



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

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**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Homeless Youth and Families and Shelter Providers Meeting
October 24, 2019
DRAFT MINUTES**

Time Called to Order: 1:45PM

Location: Lauderdale Manors Resource Center
1400 NW 14th Court, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Time Adjourned: 2:49PM

Minutes by Elizabeth Ortega, Homeless
Initiative Partnership (HIP)

Attendees Present: **Cierra Floyd**, BOC; **Brittany Burnette**, ChildNet; **Laura Saldana**, Lutheran Services; **Ellen Kendrick**, FSAD/HOP; **Gabriela Barros**, Broward County Schools; **Jessica Abou**, BRHPC; **Michael Francis**, BSO; **Melanie Gilson**, Broward College; **Toni-Ann Jones**, The Salvation Army Plymouth Colony; **Yushika Florence**, Handy; **Rashani Boynton**, Homes, Inc.; **Felisa Prieto**, YAA; **Sylvia Johnson**, Turning Point Tran SVC; **Toni Crooks**, Broward College; **Angela Vargas**, Family Central; **Miranda Gopaul**, Family Central; **Vanita Harrigon**, Census; **Derrick Franklin**, Broward County Schools; **Peggy Hood**, The Salvation Army; **Beverly Plummer**, BPHI;

HIP Staff Present: Lina Silva, HIP

Welcome &

Introductions: Carole Mitchell called the meeting into order at 1:45 p.m.

Approval of

Minutes: **Motion:** Approval of August 08, 2019 Minutes
First: Laura Saldana
Second: Brittany Burnette
Result: Approved

Discussion: The following changes were requested to be made on page 2 bullet point one (1) to change sentence to reflect the following: The chart presented showed some data elements school districts are required to report annually to the Florida Department of Education. In Broward County, a total amount of 5,445 students (Pre-K through 12th grade) across 293 schools (Public and Charter) have been identified as students experiencing homelessness at some point during the 18-19 school year.

Reports

Broward County Community Partnerships Homeless Initiative Partnership Update

Francisco Jimenez has joined the HIP staff as a Special Project Coordinator.

Broward School District Homeless Education Liaison (HEART)

Carol Mitchell updated the Committee on the HEART program:

- As of today, data pulled reflected we have 3,191 students (Pre-K through 12th grade) identified as meeting the McKinney-Vento act definition, officially registered in the Heart program. Of those, 124 are Pre-Kindergartners and 1,830 are in elementary school, which is almost 58% of the population identified. In middle school we have 646 students and 591 in high school.
- As for our children and youth who are not living with parents or legal guardians, we currently have 149. Of those, 100 are in high school and 66 are seniors.
- We have had some staff transitions in our Student Services Department.
- In our Heart Program we had Melissa Banner who has been a part of the program for many years has transition to work with Child abuse and neglect. Also, Selena Vonsil has transition to a community liaison position school based.
- We Welcomed Derrick Franklin, Broward Schools has joined the Heart Program.
- November is National Homeless Youth awareness month. We will have a resolution going before Broward County Schools.
- The annual sleep out is scheduled for November 21, 2019. You can sign up through the Covenant House. For more information visit the Covenant House website.
- The Heart Program will be hosting our 4th Annual Hearts for the Holiday event on Saturday, December 21, 2019. We host this event for 75 of our families which turns into 250 people. Life Net will be collaborating with us for the holiday event.

Guest Speaker: Venetia Harrigan, Partnership Specialist for US Census Bureau

Venetia provided information regarding the Census Bureau process and the importance of it. The Census is every 10 years.

Emergency and Transitional Shelter Census:

1. Broward Partnership for the Homeless (North) – At Capacity
2. Broward Outreach Center (South) – At Capacity
3. Broward Partnership (Central) – Call hotline for availability
4. Covenant House – Call hotline for availability
5. H.O.M.E.S. Inc. – At Capacity-Internship slots available for young adults between 18-21 years of age.
6. Salvation Army Level 1 – At Capacity
7. Salvation Army Level 2 – At Capacity
8. Susan B. Anthony – Not present
9. Volunteers of America – Not present
10. Lippman Shelter- Call for availability
11. Women in Distress – Call hotline for availability
12. Hope South Florida – Not Present
13. FSAD- Accepting referrals for Rapid Rehousing

We will have a standing agenda item from now until the PIT.

- For homeless youth / Point in time Count.
- Strategizing how we can better identify them and engage them through the process of completing the surveys.
- Brainstorming where we could find the youth.

Jessica Abou: BRHPC

- Provided information regarding the PIT Count Project.

- Created the volunteer flyer. We are going to be recruiting over 300 volunteers for the PIT count project. Volunteers can register on the website.
- We have multiple committee going on right now. Would also like to partner with this committee to strategize and get some feedback how to reach the youth in the PIT count process.
- Beginning in January there will be mandatory training provided. If a site has 10 or more volunteers, contact Jessica to coordinate the training being held at the site.
- Providers and volunteers can download the app to conduct the surveys.

Agency/ Organization: Workgroup members provide agency updates

Adjournment &

Next Meeting: Carole Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 2:49pm. Next meeting will be on November 7, 2019