

Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWF Housing Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWF Housing Subcommittee was held at the City of Pensacola Hagler Mason Conference Room on February 23, 2022 at 3:00 PM.

In Attendance: Janelle Berger, Lisa Bernau, Roger Coleman, Timothy Evans, Jason Grizzard, Fran Jones, Mike King, Jamie LaPointe, Donna Pruett, Meredith Reeves, Marcie Whitaker

1. Welcome provided by Housing Subcommittee co-chairs, Marcie Whitaker and Meredith Reeves
2. Housing Updates
 - a. Emergency Housing Voucher Program (City): Marcie Whitaker provided an update on the program saying that 8 households have been housed, with 20+ referrals by Opening Doors
 - b. HOME-ARPA funding (County): No updates to report
3. Data Collection/Homeless Housing Survey/State of Florida Needs Assessment
 - a. The subcommittee reviewed the handout and data from Florida Housing regarding unit needs for homeless supportive housing and affordable housing in Escambia/Santa Rosa Counties.
 - b. Link for our local housing survey is live. Participation has been slow. Committee members to provide contact info for any agencies providing homeless housing so chairs can provide outreach. Need to complete survey by mid-March.
4. Data Indicators. Committee Members revisited discussion of data indicators.
 - a. Increase HMIS Participation. Discussion centered on barriers to increased HMIS participation including funding, background checks, duplication of data entry into agency databases, and staffing constraints.
 - b. Data. How is data being collected and shared? Is the data accurate and up to date? Need for a Housing Resource Guide.
 - c. Advocacy. Need for advocacy to provide data to demonstrate needs/gaps in community. Advocate for funding to fill the gaps.
 - d. Relationship Building/Partnerships. Need to continue to share resources among providers and explore new relationships.
 - e. Private Landlord Participation. Difficulty in finding landlords that want to participate in ongoing subsidized program or one-time. Program education.
 - f. Increase # of New Units.

*Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Need to have units in 9%/4% applications set aside for special needs or homeless. Need to engage developers/service providers to apply for some of the “special” RFAs targeted for homeless or special needs developments.

*Small Scale Development. Need opportunities for smaller scale units. Review expiring units.

*Explore Manufactured Housing and other housing types

Action Items (includes all decisions/recommendations voted on by the committee and whether passed or rejected by a majority vote)

- Encourage participation in Survey Monkey housing survey
- Think through Data Indicators

Next meeting: March 23, 2022, 3pm, Pensacola City Hall