



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

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**BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (HIP)
PERFORMANCE, OUTCOMES, NEEDS, AND GAPS (PONG) COMMITTEE**

**FINAL MINUTES
May 9, 2019**

Time Called to Order: 2:30 pm

Location: Governmental Center East, A-337

Time Adjourned: 3:52 pm

Minutes by: R. McGuire

Members Present: **Mason Jackson**, CareerSource Broward CoC Board Rep.; **Robin Martin**, Chair, Advocate for the Homeless CoC Board Rep.; **Scott Russell** Broward Sheriff's Office CoC Board Rep; **J. David Armstrong**, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Continuum of Care (CoC) Rep., and **Melida Akiti**, South Hospital District, CoC Board Rep.

Members Absent: **Sandra Einhorn**, Advocate for the Homeless CoC Board Rep.; **Silvia Quintana**, Broward Behavioral Health CoC Board Rep.; **Howard Bakalar**, Advocate for the Homeless CoC Board Rep.; **Luke Harrigan**, Faith Based, CoC Board Rep.; **Maria Hernandez**, United Way, CoC Board Rep.; **Steve Hudson**, Broward Workshop, CoC Board Rep.

Guests Present: **Marc Esko**, Consumer Advocacy Council; **Ricard Campillo**, Guest; **Lilly Gallardo**, The Salvation Army; **Alyse Gossman**, The Salvation Army; **Shira Fowlkes** Broward Regional Health; **Susan Coleman**, Broward Housing Solutions; **Tom Campbell**, Broward Partnership, **Jennifer Pimentel**, United Way, **Chania Somarriba**, Hope South Florida; M. Joseph, Hope South Florida, **Lynn Wines**, United Way, **Dr. Patrick Hardigan**, Nova Southeastern University

Staff Present: **Rebecca McGuire** HIP; **Ricardo Moore**; Human Services; **Andrea Webster**, HIP, **Pamela Prudent**, HMIS, **Kavaja Sarduy** HIP.

Welcome &

Introductions: R. Martin, Chair, called meeting to order, attendees introduced themselves, and quorum was confirmed.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Mark D. Bogen • Lamar P. Fisher • Beam Furr • Steve Geller • Dale V.C. Holness • Nan H. Rich • Tim Ryan • Barbara Sharief • Michael Udine
www.broward.org

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve April 11, 2019 Minutes.

First: Mason Jackson with noted amendments

Second: David Armstrong

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: Rebecca McGuire provided updates to the minutes that included the correction of Richard Campillo. The minutes corrected for March 2019 were posted back to the web after the agreed upon changes were made.

Result: Passed with corrections.

New Business:

a. "Point In Time" Presentation by Dr. Patrick Hardigan from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Hartigan provided a brief presentation of the "Point In Time Count" for 2019. He began by thanking all of those who helped out with the count. He continued by reminding the sub-committee that this is not a head count, but rather a convenience sample at a given point in time. He noted that this will never be an exact number of individuals experiencing homelessness, mainly due to the methodology outlined by HUD.

He emphasized that we need to focus on trends. As a one-year spike does not make a trend, although we do need to pay attention to it. This year the total count was 2,803 this included 1,359 of unsheltered individuals and 1,453 of sheltered individuals.

He discussed the increase over last year of 485 individuals. Although this is a concern several factors may have contributed to this. There were over 100 more volunteers participating in the count this year, we have two West locations, the VISPDAT was not administered this year, making the interaction with an individual much shorter and finally, the incentive to participate was a 7 day bus pass, which could have motivated individuals to take the survey. Additionally, the quality assurance process was quite stringent this year, so the number of survey's is correct.

Dr. Hardigan went on to discuss the ratio of sheltered to unsheltered is generally 1/3 to 2/3 which Broward appears to be trending toward. He discussed the unemployment rate as being the lowest in years, however, the poverty rate in Broward is quite high due to the cost of living and low wages. Dr. Hardigan reviewed the numbers nationally. The highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness appear to be in California.

Gender was consistent from previous years 60-70% tend to be males. Broward has been consistent over the past 5 years. The vast majority of individuals experiencing homelessness are 25 years and over. The number of veterans experiencing homelessness is in line with the national average at 7%-9% of the number of overall number of individuals experiencing homelessness. Dr. Hardigan went over the other categories, such as mental illness, substance abuse, HIV and domestic violence.

A discussion ensued about the cause for homelessness. On the survey which is self-reported the number one reason is employment. Either under employment or not employed at all. We discussed housing being tied into having employment. The two appear to be interconnected.

