



Housing Committee Meeting
Care Resource Community Health Centers, Midtown Miami
3510 Biscayne Blvd, First Floor Community Room
Miami, FL 33137

August 15, 2024 Minutes

Approved October 17, 2024

#	Members	Present	Absent
1	Burks, Laurie Ann	X	
2	Hill, Lileaus	X	
3	Tazoe, Roberto	X	
4	Sarria, Manuel		X
Quorum: 3			
Guests			
Cash, Heather		Laso, Carlos	
Ellis, Marvin		Moroles, Tyler	
Garcia, Sandra		Sanders, Carol	
Gillens, Courtney		Somarriba, Chania	
Holden, Queen		Tello, Cynthia	
Howell, Jonathan		Valle-Schwenk, Carla	
Joseph, Alexander			
Staff			
Ladner, Robert			
Meizoso, Marlen			

All documents referenced in these minutes were accessible to members and the public prior to (and during) the meeting, at <https://aidsnet.org/the-partnership#housing1>.

I. Call to Order

Lileaus Hill

Lileaus Hill, the Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. Introductions

All

Ms. Hill introduced herself and requested members and guests introduce themselves.

III. Meeting Housekeeping

Marlen Meizoso

Marlen Meizoso reminded attendees of housekeeping items, including meeting recording, public records, that 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

Lileaus Hill

Ms. Hill 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, so the floor was closed for public comment.

V. Review/Approve Agenda

All

The Committee reviewed the agenda which was posted in advance of the meeting. Mr. Tazoe indicated he needs to leave no later than 3:00 p.m. because of a meeting conflict. The new business items were moved up and all other items were moved down. The Committee accepted the agenda with the changes noted.

Motion to approve the agenda with changes noted.

Moved: Roberto Tazoe

Seconded: Laurie Ann Burks

Motion: Passed

VI. New Business

▪ Introduction for Stakeholders

All

Ms. Hill welcomed all the stakeholders to the meeting and indicated the purpose of today’s meeting was to share local housing-related resources, initiatives and programs to maximize resources for individuals who are HIV positive. After staff presented a brief snapshot of the epidemic, each stakeholder was asked a set of questions which were also sent in advance of the meeting.

▪ Epi Profile

All

Mrs. Meizoso reviewed some epidemiological data included in meeting materials. HIV/AIDS incidence by population in 2022 was reviewed. African-Americans are overrepresented in the epidemic. In terms of age by HIV prevalence, most clients are over 50 years old. Additionally, a map of persons living with HIV was shared indicating the areas of high concentrations of clients in the north part of the County. Links of interest to the Partnership page, the epi profile, and the City of Miami HOPWA page were also reviewed.

▪ Stakeholders Presentation

All

Each stakeholder was invited to answer each of the three questions below. Two additional stakeholders submitted their replies in writing and their responses were included in the meeting materials.

□ Question 1: What affordable housing opportunities do you currently offer?

Miami Dade County Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) (Carla Valle-Schwenk) -- EHE provides housing stability services, using a housing-first model. It provides transitional, emergency, and short-term housing. This may include assistance with rental and utility subsidies, moving incidentals, job/life skills training, and linkage to additional services. Information on the services offered is listed online at www.aidsnet.org under the Housing Resources tab. The EHE grant is funded until February 2025. Future funding is contingent on appropriations by Congress. There are currently \$1.7 million in grant funds plus \$4 million in carryover funds which may be requested.

Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development (M-DPHCD) (Tyler Moroles) -- M-DPHCD (<https://www.miamidade.gov/global/housing/home.page>) is the largest housing authority in Florida. It manages 20,000 vouchers and 7,000 public housing units. Currently, there is a 5,000-person waitlist for Section 8, of the 137,000 individuals who applied. Some public housing waitlists will be opening within the next 60-90 days; updates will be shared with the Committee.

