



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

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**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CONSUMER ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
November 4, 2019
DRAFT MINUTES**

Time Called to Order: 10:04 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:59 a.m.

Location: Governmental Center Annex, A-337

Minutes by Elizabeth Ortega (HIP)

Members Present: **Danny Osley**, Chair, Formerly Homeless CoC Board Representative; **Marc Esko**, Consumer Advocacy Council; **Reniese McNeal**, SunServe CoC Board Representative;

Guests Present: Natasha Grant, Department of Children and Family; **Anthony Ginsberg**, Voter Participation Project.

Staff Present: **Kavaja Sarduy**, (HIP); **Lorraine Gary**, (HIP); **Elizabeth Ortega**, (HIP); **Francisco Jimenez**, (HIP)

Welcome & Introductions: **Danny Osley**, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and All in attendance introduced themselves. A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes for October 2019 meeting.
First: Danny Osley
Second: Marc Esko
Discussion: None
Result: Approved

New Business:

A. Annual Homeless Symposium

Lorraine Gary gave her update on the Symposium.

Mr. Osley stated from the minutes of the last meeting, we had suggested that we would ask all questions and diversify by table. I don't know how many tables

we will have. Each table would get a different set of questions. IF we get a good turnout like in the past some tables may have the same questions. At least three or four questions per table. We would try and get the maximum amount of information. I took all the questions for the last two years and combined them.

Lorraine Gary presented the first question, is where did you go when you first became homeless? Is it relevant to ask a question? Did people anticipate being homeless. Did they try to do anything before hand? Did they seek services to help them not cross that line? Does that make sense to ask that kind of question? There are agencies I am learning that do help people that anticipate they are on the verge of becoming homeless. Would that be a first question rather than what did you do when you first became homeless.

Mr. Osley responded; the question is quite relevant. People become homeless due to circumstances. There are things we do before it happens. There are people that will call. The most popular would be Peers. They are in a situation where rents were not paid. People tend to go there first because it is well known. Mr. Osley was referring to FSAD a County agency that helps with rental assistance. It gives an opening to what services you know about.

Francisco Jimenez stated It does make sense to start with that one. If you go down to question 9. If you want to reorder the questions and make sure they are directed in that way, please feel free.

Also Mr. Jimenez made an offered an edit for the first question. Do you have the knowledge or get the knowledge of where to go to get services when you first became homeless? Then we can make references there to question number nine. What helped you to not become homeless. If it did not work out, we understand you are here but do you know where to go first. That's the first question to get the services. What happened then.

You want to move question number nine up?

That would be clever if we could do that.

After question number three.

After question number two. That would be the third question.

That is assuming that each one of the tables is going at the same questions.

They will.

I thought there was going to be different questions.

No

The first question is where do you go and do you know where to go.

The second is how do you know where to go.

The third question would be number nine.

Depending on the number of people you break up the questions. This year each table will have the same. We will just merge the information.

How many questions at each table? All twelve of these?

Yes. I don't know if we will have twelve tables. Last year we had nine or ten. Some people may get extra questions. I'll meet with Mona after we get the questions solidified today.

Mr. Osley asked if there were any other responses to the questions?

Hearing none we will move on.

Invitations – how is that going?

We have a collective from South Florida Wellness. I asked everyone to confirm by today. LifeNet is confirmed. Second Chance is confirmed. TaskForce and Voter Participation are confirmed.

Mr. Esko asked if South Florida Wellness has confirmed. Mrs. Gary responded they are tentative and will let me know who will be attending

What are your expectations for these groups?

We're going to set them up in the front as people wish to engage them. We will make the announcement who is here. Maybe we can give them a few minutes to talk about what they do. People can come see them before the activity.

Do you want to do that afterwards?

I asked Mona if that would be disruptive. It will be in the same room. There will be a lot of chatter going on at the same time. That does not concern me. We are supposed to have HIV testing and perhaps Hepatitis A. The Health Department will be there. DMV may bring out their ID mobile. I will check with Rebecca.

B. CoC Board Appointment:

Reniese welcome aboard.

What does the COC Board do?

Most Federal funds try to have planning in different levels. They serve as an advisory board for the funding. It's a collection of homeless service providers affecting people who make policies – to direct policies, define needs, fill in gaps.

They get information from other committees, look at it and edit it for more efficient use.

C. Old Business:

A. Mr. Osley went on 10/18 to Broward Housing Solutions. He reported he was astonished to hear they have a wait list of ten years. The person on the street has to be engaged with a case manager. You have to have a site diagnosis. There was eight low income housing per 100. It was very minimal. You wait ten years at Broward Housing Authority. I am surprised to hear this. This has been going on for thirty years. I was on the list in 2000 and did not get called until 2010. Then I was on the Shelter Care Program.

B. Tabled for new year:

After the symposium there will be a report. I want to see this committee answering to the PONG committee. What is happening in the silos? You need to know what is going on out there. That is the kind of thing we need to structure.

D. Coffee & Conversation:

Michael Stanislaus attended Coffee and Conversation. No topic was presented that was relevant to the homeless situation.

Lorraine Gary recommended the next project the committee work on be recruitment and committee structure.

Mr. Esko asked "what kind of incentive are you going to give them? Broward Behavioral Health can do it. Why can't the County do it?"

I will look into it again.

I'm willing to go and speak up. I am a consumer. Use me to say things.

We'll put together a plan.

Mr. Osley the need for election of a new Committee Chair. I was looking at January. Do you want to meet next month?

We have to narrow how long the chair serves. I am learning through research.

I voluntarily took over.

Adjournment &

Next Meeting: Mr. Osley adjourned the meeting at 10:59 am; next meeting will be held on January 6, 2020.