Dr. Hartigan ended with questions and stating that if the group wanted to have further information, to let either Rebecca or Dr. Hardigan know and he would be happy to provide that.

Mason Jackson asked how the CoC uses the data? The second question was more of a comment around waiting a year to address the increase in homelessness. The intent is that we will take action as we have 485 more individuals experiencing homelessness and we need to address this. However, the one-year wait would be to validate this year's data to see if indeed next year we maintain the increase.

The PIT Count numbers are used for HUD grants, DCF grants, and used as one element to help make informed decisions about funding and areas of need.

There were also questions around the individuals experiencing homelessness being transient. We had a question in the survey that asked, "How long have you lived in Broward County?", however that question was taken out. There was further discussion around putting the question back in or asking, "Where did you go to High School?" Concern was expressed as to why the question about how long you have lived in Broward County was removed. Robin Martin stated he remembered that there was discussion around the fact that the information was already gathered through other assessments.

Mason Jackson brought up the need for a more robust way to gather information on why individuals are not employed or under employed. He stated the National Statistics show at 40% of individuals experiencing homelessness are actually employed. Rebecca McGuire, HIP stated that the screening assessment in HMIS for Employment is ready for use and a training is set to review this with the providers.

New data, and information was requested to be presented at the Continuum of Care Board (CoC). These questions included, are there more sheltered or unsheltered veterans? Dr. Hardigan will also do an analysis to see if there are any sub populations that seem to be sheltered more than others. There was also discussion around families. Dr. Hardigan would need to review the raw data in order for him to draw more conclusions regarding families, youth, and children without parents.

There was a final question regarding the number of volunteers as compared to last year. There were 100 more volunteers in 2019.

b. Reallocation for Commission Approval (Motion)

Rebecca McGuire, HIP Administrator provided an overview of the spreadsheet that was handed out (**Attached**). The spreadsheet reflected those contracts who will be reduced and by how much. Please note all providers were made aware of the decrease in funding formally via a written notice and via a phone call. The increase was also reflected for The Salvation Army. These funds are to be used to add a program 2 to their current Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Contract to continue to serve those individuals in the encampment who are in RRH, so they do not return to the street. The Department of Children and Families Emergency Solutions Grant ends June 30, 2019, which was the current funding contract for this population.

There was discussion regarding the performance of those decreased. This reallocation was a result of underutilization only. There were questions about the case management. The case management supportive services will continue to be provided by the HOST team with Family Success Administration Division. There was also discussion around the use of funds and if not reallocated would be “swept”.

There were comments about underutilization of housing and that there is such a great need, it is concerning this happens. It was noted that is why the County is being proactive to reallocate funds, so they are not lost.

Mason Jackson asked The Salvation Army to share how the project is going. Lilly Gallardo, from The Salvation Army provided a brief update on the status of the Clients. Ms. Gallardo shared they would be providing ongoing rental subsidy to the Clients who exited the encampment. There was discussion about why the contract has not been seen by The Salvation Army as of yet. Rebecca McGuire shared that it is in draft and the County is awaiting approval to reallocate the funds.

There were questions about how many of the initial 32 households served under the original contract were now fully independent. Rebecca McGuire shared that there is the first group who will be fully independent by July 31, 2019, this may be about 10 households. The individuals were promised 8 months of subsidy at the beginning of being housed and the County is honoring that commitment.

At this point in the meeting the Chair, stopped guest (Lynn Wines) from asking questions as she is not a member and he wanted to ensure others had time for their questions.

The Chair stated the sub-committee could decide to not recommend the decrease of funding for any of the projects proposed, however he stated he would not propose that the committee do such. He also stated the subcommittee could recommend increasing a different program because we have lots of other programs and priorities. It was noted that this is a recommendation from “staff”.

Mason Jackson noted a discrepancy in the math. Rebecca McGuire double checked, and the dollar amount was corrected.

Motion: To approve the reallocation of funds from the noted providers on the spreadsheet to The Salvation Army. The amount adjusted with corrections to be reallocated is \$305,719.

First: Mason Jackson

Second: David Armstrong

Discussion: Prior to Motion

Result: Passed with corrections

c. DCF Notice of Intended Award

Rebecca provided an overview of the very quick Request for Proposal (RFP) process that occurred to enable the County to respond to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Office of Homelessness request. The entire package had to be submitted by March 29, 2019 to the DCF. Rebecca McGuire shared who applied for which funding stream. The Challenge Grant had one provider who responded for inclusion. This was Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc. (BPHI) for Housing Navigation Services. The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) had 3 providers respond. Hope South Florida for RRH, Women in Distress for Shelter Services and BPHI for Shelter Services. The Local Staffing grant is a noncompetitive grant that is given to the County for 1 Full Time Equivalent. There were no responses to the TANF grant which was \$71,000 in prevention funding. Broward County will not get any of this funding.

