

**HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
7.28.21 @ City Hall 3:00 PM**

MEREDITH REEVES SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, Division Manager, Escambia County: Calls meeting to order at 3:05 PM

MARCIE WHITAKER, SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, Housing Director, City of Pensacola

**INTROS/ATTENDANCE**

JANELLE BERGER, Director of Operations, United Ministries

JOHN ELLIS, Voyage Real Estate

WAYNE EVERS, Property Manager

JAMIE LAPOINTE, Outreach Manager, Lutheran Services

MARKESHA SPENCER, United to Help

DONNA PRUITT-JACOBI, Family Promise- Escambia

EVELYN WEBBER, Extra Mile Club Str8 Up

VINNIE WHIBBS, REAP

AVALON "MAL" MALLORY, 211 Resource Manager, United Way of Northwest Florida

TARSHA STALLWORTH, Linkage Resource Coordinator, United Way

KATHLEEN BELLARD

DAVID RENSHAW, Executive Director, Majella House

CONNIE BOOKMAN, TASKFORCE CO-CHAIR, Pathways for Change

BRITTANY AUSTIN, Pathways for Change

BLAIR CASTRO, Shook PR

ASHLEY WILKINSON-MEYER, Cokesbury United Methodist

ALEXYS HILLMAN, Pensacola Osteopaths/LGBTQ Shelter

CHRISTOPHER HILLMAN, Pensacola Osteopaths/LGBTQ Shelter

JOHN JOHNSON, TASK FORCE CO-CHAIR, Opening Doors

MAGGIE MCKEAN, Task Force Intern

## **DISCUSSION**

MEREDITH: We don't really have a clear snapshot of what units are really set aside for homeless individuals. The co-chairs have made a sample survey and we will send this out. *How long should it be left open in order to be completed?* The group answers that it should be left up for about two weeks.

JOHN: Real estate task force members can maybe bring data on rental availability, etc. but unsure on what else they may be able to provide.

MEREDITH: This survey is specific to units for the homeless population, not the open market. But it does include shelters, etc.

CONNIE: Who, not on the task force, should be receiving this survey? We need to consider this and can forward it to these individuals.

MAL: We should consider those in rural development, those who rent to HUD or who do rent adjustments, as well.

MEREDITH: We have reached out to those who do have units specific to the homeless. But let's think of smaller agencies who do not have grant funding or HMIS. (Like Pastor Renee). The group is willing to forward the link to those who do not have involvement.

CONNIE: Is the 13th of August (Maggie's last day) a good day for completion of the survey? Brittany and Maggie can also make phone calls to remind folks to do the survey.

MEREDITH: Please send all feedback on this survey draft by tomorrow, so that we can send the survey out by Friday with a deadline of the 13th. We will also do paper surveys for smaller organizations should they request those.

MEREDITH: Review of four-page document on various funding for homeless funds available.

## **RECURRING FUNDING**

- 1.) HUD COC- goes to Opening Doors
- 2.) HUD Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) (Escambia and Santa Rosa)
- 3.) HUD Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers (VASH)- look at this first if you're a vet! (Just Escambia...but you can take the vouchers and go to other communities)

- 4.) Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) Housing Credit and SAIL Financing to develop housing for homeless persons- for developers! The 30 unit minimum is set at the state level.
  - a.) How do you define homeless though? Co-Chairs say it depends on the grant...they will come back with definitions.

WAYNE: Owns 4 parcels off Fairfield, planning and zoning said that each parcel can have 25 doors on it. PenAir and Navy Fed Business Development are willing to assist, but he is wanting to know about other funding options.

#### ONE-TIME FUNDING

- 1.) Special Funding
  - a.) HUD Emergency Shelter Grant- CV (CoronaVirus)- Opening Doors
  - b.) HUD Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHV) - ARP- works to remove the barriers- 35 vouchers

WAYNE: We should educate realtors and voucher programs to avoid discrimination about Section 8 and other voucher programs.

EVELYN: Misleading advertising- signs say "FOR SALE" but really it's a rental for one year to Section 8 only, and then with an option to purchase. Meredith said she will talk to her offline to explain more about it because there are some issues going on.

- c.) HUD Home- American Rescue Plan Funds- 4.1 Million, Escambia and Santa Rosa, unique because it also includes some supportive services, would love to get a tax credit to support homeless
- d.) HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)- CV (CoronaVirus)
- e.) ARPA \$3 Million for Homeless from City of Pensacola
  - Try to make applications flexible in terms of details in case things fall through, so you don't have to keep going back to amend them.
  - Should note whether it is reimbursement or outright grant

Websites could have the subcommittees, grant identifications, examples on how to money, etc- when things are due, etc.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:30 PM