

**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (HIP)
Homeless Continuum of Care Advisory (CoC) Board Meeting
February 27, 2019
FINAL MINUTES**

Time Called to Order: 10:05am

Location: Governmental Center East, GC-302

Time Adjourned: 11:19am

Minutes by: Ebony Dorcelus, HIP

Members Present: **J. David Armstrong** – Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Rep.; **Tom Campbell**, Ex-Officio – Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc. (BPHI) Rep.; **Sandra Einhorn** – Advocate for the Homeless; **Tiffany Garcia** – Broward County Housing Authority (BCHA) Rep.; **Vice-Mayor Caryl Hattan** – Broward County Housing Council Rep.; **Steve Hudson**, Broward Workshop Rep.; **Mason Jackson** – Career Source Broward Rep.; **Mark Korman** – City of Pompano Beach Rep.; **Robin Martin** – Advocate for the Homeless; **Danny Osley** – Formerly Homeless Rep.; **Silvia Quintana** – Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC) Rep. (via phone); **Senator Nan Rich** – CoC Chair, Commissioner District 1; **Captain Scott Russell** – Broward Sheriff’s Office (BSO) Rep.; **Vice-Mayor Benjamin Sorensen**, City of Fort Lauderdale; **Steve Werthman** – Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds recipient Hollywood designee Rep.; **James Whitworth** – Ex-Officio-North Homeless Assistance Center (NHAC)/South Homeless Assistance Center (SHAC) Rep. **Howard Bakalar** – CoC Vice-Chair, Advocate for the Homeless (via phone); **Maria Hernandez** – United Way Rep.; **Carole Mitchell** – School Board of Broward County Rep.

Members Absent: **Yvette Lopez** – Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipient Rep. **Jamie Costas** – Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) Rep.; **JoAnn Anstett** – Homeless Providers Stakeholders Council (HPSC) Chair;

Guests Present: **Marc Esko**, Consumer Advisory Council; **Linda Gutierrez**, NAMI Broward County; **Jacob Torner**; **Anthony Ginsberg**; **Dwayne Chung**; **Beatril Seuersor**; **Debbie Perry**

Staff Present: **Rebecca McGuire**, HIP; **Sandy Steed**, Broward County Attorney’s Office; **Ricardo Moore**, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); **Silvia Beebe**, Community Partnerships Division; **Odilanda Brito** HIP; Kenisha Bryant; HIP

Call to Order & Quorum: Senator N. Rich, Chair, called the meeting to order; E. Dorcelus completed the roll call and confirmed quorum.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION:** To approve January 23, 2019 minutes.
First: Vice-Mayor Benjamin Sorensen
Second: Steve Hudson
Declaration of Conflict: None
Discussion: None
Result: Passed

CoC Board Update: Commissioner Rich, reported a brief update on the new day respite center taking place at HOPE South Florida, located 1100 North Andrews Avenue, funded through the Broward Business Council on Homelessness. At the center there is a play area for children, computers, internet, living room setting; the center has a full-service operation set in place.

The day respite opened just one week ago and will be operating as a pilot in the meantime, with a soft opening. Currently all referrals for the respite center are only coming from the Homeless Helpline and TaskForce. HOPE South Florida is excited to be able to serve families in the community.

Commissioner Rich mentioned the new and improved Homeless Guide where you can follow the schedule of services including meals, showers, and outreach. The guide is arranged by the days of the week and the times during the day that the services will be offered. The services currently on the guide are meal sharing locations and mobile showers. Copies were handed out for the CoC Board Committee so that a discussion on ways the guide can be more accessible and easier to understand.

New Business:

A Way Home Plan 2018 – Certification by R. Martin

The *A Way Home Plan* needs to be certified and then certified annually by the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board.

At the PONG Meeting, there was a robust discussion around the *A Way Home Plan*, and the process. Ultimately, the *A Way Home Plan* was certified for the Department of Children and Families Request for Proposal Application. It now needs to be certified by the full CoC board. The *A Way Home Plan* reflects months of hard work and the combination of community involvement. The entire plan has been e-mailed out and there is also a two-page hand out with the major components concerning the Plan.

The PONG Committee made a modification to the plan by adding a 5th tenant for Employment.

R. McGuire gave a brief description of the process for the *A Way Home Plan*.

HIP staff worked diligently to get a real handle on what we fund, what we don't fund, and what needs to be funded. We also reached out to partners who may not necessarily consider themselves part of the regular CoC. HIP Staff reviewed substance abuse services, more supportive services, and other targeted services in the community, so that we could get an idea of where the gaps are. This information was provided to Regina Cannon and Robin Andrews the consultants from the Corporation for Supported Housing.

