



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
Homeless Youth and Families and Shelter Providers Meeting
August 08, 2019
FINAL APPROVED MINUTES**

Time Called to Order: 1:36PM

Time Adjourned: 2:50PM

Location: Children Services Council
6600 W. Commercial BL., Lauderhill, FL 33319

Minutes by Jose Melendez, Homeless
Initiative Partnership (HIP)

Attendees Present: **Francesca Laroche**, Broward County Library; **Eva Petit Frere**, Broward Partnership; **Cindy Alexis**, Broward Partnership; **Cierra Floyd**, BOC; **Brittany Burnette**, ChildNet; **Laura Saldana**, Lutheran Services; **Dr. Keisha Grey**, Children's Services Council of Broward County; **Angela Blaine**, City of Ft. Lauderdale; **Nina Hauser**, HEART; **Meibys Milian**, HEART; **Katherine Perez**, Memorial Healthcare; **Keith Cavanaugh**, BOC; **Mickey Singletary**, Hope South Florida; **Gabriela Barros**, Broward County Schools; **Lourdes Perez**, Women In Distress; **Danielle Ford**, Women In Distress; **Monique Thomas**, HEART; **Ashley Eubanks**, HEART; **Michael Stanislaus**, Covenant House FL; **Carole Mitchell**, Broward School District; **Toija Southerland**, Broward Partnership for the Homeless ; **Ashley Mann**, Broward Partnership for the homeless; **Ellen Kendrick**, Broward County Housing Option.

HIP Staff Present: **Lina Silva**, HIP; **Kenisha Anthony**, HIP.

Welcome &

Introductions: Carole Mitchell called the meeting into order at 1:36 p.m.

Approval of

Minutes: **Motion:** Approval of June 06, 2019 Minutes
First: Gabriella Barros
Second: Laura Saldana
Discussion: None
Result: Approved

New Business

Ms. Carole Mitchell began the meeting by talking about the handouts that were distributed to the Committee. The handout “We are Broward Immigration Support Plan” was distributed in Spanish. Ms. Mitchel will send an English version to the group as an attachment by next meeting.

The ultimate mission for this Committee , as noted by the agenda, was recited. The Mission, Vision and Values have been in development for the next year. They now align with Broward County’s Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) “A Way Home” plan as well Children’s Services Council strategic plan.

Reports

1. Broward County Community Partnerships Homeless Initiative Partnership Update

HIP is in the process of renewing their HUD grants through the Notice of Funding Approval (NOFA) process. There is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Bonus projects published online. The proposal is for permanent supportive housing programs for the chronically homeless.

2. Broward School District Homeless Education Liaison (HEART)

Gabriella Barros updated the Committee on the HEART program.

- A chart presented, shows the various categories that are required by the Florida State Department of Homeless Education program to capture how all districts performed across the state. In Broward County, a total amount of 5,445 students (Pre-k through 12th grade) across 293 schools (Public and Charter)are experiencing homelessness at some point during the school year.
- These students are 2% of the total student body population of 271,500. This is a 10% increase from the previous school year. The Free and Reduced Lunch rate is used as an indicator to determine how many students can be found as living in poverty, which puts them at a higher risk for homelessness.
- The homeless student identification rate set by the state is 5%, but nationally that rate can be as much as up to 10%. Broward County’s School District is currently at 4%. They are better identifying students living in transition which reflects an upward trend in the total numbers. Better identification will lead to a positive impact of those students by removing barriers that will hinder them from being successful.

- The chart divides the numbers per grade group along with percentages. More than half of the identified populations experiencing homelessness are Pre-school to Elementary aged children. 320 children were found to be unaccompanied, which means they do not live with either a parent or guardian. From the 320 students, 246 were in high school and from that 148 were seniors.
- 89% to 90% of students found experiencing homelessness are children of color
- Nighttime residence numbers are:
 - Doubled-up families (Families living with other family members or friends) 76% last school year;
 - 8% of families shows as living in hotels;
 - 515 residing in shelters; and
 - 357 were named as unsheltered.

