

**TASK FORCE CO-CHAIR MEETING
FRIDAY 11.12.2021 10:30-11:30 A.M via ZOOM**

CONNIE BOOKMAN, TASK FORCE CO-CHAIR, Pathways For Change

CHANDRA SMILEY, CEO Community Health of NWF

ALLISON PATTON, Esquire

LAURA GILLIAM, CEO United Way West FL

DR. IRV WILLIAMS, Lakeview Center

MARCUS MCBRIDE, Career Source Escarosa

RONNIE RIVERA, ECSO

JESSE WOLFE, George Stone Technical College

BLAIR CASTRO, Shook PR

MARCIE WHITAKER, City of Pensacola

MEREDITH REEVES, Escambia County

ROSS GOODMAN, Retired Judge

Connie discussed last week's City Council meeting regarding the disbursement of ARPA funds, and shared that she requested partial funds be dispersed in order to immediately open the first SOS and two other emergency shelters (Bright Bridge & Canopy of Hope), Jared Moore says he has some ideas on how to help with the urgency of this situation and that he will be back in touch. She also shared her reasoning on leaving the meeting early before the public comments.

Marcie shared the City of not moving forward with the 50 W. Maxwell Street one-stop shop.

Allison shared that the North Hill Neighborhood Association might be open to housing situations, and that we need to explain the message that this will not increase the homeless population currently in their neighborhood, but instead decrease it due to the fact there are more beds. We should be encouraged to have conversations with the neighborhood presidents and groups.

Laura suggested doing a community readiness survey to assess understanding of homelessness.

Ronnie suggested a campaign to assist with understanding.

Chandra mentioned how our group has a discussion on services, gaps in services, creating a specific campaign to raise awareness on coordination and strengthening our network so that people are not falling through the cracks.

Laura discusses the retreat and how Patty Babcock had a community retreat to get everyone together who was affected to discuss the systems in place and developing next steps to ensure accountability in the process. During this half-day retreat, they determined what issues to prioritize and work on. Suggested facilitator should be someone who is not from the community, who is outside our group. Connie has suggested Michelle Lockett, CEO of Brace who is new to our community and retreat from 8:30-11:45 on Wednesday, Dec 1 when we also have an advisory committee meeting. Laura suggested having a little more to plan for this retreat, Marcie and Dr. Williams agreed. Allison expressed the need for urgency. Group ultimately makes the decision to hold the retreat in January.

Connie suggested that we can discuss what we want to achieve in a retreat at the Advisory Committee meeting.

Blair asked that co-chairs please add finalizing their indicators to their next meeting agenda if they have not already done so, so that we may launch the dashboard and create a Baseline.

Discussion on a BOCC presentation possibly in March to explain what the Task Force is and how it operates, possibly explaining what the Task Force is NOT and emphasizing that this is a county-wide issue with data. Meredith explained that proposals to the county need to be vetted for appropriate zoning and codes going forward. Possibly consider bringing this up after redistricting, could create an ad-hoc committee to work on messaging that may take place at one of these Friday meetings. Blair to create a template for this meeting to streamline discussions. Laura suggested we have the data before this meeting to emphasise the need for this data.

Suggestion to to spend an hour on Dec 10th going over template for Task Force meeting (data, about, need for Task Force in county.) Suggestion to get the template distributed to the group before the meeting on the template, so that chairs have time to study it before the meeting. Also recommend presenting to SRC BOCC.

Advisory Committee meeting on December 1st, co-chairs are invited to attend.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:27 a.m.