The **A Way Home Plan** speaks well about what is needed in Broward County from an affordable housing stand point. It becomes difficult to house individuals experiencing homelessness with all the HUD requirements due to the lack of affordable housing units. The units must meet rent reasonableness, fair market rent and pass the housing quality inspections.

Four focus areas that were concentrated on:

Coordinated Entry

How are we getting individuals into the shelter?

How are we getting families into the shelters?

What does that look like?

What are the barriers that we're addressing?

When we send a referral out to a housing provider and it is declined, what happens?

Where did they go?

There will be some meetings that are forthcoming to look at how we can streamline even more if possible, the entry into shelters.

Shelter System

The document states we do not have enough back-end permanent supportive and rapid rehousing to support the amount of shelters that we have. HIP Staff is currently re-looking at the priorities and the funding, housing has been discussed for the last few years. The discussion should be around what type of housing does that look like.

Housing First

What do we see as the barriers of our system to housing first?

What do we see that needs to happen?

Do we think that paradigm shift is how we conduct our business?

How do we operationalize things so that we can generally start moving more to that housing first?

HMIS System

Well Sky is the HMIS service provider.

ServicePoint is the platform for the Homeless Management Information System.

Every CoC is required to have a Homeless Management Information System. The HMIS manager is currently looking for different platforms to ensure that we maintain accuracy and have all the components needed.

There will be focus groups created to see what updates in data are needed to be able to pull information without gathering 5 or 6 reports.

M. Jackson made a suggestion about the importance and the needs of jobs. The plan needs an employment section and there needs to be a fifth pillar here that talks about how we're going to get these folks jobs. The US Interagency Council on Homelessness says that the discussion about jobs needs to start at intake and it needs to be reinforced along the way.

S. Quintana suggested that the committee starts a focus group that can navigate the proper process of the 'How To'.

To approve certification of the A Way Home Plan as presented by CSH to our board.

Motion: Commissioner Nan Rich

Second: Carole Mitchell

Result: Passed

Introduction of new HIP Staff, Kavaja Sarduy by R. McGuire

R. McGuire introduced new Human Services Manager, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP).

The board welcomes Kavaja Sarduy to HIP

Old Business:

Update on Encampment presented by R. McGuire, HIP:

All the clients are out of hotels and are moved to apartments.

There are a few of the clients still in temporary apartments due to identification and citizenship issues which the case managers are working to help clients resolve. The Family Success Administration Division (FSAD) staff is continuing to case manage and revisit the type of case management that needs to increase.

There has been concern about smaller encampments "popping up". Staff is looking for opportunities to bring providers and law enforcement together who has anything to do with street outreach. A group is working on a definition for encampments for Broward

County. We have provided an email address to the City and County Commissioners to provide a vehicle for them to report community concerns about individuals experiencing homelessness. We have an email address that we check frequently throughout the day "homelessinitiativepartnership@broward.org".

We're going to try and be as proactive as possible. Feel free to send information to that email address.

The Point -in -Time Count Report is due to staff at the end of March.

New Housing and Urban Development awards from the 2017 NoFA by R. McGuire

HIP staff has been working to execute BCHA SHIED and BPHI Broward V projects. There was a discussion regarding match and the burden it has on all organizations. The suggestion regarding workshops was brought up.

We are grateful to be able to get the match because that would have been 34 households not housed and \$653,000 not coming to Broward County.

We are thrilled to be working with BCHA and BPHI to get them online as quickly as possible.

Additionally, we're working to figure out how our priority ranking tool will look, because again this will be another brand-new project that does not have a lot of data. This tool will be presented to the PONG in April and the CoC in April.

HMIS Data Report by R. Moore

We want to start improving more to identify the challenged areas that need improvement. There was great feedback during the PONG Committee that we're going to make some adjustments and some more communication that is needed for data and timely tracking of the report entry.

Committee Reports/Updates:

Reports attached to meeting packet and are readily available at <http://www.broward.org/homeless/Pages/Default.aspx>.

The goal is to have no more than 4 meetings.

The AD Hoc Central Action Fort Lauderdale Committee be sunset.

Motion: Robin Martin

Second: Mason Jackson

Discussion: Storage still needs to be discussed

Result: Passed

Committee members will discuss other ways to better access the Homeless Guide with Kavaja Sarduy other than the app that was discussed.

Homeless Providers No Update
Stakeholders
Council:

**Adjournment &
Next Meeting:**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:52am; next meeting will be held on March 27, 2019.