

**NWFL Homelessness Reduction Task Force  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
6/7/23 10:00 AM @ City Hall**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Connie Bookman, Blair Castro, Elizabeth Kissell, Vinnie Whibbs, Rachelle Burns, Roger Coleman, Lou Ray, Dr. Irv Williams, Meredith Reeves, Allison Patton, Laura Gilliam, Marcie Whitaker, Jesse Wolfe, Linda Finkelstein, Ross Goodman, Dick Baker, Alex Smith, Terri Merrick, Yvonne Baboi, Tim Evans, Teresa Scholz

**Welcome**

Connie Bookman

**Co-chair recognition for two years of distinguished service**

***Marcus McBride***, Employment/Workforce Development

***Allison Patton***, Legal Services/Specialty Courts

***Ronnie Rivera***, Legal Services/Specialty Courts

***Jennifer Tompkins***, FBO/Food/Mentoring/Transportation

***Marcie Whitaker***, Housing

**Summary of the US White House Interagency Council on Homelessness presentations and Community Workshop and Combined Strategies to reduce homelessness 25% by 2025**

Connie and Co-Chair leaders

Connie Bookman, Task Force Co-Chair, gives an update on the history of the Task Force as well as our current subcommittee co-chair status. Connie also gave an update on last month's presentation by Dr. Joe Savage Jr. and the "All-In" Plan. The city, county and CoC have been meeting to try and get local plans in line with the national plan in order to maximize funding

**Task Force Co-Chair Quarterly Reports**

***Allison Patton and Ronnie Rivera***

- Legal Services/Criminal Justice/Specialty Courts- Ronnie and Allison give an update on the Criminal Justice/Legal Services Subcommittee. They conducted review of how justice system interacts with those experiencing homelessness, identified best practices, expanded access to TEAM court to those who don't have addresses on file, helped with an initiative to create mentorship model in conjunction with the DREAM Center for those in the mental health court system, they are also looking at more discharge beds or respite process and re-entry programs.

***Meredith Reeves and Jesse Wolfe***

- Housing/Workforce Development- Meredith and Jesse gave an update on their new blended subcommittee. They continue to provide overviews of grant opportunities. They had Shannon Nazworth present from Ability Housing, they had presentation on

zoning and building codes, and CareerSource Escarosa present on workforce training services offered. There was also 35 housing vouchers dispersed through the CoC and housing departments, and much more!

***Dr. Irvin Williams and Rachelle Burns***

- Health/Mental Health/Addiction/Case Management – Rachelle and Dr. Williams gave an update on how their mission is to improve access in each of these above area. They defined what access means exactly, the time it takes, and accessibility. They did start to take a more strategic planning approach (SMARTIE goals) to get robust baseline data through a survey. They have decided to partner with Achieve Healthy Escarosa to map where services are – called the Community Capacity Scan. 211 has a lot of this data but there is some disconnect on how user-friendly the database could be. They have a goal to work with the community on improving the 211 interfaces and meeting with other collaborative community leaders. They have had speakers and are keeping members apprised on current events.

***Ashley Wilkinson Meyer and Jennifer Tompkins***

- Faith-based Organizations/Food Programs/Mentoring/Transportation- Rev. Ashley gave an update on much of the work of the FBO. They are going to meet today at noon to discuss how to engage in congregations with the All-In Plan. They want to be intentional about engaging and finding out what they do and don't know. For food, they created a Food Service maps and are working to keep it up-to-date, there is an opportunity to ask people how to make it more useful. With Mentorship, the Dream Center did a training to let people see what it is like to become a mentor and how to implement their mentorship program. For Transportation- they have a goal to conduct a transportation SIM, and have just piloted a program called "Next Step Vehicles" to engage those who have access to cars and vetting cars to put into the hands of veterans and families. They will be working with 90Works and Dream Center. 90 Works created a vulnerability index and tools on how to be successful with this.

***Other Updates***

- Alex Smith from the Mayor's Office; Linda Finkelstein with NAMI; Terri Merrick with Dream Center; Yvonne with AMR, Elizabeth Kissell with Escambia County; Vinnie with REAP