For those interested in home buying, the County has a low-interest 30-year loan of up to \$100,000 at 1% interest rate for a second mortgage in vulnerable areas, or \$80,000 for non-vulnerable areas at 2% interest rates. For details, see <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/housing/affordable-homeownership-program.page>.

There is also a down payment assistance program for qualified buyers who can receive an interest free loan up to \$35,000; <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/housing/downpayment-assistance.page>. There is significant funding for homeownership, and it is underutilized.

Carrfour Supportive Housing (Sandra Garcia/Chania Somarriba) -- Carrfour is the largest supportive housing developer in South Florida. They accept VASH vouchers and have some project-based units. Referrals come from the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. There are 14 units for HOPWA with dedicated case management.

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (M-DHT) (Carlos Laso) – The M-DHT is currently working on housing persons in encampments to comply with state laws. The M-DHT does have transitional and permanent supportive housing available for chronically homeless individuals, defined as being homeless four times or more in a year, or being homeless for more than a year).

- **Question 2: Do you currently have any housing assistance for low-income individuals and if so when would it open?**

EHE -- The EHE grant does not have an income limit, access is on a first come, first served basis.

M-DPHCD -- Currently, only the public housing (which will open in 60-90 days) will be available. The program also provides tenant-based and home investment partnerships funding through a provider to assist low-income seniors. There are also tenant-based and emergency solution grants to providers who assist families or individuals who are at risk of being homeless. Also, as previously noted, the homeownership programs are available on a rolling basis.

Carrfour -- Manages some low-income/affordable housing units which are accessible through www.affordablehousing.com. When units become available, an occupancy manager would reach out to the M-DHT, who manages the waitlist.

M-DHT -- An additional 91 units will be available soon for low-income, 62+ years old individuals.

- **Question 3: Can you offer/reserve any resources for the HIV population?**

EHE -- There are no income restrictions, but client must be HIV+ and the program has to be the payor of last resort. Maximum assistance is up to 24 months, and/or when funding ends, whichever comes first.

M-DPHCD -- The program does not reserve units since it is not requested in the Housing and Urban Development Notice of Funding Opportunity (HUD NOFO).

Care Resource -- Indicated they have 14 permanent units through other community resources.

M-DHT -- There are only 14 units dedicated to persons with disabilities, including but not limited to persons disabled because of HIV.

▪ **Question and Answer**

The information shared today will be posted online. Homestead Housing and Hialeah Housing provided their responses in writing. If there are any additional questions for the agencies listed here, please advise staff.

▪ **HOPWA Program**

Roberto Tazoe

Roberto Tazoe reviewed a presentation on the City of Miami's HOPWA program, history, goals, and available programs. There has been level funding for the program except for this year. There are five components funded and the long-term rental assistance program serves over 700 client households. The current waitlist number is 130. Rental rates have increased up to 35%, posing a substantial challenge and the program can not request additional money, unlike Section 8.

VII. Review/Approve Minutes of May 16, 2024

All

The Committee reviewed the minutes of May 16, 2024, and approved them as presented.

Motion to accept the minutes of May 16, 2024, as presented.

Moved: Roberto Tazoe

Seconded: Laurie Ann Burks

Motion: Passed

VIII. Standing Business

▪ **2025 Planning**

All

As part of the annual staff support budget process recently approved, each committee and subcommittee are being polled for any request for support of special projects above and beyond the annual activities (needs assessment, comprehensive planning, PSRA, and efficiency of administrative mechanism). Results will be shared with the Executive Committee. The Committee was queried, and no projects were proposed.

IX. Announcements and Open Discussion

All

Staff reviewed the September calendar and vacancy report. There are vacancies on this committee and the other committees of the Partnership. Anyone interested in membership should contact staff for an application.

Care Resource indicated they have a special grant for transgender/LGBT clients to assist with temporary housing in a hotel, or with moving costs. Ryan White Part B funds are also available for limited housing assistance.

There were no open discussion items.

X. Next Meeting

Lileaus Hill

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2024, at Care Resource.

XI. Adjournment

Lileaus Hill

Ms. Hill adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.