

**Faith-Based Organizations, Food Programs, Mentorship, and
Transportation Subcommittee Meeting
08.04.2021- 12:00 @ City Hall and on Zoom**

JENNIFER THOMPSON, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR, Resource Coordinator, Epps Center: 12:01, Called meeting to order, with opening prayer

INTROS/ATTENDANCE

ASHLEY WILKINSON-MEYER, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR, United Ministries

ELIZABETH BONDURANT, United Way of West Florida, Santa Rosa County

MICAH DANIELSON, Community Member

PASTOR MARCEL DAVIS, Adoration for a New Beginning Church and Board Member of Bright Bridge Ministries

KEVIN EASON, Director of Operations/REAP

BOB FOSTER, Division Manager, CALEA

ANDREA HERRING, Pensacola Dream Center

MELISSA JOHNSON, Fearless Community Inc.

PETE KING, Realtor/Perdido Bay United Methodist

SUSAN KING, Department of Children and Families

JUNE LINKE, Retired College Administrator

AVALON "MAL" MALLORY, United Way of West Florida/211 Resource Manager Escambia County

SARA MCNEESE, Manna

TERRI MERRICK, Executive Director/Dream Center

TAMMY NELSON, Head of Homeless Outreach, Liberty Church

KATHLEEN SCHUSTER, Director/Tender Hearts Caring Hands

KERRI SMAYDA, Manna

JIM VCHULEK, Liberty Church/Community Member

RODNEY WILSON, Feeding the Gulf Coast

WALTER ARRINGTON, REAP

CONNIE BOOKMAN, Pathways for Change/Task Force Co-Chair

ALLISON PATTON, Retired Attorney

BRITTANY AUSTIN, Pathways for Change

BLAIR CASTRO, Managing Owner/Shook PR

MAGGIE MCKEAN, Task Force Intern

JOHN JOHNSON, Opening Doors/Task Force Co-Chair

LAWRENCE POWELL, City of Pensacola, City Neighborhoods Administrator

CONNIE: Please see the agenda for action Items for this subcommittee: 1.) please confirm and update your contact information on the roster and 2.) each person share the name and organization you represent and give any brochures to Blair

Conversation on \$3million to address homelessness:

Connie shared that task force leaders were approached by the Mayor, inviting us to review the ARPA- American Rescue Plan Act guidelines and to share those guidelines with our subcommittees to encourage feedback on ways to implement the infusion of \$3 million set aside by the Mayor and Council to reduce homelessness in our city. Each subcommittee will be discussing ideas and we are setting aside time in each meeting for these conversations, questions, brainstorming (conversation notes follow).

MARCEL: Marcel is on the board of Bright Bridge. Half of their building is in the city, half is in the county. A sprinkler system is needed for this building. Their program also gives rehab, which makes them unique. Bright Bridge wants to also build a new building. They want the city to annex the half of the building needed; it is currently on the agenda via Councilman Delarian Wiggins.

TERRI: Will you be building a facility that houses 3-6 people in a room? The people I speak to aren't usually interested in living like this.

MARCEL: Can't speak to that, it depends on how the building is spec'd out.

CONNIE: We received guidelines on what the \$3 million from the city can be specifically used for, from Amy Lavoy- who met with all the co-chairs. Think about how we leverage this money. Initial thought was "What if we had a one-stop shop?"

similar to a four story hotel with services, counseling, transitional housing, etc. We have until mid-October to really have our thoughts together.

BOB: In the past, I had created a worst-case flow chart to see how people were shuffled through the system and see how nonprofits handled their cases.

JOHN: Co-chairs should focus on the food/mentoring category and collaborating with another.

MARCEL: We should consider engaging Baptist to see if they have some space with their old facility.

CONNIE: I have met with them previously and I do not think it's likely a good solution but appreciate the suggestion.

JENNIFER: You should have received a Google doc for pantries/meals/etc. for food resources.

MAL: Are you creating this document using agency permission when you add people to the list?

TERRI: Dream Center's document was created with permission from the agencies. Terri will add doc information to the Google Spread Sheet.

ASHLEY: No, this is meant to get an idea of what's out there, not specifically meant for public use, only so that we can get an assessment going forward.

Does Street Survival guide have food resources in it?

MAL: Yes, and if not up-to-date, the most up-to-date files will be on our webpage/database. This is given out to the ALICE population who are at risk and LEOs and School Districts. Go to 211nwfl.org for the digital version.

MyEscambia.com also has a food site map.

Mal noted importance of getting agency permission before publicizing any services She also noted importance of marking where bus stops are located on any maps we develop

Suggested adding a "Last Updated" column to the Food Resource Sheet

Blair asked for everyone to be sure to add addresses – she has map software and can develop what we are hoping to create! Yay!

TERRI: We will work on finding out what food initiatives each school has and get back to the committee about this.

ASHLEY: We want to invite people to help us write a simple and intentional prayer to send to different groups/denominations to send out in their e-news/bulletins etc.

MAL: We could add something actionable to the prayer, such as “Did you know George Stone offers this program, etc.”

TERRI: Example of the airport hiring, TRIO program, and others.

MICAH: Suggested the bookmark idea- put subcommittees listed on the back of a bookmark, so there is something specific on the back for members and others to pray for.

MAL: Can we get a church to come out and actually do a service at a park or on a location where homeless are?

CONNIE: We should do another inventory of what churches are actually doing services on site.

WALTER: We need to distribute items *before* a religious service, so that people receiving services are not contingent on them attending.

TERRI: Please note that Pensacola Dream Center website- crisis hotline- 466-SAFE. We also have a QR Code, which we are getting put on discharge paperwork, paperwork for kids, etc. This serves for any kind of crisis, in place of human trafficking hotline. Crisis could be anything, really.

ASHLEY: Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 PM