

ADVISORY COMMITTEE/AT-LARGE
6.1.22 @ City Hall & Zoom 10:00 AM

IN ATTENDANCE: Rachelle Burns, Connie Bookman, Jarrod Dawson, Marcus McBride, Dr. Irvin Williams, Jesse Wolfe, Michelle Luckett, “M Hyde”, Ronnie Rivera, John Johnson, David Peaden, Doug Brown, Terri Merrick, Ross Goodman, Blair Castro, Lou Ray, Allison Patton, Meredith Reeves, Marcie Whitaker, Buzz Ritchie, Dan Risco

John Johnson gave a recap on the EHV (emergency Housing Vouchers) as referred through Opening Doors. Recently they housed a mom with 11 kids! The state has informed the CoCs that they will receive an additional 85 billion dollars (all 27 CoCs) and they are deciding now how to distribute this. John suggests we pay special attention to Family Promise, ReaP, and Bright Bridge because they will need additional funding to continue their work. They are going to be releasing the annual ESG notice for street outreach, emergency shelters, rapid rehousing, HMIS, etc. John explained they are also applying for a Youth Housing Grant, a new grant in the community. HUD is leaning toward youth grants and domestic violence grants. They have funded 77 communities thus far. The way this works is that the CoC applies, and should they win, they would then have to put together a community plan within 6 months and then solicit applicants to apply for that funding. We will need to consider who get the priority placements and who goes first in terms of funding. It is also alarming how many people with mental health issues are dying, so Opening Doors has partners with Lakeview for Street Outreach to help reach these people. The Beggs Lane location is a critical area right now in terms of drugs. There is still much work to be done with preventative partners. If it were not for these partners being as active as they are in providing assistance and services when they can, we would have a lot more homeless.

Marcie Whitaker gave an update from the Housing Subcommittee. The way the housing voucher program works, a family can get a voucher and enters into a lease with a private landlord, and that landlord enters into contract with HUD to subsidy a portion of the rent. They partnered with the CoC, they had 35 vouchers that were all awarded, and 16 families have already been housed. They have 19 families who are still looking for houses, however it's really important for the private landlord to

participate. The City also provides VASH vouchers in partner with the VA for veterans, started with 29, now have 203- all for homeless veterans. They have 169 clients houses as of yesterday, 11 have a vouchers and are shopping for a unit, and 23 that are still available to be awarded.

Meredith Reeves states that there will be money available soon for Tiny Houses, Hotel/Motel Vouchers, ARPA, Dream Center, Lotus, REAP, Bright Bridge, etc. that are all looking to get round two of funded. There are several funding opportunities coming up such as the Youth Housing program. City is working right now on RFP for acquisition rehab facilities to prepare for Corona Virus in responses to homelessness. The County is also getting some funding for homeless projects: the Home ARP (\$4.1 million) from county; and CHS is making other applications for federal funding for youth experiencing homelessness. Their subcommittee is also exploring advocacy methods.

Allison Patton gave an update of Legal Services subcommittee. They gave spoke on ways to move forward on the mental health front and how it relates to law enforcement and Baker Acts. There have been lots of discussions on data, and they have recently gotten some from the Clerk of Court. They have also met with Judge Goodman to see if there are ways they could look at data to better showcase it to people in charge. They have met with JUST Pensacola to learn more about their civil citation program, and are doing to explore a mentoring program for those within the criminal justice system. Have also been talking about developing a “team approach” with ECSO and PPD having social workers along with Deputies. They are going to have three marked units that will have social workers with the deputies, under the leadership of Colonel Young. Robin Wright at 1st Judicial Court is restarting the SIM mapping process, (June 23rd), so this will also help propel things forward with treating those with mental health in the criminal justice system. Their subcommittee is also advocating for a low barrier shelter similar to the one in Okaloosa County (like One Hopeful Place).

Dr. Marcus McBride gave an update on the workforce and education subcommittee, at Workforce EscaRosa, they launched their soft skills online program to prepare for job training.

Dan Risco from Transfr VR gave a report on how they are helping by using virtual reality as a training medium to develop workforce skills. They use the Oculus for skills mastery, which has a coach built inside in the headset to assist along the way. They will also be doing live demonstrations in SCI building today from 1-4 PM. Transfer VR is now partnering with Career Source.

Jesse Wolfe gave an update, stating that George Stone was going to offer a one-day oil change class. They are also working to build pipelines of people who are working to exit homelessness. They are also going to offer tours to the entire Task Force in the next month, and will be working together to combine funding from workforce sources to assist those experiencing homelessness.

Connie gave a report from the Faith-Based Subcommittee, in place of Ashley and Jennifer. They loved being able to partner with George Stone to get those experiencing homelessness comfortable. GSTC also offers car repair discounts for students/staff. Need help from the greater task force on getting vehicles for those are eligible (show pay stability, valid license, etc.) Identified two organizations could receive the cars. They are also focused on food needs, and have identified that there is a bigger need on the north end of Escambia County. Also spoke to ECAT on transportation programs, and worked with Terri to train mentors.

Dr. Williams and Rachelle Burns gave an update from Mental Health Subcommittee. They have a lot of representation from members of other important committees in the community on this subcommittee, such as Rep. Salzman's task force, Opiate Steering Committee, Achieve Healthy Escarosa. Explored benefits of maximizing the use of the HMIS system., will have John Johnson speak at next meeting on history of HMIS, potential barriers. Lakeview just received a three-year federal grant to address the opiate issue (community education around stigma, outreach, Narcan) and EMS Director is pursuing some funding so that paramedics can be trained with some behavioral health skills, and can also follow up with individuals who have overdosed themselves and to get them started on medication. They are also exploring combing with Healthcare subcommittee in some respects. "988" is going to be national

Suicide prevention lifeline, but right now they are being routed to nearest crisis center, which is in Pinellas County. which is not ideal, but United Way is working hard to update this to a local resource.

Lou Ray would like to see that Housing has connected with the old Baptist campus program being converted into new development. Marcie says both city and county has been engaged. He also found the St. Vincent De Paul presentation very informative and would like to see that on a wider distribution for the community.

Transfr VR partners with credentialing bodies to enroll students in programs. Recently have met with PSC and are doing work with community colleges across the country. They have various funding sources as well. Licensure model is by headset,- not individuals. (Career exploration, for example is \$2000/annual per headset- however many you want to run through program. You can also do specific job skills, and there is an ALL ACCESS license. There are about 220 simulations daily.