Announcements

- The first day of school is August 14, 2019
- Frank Voehl stepped down as co-chair of this Committee . The chair is looking for an interested candidate. Please contact Carole Mitchell via email.
- Cierra Floyd is the new family case manager at Broward Outreach Center South.
- Broward County Library has some new pamphlets in multiple languages. The intent of the new pamphlets is to create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone, regardless of what language they speak.
- Broward Partnership for the Homeless has a new family case manager, Ashley Mann.
- Raymond Ballinger is the new Executive Director for Lutheran Services Florida. They are also looking for a Shelter Program Manager. They opened a new program Grace Place in West Palm Beach, which is 7 group homes for youth. They also have four beds at the Lippmann Youth Shelter for runaway homeless youth.
- The City of Ft. Lauderdale launched a food recovery program. The program is trying to register non-profit organizations. When items like food, clothes or furniture are found by the city, they in turn will contact the registered partners for pick up. Every Wednesday the city holds Community Court. This meeting is for community providers to come together and aid members of the public that

received a “Notice to Appear” by outreach officers for minor crimes. The City is also putting together a catalog of all the services provided within the city.

- Covenant House is looking for referrals.

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. – Not present
6. Salvation Army Level 1 – Not Present
7. Salvation Army Level 2 – Not Present
8. Susan B. Anthony – Not present
9. Volunteers of America – Not present
10. Lippman Shelter- Call hotline for availability
11. Women in Distress – Call hotline for availability
12. Hope South Florida – Send Referrals through Broward County Coordinated Entry and Assessment
13. BCHAFL – They are currently not receiving referrals.
14. FSAD- Accepting referrals

Good of the Order

Carole Mitchell and Dr. Grey meet during the summer and discussed the current version “Turn the Curve” report. The report is missing more data, including provider and partner’s names that need to be listed. Committee members were asked to look at the report and supply feedback. The intent of the “Turn the Curve” report is to serve as a blueprint for the Committee. A discussion on what goals should the Committee focus on will be based on what the report says. The report will be distributed before the next meeting.

Nina Hauser, from the HEART program, discussed a way to better streamline and help speed up transportation registration for students that live outside the boundaries of the school they attend. If a homeless student does not reside within the boundaries of their school, you will fill out the referral form and send it to HEART. The form is designed to create a bus stop that does not exist. When sending a referral, Ms. Hauser wants the providers to include their contact information as well as the child’s emergency contact information. Ms. Hauser provided all shelters with the transportation terminal phone numbers and requested that those numbers be shared with the care providers. These phone numbers are important to contact dispatch in case there is a transportation miscommunication. Please update HEART if the child is no longer at the shelter by sending an email with the child’s name and date of birth in order to cancel the correct bus stop. The response time of the referral form is between 10 to 30 days. The response will go to the case manager and it is the case manager’s responsibility to forward that information to the child’s care giver. When requesting out-of-boundaries transportation case managers should have a provisional plan in case the referral takes longer than

expected. Attendance is a key factor to provide services and care givers should be aware that it could affect the overall process. Transportation will pick up and drop off the student at their place of residence. Exceptions can be taken into consideration for drop off at different location. It is important that the application form is filled out completely to avoid any delays in services. Currently the application does not have adult female sizing for uniform choices. In the meantime, the application can be amended manually to request those sizes. The program may have other items in stock like toiletries, underwear, and shoes. The provider can make a note on the application of any additional need and HEART will supply them, if available.

The ArtReach program, from Young At Art Museum and hosted by the Sunland Park Academy, would like student's referrals. All the shelters have received applications from the Young At Art Museum for student enrollment. Currently ArtReach has a limited transportation area but will be rolling out new transportation options to support shelters that might be outside of their area. The Chair noted that ArtReach is not earmarked to handle students with extreme behavioral issues.

Adjournment &

Next Meeting:

Carole Mitchell adjourned at 2:50pm.
Next meeting will be on September 5, 2019.