



Housing Committee Meeting
Behavioral Science Research, 2121 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Ste. 230
Coral Gables, FL 33134 and via Zoom
March 17, 2022

Approved October 20, 2022

| # | Members | Present | Absent | Guests |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | Ade, Rose | X | | Carol Sanders |
| 2 | Alleyne, Karen | X* | | Queen Holden |
| 3 | Burks, Laurie Ann | X | | Santia Calixte |
| 4 | Herz, Stephen | X | | Travis Neff |
| 5 | Laso, Carlos | X* | | Rachel Dietze |
| 6 | Tazoe, Roberto | X | | |
| 7 | Rodriguez, Israel | X | | Staff |
| 8 | Williams, April | X* | | Marlen Meizoso |
| Quorum: 4 *present via Zoom | | | | |

Note that all documents referenced in these minutes were accessible to members and the public prior to (and during) the meeting, at www.aidsnet.org/meeting-documents.

I. Call to Order

Stephen Herz, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. Housekeeping

Marlen Meizoso reviewed housekeeping items, including best meeting practices, general conduct reminders and the location of materials.

III. Introductions and Roll Call

Mr. Herz introduced himself and requested in-person members and guest to introduce themselves. Staff read the names of those members participating online.

IV. Floor Open to the Public

Mr. Herz opened the floor to the public with the following statement:

“Pursuant to Florida Sunshine Law, I want to provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to be heard on any items on our agenda today. If there is anyone who wishes to be heard, I invite you to speak now. Each person will be given three minutes to speak. Please begin by stating your name and address for the record before you talk about your concerns. BSR has a dedicated telephone line and email address for statements to be read into the record. No statements were received.”

There were no comments made. Mr. Herz closed the floor for public comment.

V. Review/Approve Agenda

The committee reviewed the agenda and staff requested the Implementation Plan item be moved under announcements. The Committee voted to accept the agenda with the change.

Motion to approve the agenda, as noted.

Moved: Roberto Tazoe

Second: Rose Ade

Motion: Passed

VI. Review/Approve Minutes of November 18, 2021

The committee reviewed the minutes of November 18, 2022 and approved them as presented.

Motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2021, as presented.

Moved: Roberto Tazoe

Second: Rose Ade

Motion: Passed

VII. Reports

- **HOPWA Program Updates (LTRA, Project Based, STRMU)**

Roberto Tazoe

Roberto Tazoe reported that the HOPWA waitlist is on number 90. The City of Miami is being very cautious with calling clients because of the current housing market. Rents are being increased by landlords. Some landlords will stop participating with the program because they want to charge more rent but the program caps cost. The waitlist will not be opening anytime soon since there are roughly 130 clients on the waitlist waiting for placement. Some committee guests expressed difficulty in finding or keeping rentals. For example, a landlord raised the rent an additional \$500, from \$1,200 to \$1,700. Landlords are also placing clients in more expensive units. Some landlords also request application fees and holding fees for apartments. The application fees are not refundable, and the holding fees take 4-5 months to return, if they are not accepted. The City of Miami has no control on market forces, but the County recently passed an ordinance that required 60 days' notice if rents are raised above 5%. Some landlords are extending leases month-to-month.

STRMU continues with funds from the CARE Act and the funding under the state contract until June 30, 2022. The state contract has not been extended yet. Some of the program rules are strict depending on the funding source. Under the HOPWA program, STRMU is capped at 21 weeks in a 52-week period. Under CARES Act, STRMU funding is available for up to a year and renewal for another year, but this is contingent on having funding.

The HOPWA programs do not assist homeless clients. Clients need to contact the homeless help line to be put in contact with Camillus homeless prevention program. Courtney Gillens indicated that an RFP is being put together with a housing component under Ending the Epidemic to fill some of the gaps.

The City of Miami acknowledges there is a housing crisis and there is not enough inventory. There are approximately 1,230 units in process of being built with other resources, but these would not come online for 2-4 years. Within the City of Miami inventory is limited by land availability, and the process of creating new units is not easy. If funding were provided to incentivize landlords to stay or join the HOPWA program, this would come out of the fixed HOPWA budgets and decrease funds available to place clients.

- **Membership Vacancies**

Marlen Meizoso

Mrs. Meizoso referenced the membership vacancy report (copy on file). She indicated April Williams is terming off and today's meeting is her last one. Ms. Williams was thanked for her service. Vacancies were reviewed and attendees were encouraged to recommend interested parties to contact staff or come to a meeting.

- **Partnership Report**

Marlen Meizoso

Mrs. Meizoso referenced the Partnership report (copy on file) and any questions can be directed to staff.

VIII. Standing Business

- **2022 Elections**

Marlen Meizoso

Mrs. Meizoso indicated that an election must take place and a memo listing eligible candidates was distributed (copy on file). There are currently only four members qualified to be officers. Rose Ade and Laurie Ann Burks volunteered to be officers, chair and vice-chair respectively.

Motion to elect Rose Ade chair and Laurie Ann Burks vice-chair of the Housing Committee.

Moved: Travis Neff

Seconded: Karen Alleyne

Motion: Passed

- **Housing Items: Community Coalition Roundtable Discussion**

All

Mrs. Meizoso reviewed the Community Coalition Roundtable Discussion document (copy on file). The items were assigned to the Housing Committee by the Community Coalition Committee. The Committee reviewed the items and made the following suggestions:

- #1-Factual data should be provided to support the claim.
- #2-There is a Fair Housing Ordinance in the County and renters should not be denied because they are in a subsidized program. A copy of the Fair Housing Ordinance will be shared at the next meeting.

IX. Announcements

Mrs. Meizoso indicated that work is being done on the Integrated Plan which is due to HRSA/CDC in December. There is an online survey available to provide input to the plan on www.aidsnet.org.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2022, at the BSR offices at 2121 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Coral Gables.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Roberto Tazoe

Seconded: Rose Ade

Motion: Passed

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.