



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  
December 4, 2019  
FINAL MINUTES**

**Time Called to Order:** 9:30 a.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 11:32 a.m.

**Location:**

Governmental Main Library 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Minutes by**

Susan Malek

**Members Present:** **Senator Nan Rich**, CoC Chair; Commissioner District 1; **Melida Akiti**, South Hospital District, CoC Rep.; **Jo-Ann Anstett**, Homeless Providers Stakeholders Council (HPSC), CoC Rep.; **Howard Bakalar**, CoC Vice-Chair, Advocate for the Homeless, **Jennifer Bullock**, Women in Distress, CoC Rep.; **Tom Campbell**, Ex-Officio, Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc. (BPHI), CoC Rep.; **Sandra Einhorn**, Advocate for the Homeless, CoC Rep.; Rep.; **Luke Harrigan**; Faith Based Representative, CoC Rep.; **Caryl Hattan**, Broward County Housing Council, CoC Rep.; **Maria Hernandez**, United Way, CoC Rep.; **Mason Jackson**, CareerSource Broward, CoC Rep.; **Robin Martin**, Advocate for the Homeless, CoC Rep.; **Reniese McNeal**, Formally Homeless, CoC Rep.; **Carole Mitchell**, School Board of Broward County, CoC Rep.; **Silvia Quintana**, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC), CoC Rep.; **Captain Scott Russell**, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), CoC Rep.; **Commissioner Benjamin Sorensen**, City of Fort Lauderdale, CoC Rep.; **Steve Werthman**, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community; Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds recipient Hollywood designee, CoC Rep.; **Cathy Stutin**, Fort Lauderdale Chamber, CoC Rep.

**Member via Phone:** None

**Members Absent:** **J. David Armstrong**, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, CoC Rep; **Dwayne Chung**, City of Hollywood Police, CoC Rep; **Jamie Costas**, Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLDP), CoC Rep.; **Tiffany Garcia**, Broward County Housing Authority (BCHA), CoC Rep; **Lee Ghezzi**, Broward Health, CoC Rep.; **Yvette Lopez**, Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipient CoC Rep; **Danny Osley**, Formerly Homeless Representative, CoC Rep.

**Guests Present:** **Keith Cavanaugh**, Broward Outreach Center; **Jessica Abou**, Broward Regional Health Planning Council (RHPC); **Lilly Gallardo**, The Salvation Army; **Jaid Jones**, Hope South Florida; **Gisselle Williams**, Hope South Florida; **Lorraine Wilby**, Taskforce;; **Anthony Ginsberg**, Voter Participation Project; **Richard Campillo**, resident; **Lynne Wines**, Broward Business Council.

**Staff Present:** **Ricardo Moore**, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); **Lina Silva**, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP); **Lorraine Gary**, Homeless Initiative Partnership; **Bob Cook**, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP); **Andrea Webster**, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP); **Rebecca McGuire**, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) **Stuart Rakowsky**, HMIS; **Sandy Steed**, County Attorney's Office (CAO)

**Call to Order:** Senator Nan Rich called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Elizabeth Ortega (HIP) completed the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Approval of October 23, 2019 Draft Minutes

**First:** Sandra Einhorn

**Second:** Howard Bakalar

**Declaration of Conflict:** None

**Discussion:** None

**Result:** Passed

**CoC Board Chair Report:**

Senator Rich reported for the first time we are going to have a representative on the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. It's one of our own, Sandra Einhorn. The Governor has appointed her to serve on that board.

Senator Rich mentioned the Landlord Recruitment Breakfast at the Signature Grand on November 21, 2020. There were about 25 landlords acknowledged at the event. Richard

Vogel received an award for his assistance and facilitation of the donation to providers from Pier 66. It reflects well on the community to see people contributing in this manner.

