



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

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**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CONSUMER ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
October 7, 2019
FINAL MINUTES**

Time Called to Order: 10:02 a.m.

Location: Governmental Center Annex, A-337

Time Adjourned: 11:05 a.m.

Minutes by Jose Melendez (HIP)

Members Present: **Danny Osley**, Chair, Formerly Homeless CoC Board Representative; **Marc Esko**, Consumer Advocacy Council; **Thaizjae Bertram-Hepburn**, Covenant House Florida.

Guests Present: **Michael Stanislaus**, Covenant House Florida;

Staff Present: **Mona Gordon**, Human Resources; **Kavaja Sarduy**, (HIP); **Lorraine Gary**, (HIP); **Jose Melendez**, (HIP);

Welcome &

Introductions: **Danny Osley**, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 and All in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of

Minutes: Approval of Minutes for August 8 and September 9, 2019 Meetings
First: Marc Esko
Second: Danny Osley
Discussion: None
Result: Approved

New Business:

A. Annual Homeless Symposium

i. Site Tour Update

Lorraine Gary gave her update on the Symposium:

- Ms. Gary visited Hope South Florida, location of the symposium.
- Hope South Florida has an old church area where the event will happen. The room will have the resource representative's setup on the "pulpit" area.

- The facilitation group would be placed in a nearby room similar to last year.
- The event will be a single session of both sheltered and non-sheltered individuals.
- Hope South Florida has the capability of going out into the community and pick up non-sheltered individuals and bring them to the symposium.
- The Date of the Annual Homeless Symposium was decided to be November 20, 2019 from 10 am to 12pm.
- A sample letter was created inviting agencies to participate in the symposium. Agencies considered are Taskforce Fore Ending Homelessness, Voter Participation Project, Second Chances and Lifenet4families. Mr. Marc Esko recommended that we approach South Florida Wellness Network in an effort to add additional peer support staff specialists. Mr. Esko will provide contact information to Ms. Gary.
- Hope South Florida now has a day respite for families, which means that this year space available will be less than previous years.

ii. Overview of Facilitation for Symposium

Ms. Mona Gordon from Broward County Human Resources did an overview of facilitation for the Annual Homeless Symposium to the Committee. Ms. Gordon manages a group of Broward County facilitators. At the symposium, the facilitators will speak to everyone that participates in a big group setting. That large group is then broken down to smaller groups. The small groups consist of 7 to 10 participants with 2 facilitators per group. They are separated by sheltered or unsheltered and are asked five questions. The raw data is collected from those groups and anyone that needs additional or specialized assistance gets referred to Homeless Initiative Partnership.

Lorraine Gary presented the group with a list of 12 proposed questions for the symposium. Ms. Gary asked Ms. Gordon if it was possible for each small group work on distinct set of questions from the 12 proposed. Ms. Gordon stated that yes it was possible, and you can even include some overlap. Ms. Gordon in her experience stated that the applicants are not accustomed to this type of environment and 5 questions is the maximum that should be asked per group.

Mr. Thajizae Bertram-Hepburn, Covenant House Florida, commented on the questions provided. Mr. Bertram-Hepburn stated that question 7, "What do you think works well in the current homeless system?" was a good question all around. He had concerns on question 11, "Have you been approached by Taskforce?" on the definition of the word Taskforce. He has never heard the term before, and he is confident that his peers at Covenant House have not heard this term either. Ms. Gary explained that the Taskforce is the first contact with individuals experiencing homelessness and it is the gateway to homeless

services.

Mr. Osley wanted to know what Broward County does with the raw data. Ms. Gary explained that the raw data is converted into information that tells the county where services are needed.

Mr. Esko will like to find a way to invite unsheltered persons that live in their vehicles and park at different Walmart's. Ms. Gary mentioned she would like to see individuals that live under the different underpasses attend. The obstacle is that there is no way to transport those folks from those specific locations unless they make their way to the bus terminal in Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Gary mentioned that Covenant House is the only outreach that targets youths and that there are many homeless youths that are not receiving services through the provider. Ms. Gary recognized that the continuum of care for youth is lacking and ways to reach unsheltered youths should be explored.

Ms. Gary asked the Committee to take a look at the questions and add contact her with any additional questions. The questions will be motioned for vote at the next meeting.

iii. Giveaways

Items like flashlights, first aid kits, sports bottle and bus passes will be put together in a bag as giveaways for all individuals participating in the symposium. The bags will be put together by the Homeless Initiative Partnership section. Hope South Florida will provide snacks at the symposium.

B. Committee Re-elections

Ms. Lorraine Gary reported to the Committee that a package for Ms. Reneise McNeal was submitted to the Commission to fill that CoC Board vacancy. An agenda item will be recommended to the CoC Board. A Trans-gender individual and a Head of Household individual are still needed to fill the remaining vacancies on the Committee.

C. Define membership description CAC Committee and composition

Ms. Lorraine Gary presented a new and updated Consumer Advocacy Committee overview to the Committee. In her research, she found items that were presented to the CoC board back in 1999 that was approved by the Committee, but there have been many changes since. She also found description of Consumer Advocacy Committee that was presented to the CoC Board in 2016. Ms. Gary was not able to determine if that description was approved by the CoC Board. This new Consumer Advocacy Committee overview goes over the make up of the Committee and responsibilities.

Under the "Member Profile" states that the Committee will comprise of 7 members and out of those members 75% will be currently or formerly homeless individuals. This allows persons who might not be currently or formerly homeless to participate as members in this Committee.

Mr. Marc Esko brought up the idea of offering \$25 stipend for attendees. This idea was presented to HIP administration but there has been no response. Also, a potential conflict of interest and conflict of funding was discussed. The Consumer Advocacy Committee can give bus passes to facilitate transportation to members of the Committee.

Under "Commitment" Mr. Danny Osley pointed out that serving on this Committee a 1-year commitment is required for non-CoC board appointees. CoC Board appointed members terms limits are outlined in the CoC Board Charter. Currently this Committee has no formal term limits and a recommendation that members serve a minimum of a year is being presented. Danny Osley wanted more clarification on how CoC Board members are appointed, a spreadsheet outlining this information will be emailed to him.

The document needs additional review and input from both the Committee and HIP administration. Discussion of any input will be an agenda item for either November or December Committee meeting.

Old Business:

A. Coffee and Conversation

Mr. Marc Esko attended the last two meetings. He reported that Nick, the liaison that was on leave, was back and they had a speaker for both evenings. On September 27, 2019 they had Sara Curtis from Family Success Center. On October 4, 2019 Mr. Esko was not able to stay at the meeting and did not capture who the speaker was. Mr. Danny Osley will attend the meeting scheduled on October 18, 2019. Mr. Esko will attend Friday October 7, 2019. Mr. Thaizjae Bertram-Hepburn along with Michael Stanislaus will attend on November 1, 2019.

B. Welcome Packet

This item will be tabled after the symposium to the December agenda.

Good of the Order:

- This Thursday is the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition Consumer Advisory Council meeting. Mr. Esko is inviting all present to attend.

Adjournment &

Next Meeting: Mr. Osley adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am; next meeting will be held on November 4, 2019.