



**Housing Committee Meeting
Edison Neighborhood Center, 150 NW 79th Street, Conference Room
February 19th, 2009 Minutes**

Approved March 19th, 2009

#	Members	Present	Absent	Guests	
1	Downs, Frederick, Jr.	X		Carlos Marin	Robert Tazoe
2	Gadlin, Lucille	X		Ed McGowan	
3	Hall, Ronald	X		LueCreetia Miller	
4	Louis, Ray	X		Felicita Morales	
5	Osorio, Blanche		X	Antonia Murray	
6	Robinson, Janet		X	Felicia Noel	
7	Rolle, Betty	X		Roger Salvo	
8	Tamayo, George	X		Stephen Williams	
9	Weathers, Irma		X	Staff	
Quorum= 4				Marlen Hernandez	Kim Tardalo

I. Call to Order

The chair, Betty Rolle, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Ms. Rolle welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence. Ms. Rolle then asked for introductions.

II. Resource Persons

Ms. Rolle identified Behavioral Science Research (BSR) staff as resource individuals.

III. Review Agenda

The committee reviewed the agenda; membership was added to standing business and staff was added to new business and announcements.

IV. Review/Approve Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of October 16th, 2008.

Motion to accept the minutes of October 16th, 2008.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: Ronald Hall

Motion: Passed

V. Standing Business

▪ **Membership**

Staff

Staff reported that there are vacancies on the committee; specific vacancy reports and applications are available from staff.

One applicant, Ed McGowan, was present. Mr. McGowan introduced himself and the committee voted to accept him as a member.

Motion to accept Ed McGowan as a member of the Housing Committee.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: Ronald Hall

Motion: Passed

- **City of Miami Housing Opportunities for Persons Living With AIDS (HOPWA) Report on Long Term Rental Assistance (LTRA) Waitlist** *Ray Louis*

The City is creating posters and fliers in English/Spanish and English/ Creole to advertise the HOPWA waitlist opening. Mr. Louis is working with organizers of the faith based HIV/AIDS awareness week to spread the word about the HOPWA waitlist opening, presenting at SFAN support groups in English, Spanish and Creole and advertising in the Miami Herald. The prospective date for the waitlist opening is April 2nd to April 30th; Appletree Perspectives will be compiling the applications and running the lottery.

- **BAME** *Ray Louis*

The BAME units are currently at full capacity and have remained in compliance since October 1st. The units were painted and communal areas cleaned. The Administrative Assistant was promoted to the President of the Board of Directors and is continuing to run the project.

- **Utility Allowance Update** *Ray Louis*

Per the audit by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HOPWA clients now receive full utility allowance benefits. This greatly increases costs for the HOPWA Program and will cause a reduction in clients if funding is cut or remains constant. The full utility allowance is included in the Fair Market Rent (FMR); therefore clients should look for units that are the FMR minus the average utility allowance for that size unit.

- **City of Miami Housing Programs** *Ray Louis*

The Federal government is assisting low income first time home owners; many City programs are available for assistance. Interested parties should check the City of Miami website, <http://www.miamigov.com/cms/>.

The Hialeah Section 8 Housing Program will open its waitlist starting next month.

Members asked about the foreclosure issue and Mr. Louis explained that clients are mandated to pay their rent while living in a unit regardless of pending foreclosures. The City is keeping track of foreclosures and to date no HOPWA clients have been negatively affected.

- **Elections for Chair Elect**

Per the memo distributed last month, only Janet Robinson and George Tamayo qualify for the chair elect position; Mr. Tamayo was interested; Ms. Robinson was not present but stated to staff that she was not interested. Members approved the ballot for Mr. Tamayo as chair elect.

Motion to approve the chair elect ballot with George Tamayo as the nominee.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: Ronald Hall

Motion: Passed

Members voted unanimously to elect Mr. Tamayo as chair elect.

▪ **June Meeting – Needs Assessment**

In June the Partnership holds the annual needs assessment. The meetings provide invaluable information on the epidemic, Part A expenditures, other funding streams and research. In order to have greater participation from all committees and subcommittees, staff is recommending canceling any regularly scheduled committee meetings in June.

Motion to cancel the June 18th Housing Committee meeting.

Moved: Ronald Hall

Seconded: Ed McGowan

Motion: Passed

Opposed: Frederick Downs and George Tamayo

VI. New Business

▪ **Community Affordable Housing Strategies Alliance (CAHSA)**

Alicia Apfel

CAHSA is putting the Affordable Housing Plan on hold due to the economic situation. Projected revenues and funding scenarios have changed. CAHSA will review its strategy in the summer after the legislative session ends, and hope to have a viable plan available for discussion in the fall.

▪ **Housing Needs Assessment**

Alicia Apfel

Ms. Apfel is having difficulty getting completed surveys from case management agencies; she currently has 150, is aiming for 500 but considers 300 an acceptable sample size. Members gave suggestions of how to obtain more surveys. Ms. Apfel currently has staff directly visiting agencies and asking clients in the waiting rooms to complete the survey. If she is unsuccessful, she will contact Theresa Fiaño, Assistant Director at the Office of Grants Coordination, for assistance.

▪ **March Meeting**

Members would like to hold the March meeting in South Dade to correspond with the City of Miami HOPWA presentation there.

Motion to hold the March 19th Housing Committee meeting at the Florida City/Homestead Neighborhood Service Center.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: George Tamayo

Motion: Passed

VII. Announcements

Each attendee received a copy of the 2009-2011 Comprehensive Plan and staff asked everyone to review the fliers (copies on file) in today's meeting materials.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is March 19th, 2009 at the Florida City/Homestead Neighborhood Center.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: George Tamayo

Motion: Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.