Senator Rich reported she participated in a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Monday, December 2, 2019, with a developer from Miami Dade, Continental Development Holding. They will be building 90 individual homes and townhomes in the Broward area. The Senator met several subcontractors at the event who are active in the community. This is a great example of building social responsibility.

Senator Rich traveled to New Jersey to accept the *Culture of Health Award* from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Others who attended from Broward County included; Dr. Paula Thaqi, from the Department of Health, David Watkins from Broward County Public Schools, Kimm Campbell, the Deputy Administrator of Broward County, Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, CEO of the Children's Council, and Scott Strawbridge. The application process was extensive and there were 200 applications nationwide. The Broward group was one of five winners and the largest community. Broward has 1.9 million people versus Sitka, Alaska and Gonzalez, California, who each have a population of about 8,000 people. The one theme among the five honorees was the lack of affordable housing in their communities.

Senator Rich met with the Broward delegation on December 3, 2019, to go over the 2020 legislative priorities for the County. The number one priority in the legislative package for Broward County is affordable housing. Additionally, there is support for a local bill to authorize the County Commissioners to levy a discretionary surtax for affordable housing. This is similar to the Miami- Dade County surtax.

Rebecca McGuire introduced Bob Cook who is the new Contract Grants Administrator Senior.

## **Community Reports**

### **Business Council on Homelessness**

Lynn Wines with the United Way Broward Business Council on Homelessness reported a continued interest in the business community's regarding homeless issues. They were granted \$750,000 from the City of Fort Lauderdale. They are working closely with partner service providers to determine how the funds are allocated and best used. The focus is moving from some of the ancillary services initiated last year, to housing.

They are working to do outreach to the faith community and to develop a partnership with Coral Ridge Presbyterian and First Baptist. They have supported Community Court and are continuing to learn more about homeless issues and work more closely with Rebecca McGuire. They also continue to raise money.

Mason Jackson asked what the \$750,000 is going to be used for.

Lynn stated the Council members are working on allocating the funds and would like to spend more money on direct housing. They want to focus on families. They were talking

with the Children's Services Council regarding collaboration. Carol Mitchell is on the list to be called with what is going on with the schools. They have already housed nine families with 11 children.

They are also developing a plan for the elderly. Maria Hernandez and Lynn have talked about getting homeless elderly individuals housed. They are also trying to internally strategize on how to get some of the "chronic" homeless off the streets. They are working with the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority and meeting with other housing authorities in the County to see if vouchers can be obtained. Until vouchers are obtained, they can subsidize rent and services. They are looking at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Federal Highway and the bus terminal to see if we can make some inroads there.

**Senator Rich:** Previously you had someone that did landlord recruitment. Is anybody doing that at United Way now?

**Lynn:** We had two people.

**Maria Hernandez:**

One of the positions is funded by Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, which is mainly focused on finding housing opportunities for individuals with mental health conditions. The other is partially funded by a federal grant to house veterans. Every week we are sending a census of landlords out to providers letting them know how many apartments are available.

**Silvia Quintana** asked a question. There are a number of people who do not meet the criteria of literally homelessness. Is this money tied to the HUD definition or can the money be used for at risk homeless people who have not necessarily been on the street one year?

**Rebecca McGuire** clarified the definitions of homeless for various funding streams.

**Senator Rich** noted that general funds keep increasing from the County, which has more flexibility.

**Question:** Someone is in a hotel – how long before they are considered not homeless?

**Rebecca McGuire** responded that it depends on who is paying for the hotel. If it is the individual, they would not meet the criteria of homeless. If an organization is paying for the hotel, then they would be considered homeless.

**Howard Bakalar** noted individuals can lose your homeless chronic status after 90 days of being somewhere, hospital, etc.

**Sandra Einhorn** requested Lynn discuss more about how Broward's efforts are tied to the efforts of the CoC in terms of coordination and how that flows?

