

**10.1.21**  
**Co-Chair Meeting**  
**10:30 AM via Zoom**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Blair Castro, Connie Bookman, Dr. Irv Williams, Marcie Whitaker, Ronnie Rivera, Lawrence Powell, Chandra Smiley, Allison Patton, Meredith Reeves, Jules Kariher, Travis Tompkins, Ashley Wilkinson Meyer, Jesse Wolfe

**Discussion on meeting with County Commissioners to have a orient them on the work of the task force to date and to discuss their desires and recommendations on and the upcoming of HOME/ARAP funds for homeless in our community**

Meredith- We should develop a consistent ask of our county commissioners

Dr. Williams- We should gather data together to show that this impacts their districts and that it is in issue that it concerns their constituents.

Michelle Salzman, launched her Mental Health Task Force and is collecting data from hospitals and other organizations; we should utilize this data, as well.

Travis Tompkins is updating data from the jails/public safety departments through a new software called 'Image Trend', which launches on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and will describe patient uses and write offs from those could not afford ambulance rides.

Eric Gilmore will provide a report once a month on EMS data for homeless individuals. Anytime EMS interacts with a patient and categorizes them as homeless, we will be able to pull that data such as the address, location, any anything from a medical chart that does not violate HIPPA.

More discussion on best ways to orient BOCC to the work of the task force -It may be wise to ask for a place on the agenda for Committee of the Whole on the topic. Keep in mind, there will have to be a public hearing concerning these HOME/ARPA funds to allow for community feedback of this funding, which might be a good place to discuss the work of the task force and how we gathered the information to provide to city council for ARPA recommendations.

Jules suggested that members email Connie about existing relationships with BOCC members, to help facilitate meetings and give background information- building relationships with them.

We will have a ROI (pulled from the data Travis provides) for each district prior to the meeting.

According to Meredith, HOME-ARP funds can be used for four eligible activities.

Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling

## Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter<sup>[P]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Meredith and Travis will visit each of the BOCC members to discuss these uses of HOME \$ and will mention that the Task Force will be reaching out to ask about their concerns, determine what's important to them; show data with ROI; and see how we can help.

John wanted to know if we could get dollar figures on cost of incarceration for people who are homeless and have been arrested for small crimes such as trespassing, etc. We could potentially tie this data into the medical data that Chandra has involving the ER and their high-risk medical patients.

### **Discussion on city ARPA recommendations and 2200 N. Palafox**

Since we made public ARPA recommendations on September 21st, we were able to bring in new partners. An investor has purchased the former Escambia County Clinic at 2200 N. Palafox, which previously flooded 6 times, the last in 2014. Since then, the city has completed flood mitigation. In the aftermath of 2014, the flood had half of the drywall removed. The ECC relocated to Jordan Street temporarily, but now they are at their current location on Jackson Street (Allie Ynietra school.)

This steel building sits on 3 acres and is a total of 17,000 square feet. Most of the 50 interior rooms are 10 x 10 or 10 x 12 sq. ft. - all are plumbed with sinks and has a fire suppression system in place.

Potential ideas for this location:

a centralized kitchen

- showers, washers and dryers much like Washburn Center on the other side of town
- a small medical unit with respite beds
- transitional housing for families
- intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment
- mental health counseling
- life skill classes
- vocational training
- legal services
- other social service agencies on site to provide homeless services

Next Steps: Connie to check with the zoning department to see if the building would support this kind of use; Marcie will put Connie in touch with this department.

We will want to involve the building official to see if any and all proposed uses will be okay prior to going too far with any plans, Marcie will also assist with this connection.

Ashley says that she had the opportunity to tour the space with Connie, Allison and other guests. The following day, she invited Melissa Johnson and her volunteer, Laura, to look around

the outdoor space. With the 15 ft. fence surrounding the perimeter, they said it feels like a safe space for workers and volunteers. Melissa and her team were very excited about the potential of moving campers who want services from I-110 to this location.

#### **Discussion on the city's acquisition of 50 W. Maxwell**

Marcie: 50 W. Maxwell is being proposed as a one-stop shop for services that the city is looking at acquiring. This building would be purchased with both city and federal dollars. It would be very close to the property that Connie mentioned on Palafox, so that those people in the shelter could also receive services.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 PM