

Our first zoom meeting of co-chairs occurred Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

In attendance: Connie Bookman, Ashley Wilkinson Meyer, Allison Patton, Ronnie Rivera, Meredith Reeves, Dr. Irv Williams.

**Agenda:** Brainstorm recommendations for spending \$3 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to reduce homelessness in Pensacola

**Summary:** Importance of **housing units** and **supportive services** are key to the success of reducing homelessness. Initial idea of purchasing a hotel as one stop shop/transitional and permanent housing has now given way to the idea of shoring up existing, successful organizations who provide housing and services and add to their inventory. Though \$3 million will be helpful, it is not enough to end homelessness for existing homeless adults and children in the Pensacola area. Asking help from Advisory Committee: How can we find units to purchase? Can we beautify 5 city properties, utilizing Pallet Shelters that are “wrapped” in pleasing colors behind a privacy fence and professional landscaping? Are there warehouses within city limits to increase emergency housing for women and children and/or families?

Other ideas to be discussed this Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>, zoom link attached.