**Lynn Wines** directed that question to Maria Hernandez.

**Maria Hernandez** shared United Way has been having conversations about this issue. They are exploring the possibility of creating dollars just for prevention services. On Friday afternoon they got a mother and three children sleeping in a car. Staff had to get on the phone to housing in a hotel. Every week they get cases like that. It's critical for all to focus not only on housing. Those that are still in a hotel are homeless, the mother of three, of four, of six. There is a need to do something. They are working on a plan to allocate dollars for prevention for those specific cases because there are so many of them.

**Howard Bakalar:**

That was a mother who has a full-time job for years and was stuck in a bad situation. He asked how do we make those bad situations worse. It's that simple. The issue here is coordination. Howard made a call because someone had called him about a mother. He believes it was the day before Thanksgiving. She was on the street with two little children sitting on a bench in a park with all their belongings. There is a need to let people know when these calls where does staff go with it. How is there coordination so all are on the same wavelength.

**Lynn Wines:**

She related she gets calls, tweets, texts which she relates to Rebecca. They want to help everyone, but everything needs to go through a coordinated system. Everything gets forwarded to Rebecca.

**Rebecca McGuire:**

Rebecca stated there needs to be a mechanism for emergency situations. If you go through the old protocol you will not take care of that emergency.

**Senator Rich:**

She stated that is something that needs to be worked on together. Maybe there should be a subcommittee to work on this. There has to be a more coordinated process than just calling Rebecca.

Senator Rich wanted to highlight Fort Lauderdale. One of three items that was passed by the board two weeks ago, were three affordable housing developments in the County. The County put in a five (5) million-dollar in gap funds for each of those. Fort Lauderdale contributed five (5) million dollars. Pompano contributed 2.5 million dollars. Pembroke Pines also contributed.

**Howard Bakalar:**

He feels they could start getting into trouble from a political standpoint regarding facilitating entry points. Politicians may start seeing splintering or a strategy that is not cohesive. Different people doing different things. It starts being a challenge. Fort Lauderdale feels no other cities are stepping up.

**Lynn Wines:**

The reason everything is sent to Rebecca is for coordinated entry and coordinated effort. You must go through the system and wait. You can call the United Way on Friday and plead your case whether it be children or elderly, whatever the situation, and bypass the entire system. It doesn't matter what circumstances. They are all heartbreaking. One person on the street is one person too many. Everything needs to go through the system whatever the circumstances may be. She would hate for the group to create a separate system of sort of "cherry picking".

**Captain Russell:**

Our deputies run into that all the time. There is a hotel in Margate that has worked out a deal. That's something we are doing. These are all coordinated. He echoed Senator Rich that someone else besides Rebecca should be available. He tried many other things before going to Rebecca. The coordinated entry needs to be that portal all go to first when we have a complaint. Send Rebecca an email. She is really good at getting back even at the end of the day, not the next day.

**Howard Bakalar:**

Howard apologized for interjecting. He wanted to repeat something. He said a couple of meetings ago they were trying to come up with non-Rebecca pipeline since she was on vacation. They have been talking to the judges to get some of the eviction lists. If you can keep them in their place it's a lot cheaper than trying to get them out of the system. They are also talking with Family Success. They will come up with a coordinated approach of how to run things. He thinks all can agree it's disjointed based on who knows what. They want an approach of having money up front. They can be kept put of house or kept with a cousin or something. It's a lot cheaper than trying to get them out of a shelter.

**Rebecca McGuire:**

We are going to reconvene and send an email out to the coordinated entry work group. This would be a good topic for the coordinated entry work group. Her opinion is to take it first to the housing action to see what other action needs to be taken on the housing end and if it's increasing landlords or bridge for hotels. Then ultimately go to the PONG to be vetted and then presented to the CoC.

**Sandra Einhorn:**

This will be on there agenda. What type of timeframe?

**Senator Rich:**

Thank you

**Howard Bakalar:**

He would say 60 to 90 days.

**Senator Rich:**

There is a timeline. It will be on the February CoC. It will be going through the process in January and February. The meeting is going to move on to homeless provider stakeholder.

