

**Housing Committee Meeting  
Care Resource, 3510 Biscayne Blvd, Community Room  
Miami, FL 33137  
October 19, 2023 Minutes**

#	Members	Present	Absent
1	Burks, Laurie Ann	X	
2	Herz, Stephen	X	
3	Hill, Lileus	X	
4	Laso, Carlos	X	
5	Tazoe, Roberto	X	
6	Rodriguez, Israel		X
7	Sanon, Polini		X
8	Sarria, Manuel	X	
<b>Quorum: 4</b>			

Guests	
Ronny Bahamorde	
Francisco Gomez	
Carol Sanders	
Stephen Williams	
Staff	
Christina Bontempo	

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](http://www.aidsnet.org/meeting-documents).

**I. Call to Order**

Stephen Herz, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Mr. Herz introduced himself and requested members and guests introduce themselves.

**III. Meeting Housekeeping**

Christina Bontempo reminded attendees of housekeeping items, including meeting recording, public records, questions should go through the chair, and if there are any additional questions they can be asked to staff after the meeting.

**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 voted to accept it as presented.

**Motion to approve the agenda, as presented.**

**Moved: Lileaus Hill**

**Second: Roberto Tazoe**

**Motion: Passed**

## VI. Review/Approve Minutes of July 20, 2023

The committee reviewed the minutes of July 20, 2023 and approved them as presented.

**Motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2023, as presented.**

**Moved: Lileaus Hill**

**Second: Carlos Laso**

**Motion: Passed**

## VII. Reports

- ***Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program Updates***

*Roberto Tazoe*

Roberto Tazoe indicated the HOPWA program received \$14 million dollars of which 92% is allocated to tenant based rental assistance (TBRA). Remaining funds are allocated to the short-term rental, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU) and the project-based programs. The STRMU provider is Care Resource. There are three project-based programs: two of the programs work through the Homeless Trust referral program: Harden Village and Little River Bend; and the third project is in Homestead at New Life Apartments. Project-based assistance is connected to the housing unit, not to the client.

HOPWA clients have been advised of the new Fair Market Rents (FMR) which have increased substantially. While locating units within the new rates should be easier, the increases are challenging for the program since fewer clients can be served because of funding.

The Long-Term Rental Assistance (LTRA) waitlist remains at number 130; no additional clients are anticipated to be called at this time.

The Homeless Trust has HUD vouchers for disabled individuals registered in the Homeless Trust's Homeless Management Information System. Vouchers are not specifically designated for people with HIV. To receive vouchers, individuals do not have to be chronically homeless, but they have to be high priority. The Homeless Hotline should be contacted to connect clients to the voucher program.

- ***Vacancies***

*Christina Bontempo*

Ms. Bontempo referenced the membership vacancy report. She indicated that there were various vacancies on the Housing Committee, the Partnership, and the other Committees. HIV positive members not employed by Ryan White Providers can receive a \$20 store voucher for participation in meetings.

Today's meeting marks Carlos Laso's last meeting as a member. The Committee thanked Mr. Laso for his service. Manny Sarria was just appointed to the Partnership and Housing Committee. He will replace Mr. Laso on the Committee.

Poloni Sanon, who was voted on as a new member at the last meeting, has left the agency he worked for and has not replied to staff queries about membership. It was suggested to remove Mr. Sanon. If he wishes to return, his application can be considered at that time.

**Motion to remove Poloni Sanon as a member of the Housing Committee.**

**Moved: Carlos Laso**

**Second: Roberto Tazoe**

**Motion: Passed**

## **VIII. Standing Business**

- ***Stakeholder Invitation Development***

*All*

Ms. Bontempo indicated that based on the discussions from the last meeting, the stakeholder invitation questions were completed. Results were presented and members were in agreement as to the answers provided. Ms. Bontempo also reviewed research provided by Marlen Meizoso for the housing stakeholder at municipalities, some of which have health initiatives. The Committee indicated they wanted a broad reach with stakeholders contributing something towards housing, e.g. funding or units. The suggested verbiage for the letter was okay, and should stress the need for stakeholders to bring something to the table. It was agreed to hold the meeting in February. An appropriately sized location, ideally with free parking, needs to be found. A draft of the invitation letter will be provided at the next meeting.

- ***HIV/AIDS Housing Survey***

*All*

Mr. Tazoe provided an update in Alecia Apfel's absence. The HIV/AIDS Housing Survey reviewed at the last meeting has been advertised and distributed as follows:

- Flyers/posters;
- Clear Health Alliance;
- Ryan White Program providers;
- Pridelines;
- Center for Information;
- Carrfour;
- Sunshine for All;
- SABER, Inc.;
- City of Miami;
- Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership distribution list;
- Twitter; and
- Mailed to contact sites.

The survey is accessible via a QR code which takes one to a Survey Monkey link to complete. Surveys are due by October 31, 2023.

## **IX. New Business**

- ***Meeting Participation Surveys***

Ms. Bontempo indicated that in the meeting packets the meeting participation surveys were included and should be completed by members. The Executive Committee tasked staff to poll committees regarding meeting preferences. Results will be shared at the next meeting and with the Executive Committee. Also in the meeting packets are the tentative 2024 meeting dates for the Committee.

## **X. Announcements and Open Discussion**

Care Resources is participating in a study with FIU. The program assists transgender clients with some housing costs and job placement for up to 24 months for those who undergo the intervention. Participants are required to be living at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level and be transgender. HIV positive status is not a requirement. More details will be shared.

## **XI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023, at the BSR offices at 2121 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Coral Gables.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Mr. Herz adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

DRAFT