty of PPE, snacks, water. Food has been arranged to be delivered daily by a catering company. We have a County staff who is the Non-Congregate manager, and then we have got several staff to support her, and 24/7 security. There is also an on-call case manager.

All referrals for the NCS for this project are screened through TaskForce and the County's Coordinated Entry Team. Admissions to the NCS are assigned a place in a CoC shelter immediately. The CoC Shelter Case Manager works to engage the family and begin CoC shelter intake. Once the admission is cleared via the Department of Health (DOH) they are transported to the CoC Shelter.

Upon discharge rooms are professionally sanitizing. The hotel is aware of what we are using the hotel for, and they understand their role in the health and safety of these clients and staff.

Sanitation Project (Showers and Portable Restrooms):

Rebecca reported that HIP was very fortunate that the Board of County Commission approved funding for the sanitation project. The County is providing fully functional portable restrooms and mobile showers six (6) days a week.

Showers are provided in Pompano, the Fort Lauderdale Vision of Hope Church, and the west part of the state with Showering Love in Dania, Davie, Miramar, Plantation, and Hollywood. We have some other locations where Showering Love will be going, two places in one day. The project has provided over 400 showers at this point and they are out every single day, thanks to Dr. Greer and his crew, and Jeanie and her crew. They are doing a magnificent job.

Permanent Housing:

This is an update on our permanent housing capacity. Rebecca explained the methodology on how HIP determines how many units can be operationalized depending on the funds available. It takes approximately \$20,000 to house an individual annually. The current funding the County, HUD and DCF for permanent supportive housing, supports approximately 988 to about 1,000 possible households. The capacity is currently at 96%.

HUD issued a memo that allows for waivers on certain regulatory issues to be set aside for six (6) months from the date of that memo (March 3, 2020). All providers, except for one, decided to take advantage of the HUD waiver. This allows several regulatory requirements to be waived such as housing inspections during this time period.

Encampments:

Unfortunately, the east side of the library, has returned to a place of gathering for individuals experiencing homelessness. The county has made efforts to power wash that area every day.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has made it clear not to disrupt encampments during this pandemic. We are actively working to house the people on the east side of

the library. Several referrals for housing have been made. TaskForce is in touch with the individuals daily, if we have a phone number or other contact information.

The encampment out of Pompano is still there. There is an encampment now in Miramar and Davie. There is a smaller encampment down by the Performing Arts Center and there is still the group on Federal and 17th Street Causeway.

Mr. Darrell Cunningham reported about three months ago when we began to realize that this was becoming a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, staff contacted providers to discuss contracts and ensure any taxonomies needed to assist with contract utilization could be added.

Mr. Darrell Cunningham also stated, we are doing an analysis of the April 2020 invoices to ensure our providers are supported and able to bill and provide services.

Senator Rich also added that this has been done across the Human Services network. Many providers of mental health, child welfare, were having issues with flexibility. Human Services talked with all the providers and they have been able to change and update some of the taxonomies.

2020 NoFA:

Rebecca reported that the 2019 award took a very long time for the County to get the award letter. The award letters came in two phases. Tier one (1) awards are those we are most likely guaranteed. Tier two (2) are those projects that are generally in jeopardy.

One project was defunded this year. It was Covenant House's Independent Living Program. Rebecca has been talking to their CEO about support and other funding streams. The County submitted two bonus projects that totaled almost \$550,000, one through the Salvation Army, which is permanent supportive, and the other was through Broward Housing Solutions, that was permanent supportive. Neither of those bonus projects were funded as well.

HUD may extend the 2019 NoFA awards and may not release a new NoFA for 2020.

We were contacted about two or three weeks ago by the City of Fort Lauderdale. You may have read the City of Fort Lauderdale has placed about 111 adults and 4 children in hotels and so they have approached us to help them with an exit strategy. We have talked with Mr. Hal Barnes to facilitate a process for discharge.

Senator Rich asked Rebecca to report on some changes with Rapid Re-housing because of the longer time frames that people are needing to stay. Rebecca reported that traditionally depending on the need, the term "high barrier/low barrier" were used. A couple of years ago we started to phase that out and basically, it is a case-by-case based on need HIP is working closely with our partners and our providers to ensure that their

budgets stay on track. We started to give them ranges of people to serve instead of, "You must serve XX families."

Greater Good:

Senator Rich stated she is going to be focusing, on our budget process in the county. The County is beginning workshops with the individual agencies like BSO. She will focus on trying to keep what we have for Human Services for homelessness. Maintaining a stable budget will be the goal.

Reneise McNeal asked a question regarding section 8. She wanted to know when trying to help individuals with housing. "How do I find out who, or which of these agencies did request the waiver and who did not?"

Response: It really depends on who funds the Section 8. It is totally up to the Housing Authority if they decide they wanted to move forward with waivers or not.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

United Way Broward County Business Council on Homelessness

Lynne Wines reported that the Business Council on Homelessness has really been focused for the last two months on supporting our partner agencies providing meals, organizing and coordinating with the restaurants that have been supplying meals at significantly reduced prices and delivering masks and water. Due to COVID 19, they have not been unable to focus on fundraisers, but they are doing the best to support our partner agencies.

Maria Hernandez reported that her agency has been supporting many of the agencies with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies that are needed. This started at the beginning of the pandemic. In addition to that, they have increased outreach for the homeless veterans

Ms. Hernandez reminded everyone that resources are available at United Way to house veterans.

Homeless Providers Stakeholders Council:

Jo-Ann Anstett, (CoC-Chair), reported that meetings have not been held in April or May. A meeting virtual meeting is being planned in June. An update was sent out mid-May requesting nominations for a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the Homeless Providers and Stakeholders Council to take seat as of October 2020. We are accepting nominations via email through July 14, 2020, with voting to take place in August at our meeting. There will be no meeting held in July, which is typical for the Homeless Provider Council.

Good of the Order:

Rebecca McGuire reported for the record, the County Attorney's Office has asked her to ensure the board meeting is for general purposes absent any voting or approval of minutes. Currently, we did not have anybody from the public to submit a request to speak form. She passes it on to the Senator, for any closing remarks and adjournment.

Adjournment**Next Meeting**

**The next meeting will be on June 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
Governmental Center Room GC430**