**Homeless Providers Stakeholders Council**

Joanne Anstett reported

Joanne and Tom have been chairing the committee for about a year and a half. They are pleased with the attendees and presentations that have been happening which is helping to update providers on some of the changes on programs that are available as far as emergency shelter and rapid rehousing programs. They have been really pleased that all the providers have come back afterward and helped with that. Make sure that all providers pick up a brochure. It is the homeless memorial. It is probably the shortest day of the year. This year it's on December 17, 2019. It is a great way to honor those individuals who have lost their lives while they were homeless on the street. It is a very moving presentation. Everyone is strongly encouraged to go. The flyer has the rest of the information. It is at the church of St. Andrews.

They are going to use the January meeting to do the appointment training. They are working to get volunteers for the 2020 PITs. They are looking for two site managers in the Margate area. If information is needed get with Joanne or Jessica.

**Committee Chair Reports**

**Performance Outcomes Needs and Gaps (PONG)**

The PONG will reconvene in January. There were not meetings in November or December.

**Consumer Advocacy**

Danny was not present.

Sandra Einhorn reported:

Sandra wanted to acknowledge Danny and the Consumer Advocacy committee. In November they had a very beautiful event. Sandra was thankful for use of the facilities. It was the fourth annual homeless symposium. There were about 70 people from the street that came. The office of Learning and Development facilitates the event with trained facilitators. They find out what is working in the system, what is not working and what could be done better. It's a good opportunity to tell them what we heard this year and what we were able to accomplish this year to close the loop. Darrell did a good facilitation of the myths on the street. There are still a lot of myths that there is a lottery to get a

shelter bed. They are hoping to put good information out on the street, and it will permeate around. It also gives an opportunity for individuals experiencing homelessness to bring topics they believe to be true and how our system works. This aids staff in assessing how to message this better.

## **Housing Action**

Tom Campbell reported

The next thing they are working on as a housing action committee is a landlord recruitment event that will be happening in January. He asked if there were dates for that.

Rebecca McGuire replied it's when the Panthers play the Kings. It will be at the Panthers' auditorium. It's a Thursday night. It may be the 16<sup>th</sup> or the 17<sup>th</sup>. All are challenged to bring people who have not been a landlord with the CoC. There will be a flyer. An announcement will be sent. The BB&T box is reserved. All can participate, not just providers.

Mason Jackson asked if there was a poster he could post on social media. Rebecca McGuire replied the Office of Public Communications is involved. The landlord brochure is being redone. An attempt is being made to put together a long-term media campaign everybody can put on their social media. Some of the real positive things being done will be showcased. The goal is mid-January.

## **Youth and Families Assessment**

Carole Mitchell reported.

Currently the primary focus in the point in time (PIT). A subgroup of the committee will work specifically on and discuss strategies for locating our youth that are desperately trying not to be found so they can be surveyed.

Homeless Youth and Families committee is meeting tomorrow in Lauderdale Manors Elementary campus. As of yesterday, there were 3,660 students identified experiencing homelessness. The breakdown is as follows: 137 are in preschool, 2,066 are in elementary school, 770 are in middle school, 687 are in high school, and 236 are seniors.

## **Update from Community Partnership Director**

Darrell Cunningham reported:

Mr. Cunningham reminded the committee to be aware of the Sunshine rules that all have to abide by. He knows that as the group is communicating and sharing, it's being done in the spirit of "Hey, but if you have a couple of individuals on it, that good intention is turned into a Sunshine violation".

The second item is this coming spring there will be a visit to a couple of services. Rebecca will be sharing some of the details and what those services involve. Last year we did a

bonus project with the committee. We're going to do a bonus project RFP. They are moving forward with the rollout of the service delivery model. Last year the models were started basically to set the standards that will apply to all to operate that. There is a rapid rehousing service. That means there will be a rapid rehousing project which could have multiple vendors, everybody operating under the same items.