There was discussion around why no one applied for TANF funds. The Chair stated it most likely is not worth it due to the administrative burden. There was discussion around prevention services in the CoC. The services by Family Success Administration Division (FSAD) were discussed as the prevention dollars in the CoC.

The total intended award is for \$313,019 annually for the next three years. The question as to why the County asked for less than the last grant cycle was asked. The County was only allowed to apply for what the providers submitted, and they did not submit for the entire allowable amount. Additionally, the discussion around 100% match was brought up and that this is a burden to most nonprofits.

Rebecca McGuire also explained that in 2017 the DCF grant was combined into one Unified Grant instead of 4 separate grants.

Motion: *To accept the DCF funds.*

First: Mason Jackson

Second: Melida Akiti

Declaration of Conflict: None

Discussion: Prior to Motion

Result: Passed

d. General Funds RFP (Discussion of Transitional Housing)

Rebecca McGuire, HIP opened this discussion acknowledging that this would be a robust discussion. The topic had already been discussed with the provider, The Salvation Army. The County made a business decision early in the fiscal year to not put out in an RFP the Transitional Housing General Funds project. They instead put out the funds to be used for Rapid Rehousing which is permanent housing. This had been historically discussed. The Salvation Army's Transitional Housing contract is set to sunset in September of 2019. The RFP is currently published and out for bid. The County would retain the HUD transitional program.

The explanation was interrupted and robust discussion regarding the process. The Chair share his history with the issue of transitional housing and the County process. A guest from the audience, Lilly Gallardo spoke about her concerns in losing these funds.

The Chair stated that the "staff" made the decision to "defund" The Salvation Army's transitional housing. Efforts were made by Rebecca McGuire to correct for the record that the contract was Sunsetting and a different business decision was made by the County.

Robust discussion continued. Mason Jackson asked what the practical limitation of the loss of funding. Lilly Gallardo discussed that they serve 17 individuals in their building. There was clarification given regarding how long the average length of stay for an individual is in transition. Lilly shared it is 4 months. The Chair continued to ask what the impact was to The Salvation Army. Discussion continued with guests and members about RRH and how the CoC is doing in keeping individuals housed. Discussion then switch to how long does it take providers to house (get someone into a unit). The Chair shared 2 months. Discussed continued for clarity around if we are ending subsidy too soon. The issue is not about how many landlords, but about individuals sustaining housing. This lead back to the discussion for the need for transitional housing.

The discussion then focused on the process of the decision making. The Chair noted that no body of the CoC had voted on this or that this had been brought before for discussion. Committee members inquired as to why this was such a sensitive topic. Rebecca McGuire, HIP provided a brief explanation as to the history and discussion regarding transitional housing and the movement to phase it out. She provided the explanation from HUD and consultant's regarding the need to shift priorities to permanent housing.

The Chair provided history of the CoC's discussion around transitional housing and other decisions made by the County. Discussion focused on the use of volunteer's time and the process for decision making. There continued to be discussion around the role of staff and leadership. The sub-committee requested that Rebecca express

their concerns to leadership regarding the process of not having the opportunity to discuss the changes with respect to transitional housing. An offer to set up a meeting was made and declined. Members stated they had no problem picking up the phone and having a discussion with leadership.

Standing Items:

Ad Hoc Unfinished Business

Rebecca McGuire, HIP provided a spreadsheet of the items the Ad Hoc Sub Committee was addressing and the progress that had been made (Attached). Although there has been a lot of progress made due to the abatement of the encampment, there are still items pending. Those include storage for individual's belongings and the Enforcement of No Trespass Ordinance and tagging of properties. These will continue to need discussion as they are ongoing.

Discussion continued about whether to keep discussing these until resolution occurs or if we check in on them quarterly. The storage issue had more discussion as there have been some ideas tried and there are positive and negative outcomes. Suggestions were made about how to track our progress on these goals. Members wanted to keep the items needing resolution on the agenda. The Chair discussed a bigger issue of other gaps. Staff was charged with creating a scorecard/cheat sheet to track these unresolved issues.

No further discussion.

Adjournment &

Next Meeting: The Meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.

**The next meeting will be on June 13, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.
Governmental Center Annex
Room A337**