



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

115 S Andrews Avenue, Room A360 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-8647 • FAX 954-357-8204

**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CONSUMER ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

September 9, 2019

DRAFT MINUTES

Danny Osley, Chair

Time Called to Order: 10:10am

Location: Governmental Center Annex, A-337

Time Adjourned: 11:04am

Minutes by Jose Melendez, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP).

Members Present: **Danny Osley**, Formerly Homeless CoC Board Representative; **Michael Stanislaus**, Covenant House Florida.

Guests Present: **Thaizjae Bertram-Hepburn**, Covenant House Florida; **Reniese McNeal**, Sunserve; **Marcus Hall**, Broward Sheriff's Office; **Anthony Ginsberg**, Voter Participant Project.

Staff Present: **Kavaja Sarduy**, (HIP); **Lorraine Gary**, (HIP);

Welcome &

Introductions: **Danny Osley**, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 am and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of

Minutes: No official motion was made for the approval of minutes.

New Business:

A. Report Information collected from "Coffee and Conversation"

Danny Osley attended the events held on August 8, 2019 and August 16, 2019. The event coordinator is out so for both events the attendees took part in games. The coordinator is expected to be out for at least three more weeks. Mr. Ginsberg did a presentation on Hurricane Preparedness a week before Dorian was supposed to affect our area. Mr. Ginsberg reported that the interim coordinator is lining up speakers for September and October events.

B. Discussion on Dorian and the Homeless

The County funded shelters located in Pompano and Fort Lauderdale active the Extreme Weather Protocol Monday, September 2, 2019. The shelters were open due to the uncertainty of the storm and concern for any unsheltered individual that needed a place to go.. Law enforcement aided by picking up unsheltered individuals and dropping them off at the one of the three shelters. The North HAC had eight individuals looking to shelter on Sunday September 1, 2019 and eighteen people on Monday, September 2, 2019. The Central HAC took in over fifty individuals. Salvation Army in Fort Lauderdale was the “rally point” for the homeless to gather during a storm and individuals were transported to the other shelters. Pompano lacks a rallying point. The North HAC was mentioned as possible “rally point” for Pompano, but they lack the infrastructure to move individuals to the different shelters. Mr. Osley would like opportunity to discuss further.

C. Annual Homeless Symposium

The Fourth Annual Homeless Symposium is designed to gather needs assessments data from homeless individuals. The event is facilitated by County trained professionals. The symposium was held at Hope South Florida’s offices last year. Lorraine Gary will meet with Hope South Florida on September 11, 2019 to secure that location for this year’s event. The Main Library is being considered as a secondary location.

The Committee is looking for ideas to have at the symposium’s resource area. A voter registration event is being considered. Some ideas presented were having members of the Taskforce present, a representative that can provide job resources, general informational resources like how to obtain identification.

For Giveaways, a bag with a bus pass, hygiene kits, first aid kits, manicure sets and a flashlight were suggested. Last year Hope South Florida provide a continental breakfast, as well as snacks. They also provided lunch. No date has been set for this year’s event. . Last year they had two sessions. The sessions were a maximum of 50 individuals each. The morning session was comprised of unsheltered individuals and the afternoon session was comprised of sheltered individuals. The Committee need to make a decision by the next meeting if they are going to follow the same format.

Attendees to the symposium will have an opportunity to answer questions about homeless services. Some of the questions listed are:

- What services have you used in the community to assist you with your homelessness?
- What do you need to resolve your homelessness?
- What would you like to see improved in the system of care?

The Chair would like to add the following questions:

- What have you done to bring yourself out of homelessness?
- What worked for you?

Asking more poignant question will lead to better choice for service delivery. Ms. Gary will get together with Dr. Rebeca McGuire to go over the questions. The Committee can be contacted with any questions that should be added.

D. Committee Reelections and CoC Board Positions

The position on the CoC Board for “formally Homeless“ Chair is appointed by the Vice-Mayor Hollness. If the Committee has a person in mind, they will present a motion during the Committee meeting. If the motion passes, the information is sent to Vice-Mayor Holness for review and in turn the name is submitted to the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Currently there is one seat open at the CoC Board for a current or previously homeless individual.

The membership for this Committee, which is not formally defined, have to be either currently or previously homeless. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting. A suggestion of 70% - 80% of members to be currently/previously homeless and 30% - 20% of members a from the community at large. This would help in getting consistent membership and does not alienate any individuals who wishes to contribute just because they lack the homeless experience.

Kavaja Sarduy reported on the efforts being made for the seat at the CoC Board that is currently vacant. She presented Reniese McNeal to the Committee as a potential candidate. Ms. McNeal spoke about her life and experiences and what has brought her to commitment to assist the homeless community.

Motion: Reniese McNeal as a recommendation to Vice-Major Hollness for his review and possible appointment to the CoC Board formerly homeless member vacancy.

First: Danny Osley

Second: Michael Stanislaus

Discussion: None

Result: Approved

Old Business:

Membership Recruitment-Strategy/Plan to recruit (Head of household and transgender)

There is still a need for both a Head of Household and a Transgender representation on the Committee. . Committee members are following up with potential candidates.

Lorraine Gary spoke to Dr. Rebecca McGuire about incentives that could stimulate participation in this Committee. Creating a welcome packet would be an effective way to help prospective informed on what the goal and purpose of this Committee is. Michael Stanislas, Lorraine Gay and Kavaja Sarduy will work together on this project.

Good of the Order:

ThaizJae Bertram-Hepburn is a current resident at the Covenant House Florida. He spoke briefly about his life experience. He expressed contentment in the both the efforts made by the Committee and information provided in this meeting.

Adjournment &

Next Meeting: Mr. Osley adjourned the meeting at 11:04 am; next meeting will be held on October 7, 2019.