The third item is the implementation a new provider policy. This is an attempt to prevent some of the issues that keep providers from coming forward to partner.

Darrell provided an update on the individuals from the encampment. The Family Success division has been providing supportive services. From an income perspective the average earned income while they were in the encampment was \$761. During the that increased by \$84. They had one person who had SSI reinstated. They had 12 individuals referred to the SOAR for the application and the benefits. SOAR is an expedited way for a homeless individual to get their social security. There is a difference between our earned and unearned income. Please see the attachment to the minute. Motivation helps them improve how they are able to get involved and engaged in their success. It measures mental health, as well as the support system which was important when digging into what some of the families are experiencing. There was a child who was able to have hip surgery. There was an adult rushed to the hospital for hypertension. If this collaborative project had not been done the last year would have been a lot worse for individuals. It's important to have this information. The information is received on a quarterly basis from supportive services. Two females and one male left to live independently. Three had full time employment. Two who were incarcerated started the program. The theme was a home for the holidays.

There was discussion about the ongoing issues on the east side of the library which lead to further discussion on panhandling.

## **New Business**

Rebecca McGuire gave a brief overview of the ad hoc committee reviewing the Governance Charter. The committee made recommendations. **Under tab 8** there are two (2) versions, one tracks changes and one is a clean version. The ad hoc committee recommended that every three (3) years there would be a new slate of officers. There would be a chair and vice chair for the CoC that would be voted on for their initial term. Annually it would be voted on for two additional subsequent terms. A chair and vice chair could serve for three (3) terms; however, it would be voted on annually as the checks and balance. The same thing would be for the PONG committee. This would be in the September meeting to take effect in the October meeting annually. For all other committees the sitting board chair would appoint the chair of each subsequent committee. That would happen annually. There could be two (2) subsequent terms. If the chair changed, then the chair would have the latitude to make that change. The attorney pointed out in the second paragraph that starts "Any appointed member of the CoC board is removed by the Board of County Commissioners for misconduct, incompetency or neglect of duty on its own motion" be struck in its entirety.

There was a brief discussion mostly agreeable.

**Motion:** Approve the Governance Charter as amended.

Motion: Mason Jackson

Second: Captain Russell

Discussion: None

Passed.

Discussion occurred around the Chair and the Vice Chair for the CoC.

**Motion:** Senator Rich and Howard Bakalar remain the Chair and Vice Chair of the CoC.

Motion: Captain Russell

Second: Silvia Quintana

Discussion: none

Passed

The ad hoc committee recommended Sandra Einhorn as Chair of the PONG and Maria Hernandez as Vice Chair of the PONG.

**Motion:** Sandra Einhorn will Chair the PONG and Maria Hernandez will act as the Vice Chair

Motion: Robin Martin

Second: Captain Russell

Discussion: There was discussion as to whether Sandra Einhorn has a conflict and can sit on the PONG. This discussion was about her role in her paid position. It was decided that the CAO would review and weigh in on this issue.

Passed:

### **Old Business:**

There was discussion regarding cold weather activation. Rebecca noted that there have been two cold weather activations this season and that the HIP staff work closely with the EOC to ensure decisions are made in a timely manner and in the best interest of those served. Further discussion centered around Extreme "Hot weather" issues. The board was reminded that there was an ad hoc committee who explored this issue and there were several issues that needed to be review prior to any possibility of implementation. The Committee needs to reconvene.

**Public Comment:**

Jade from Hope South Florida (HSF) addressed the board regarding the funding cuts to the HSF Day Respite. Questions were asked as to who was funding them and why the funding was discontinued. The funding source was the Business Council of United Way. HSF is reaching out to other faith-based organizations. There was also discussion about the outcomes and numbers served. There seemed to be some confusion regarding accurate numbers.

**Good of the order: None**

**Meeting Adjourned:**