



Housing Committee Meeting
Edison Neighborhood Center, 150 NW 79th Street, Miami, 33133
March 18th, 2010 Minutes

Approved May 20, 2010

#	Members	Present	Absent	Guests	
1	Downs, Frederick, Jr.	X		Alyssa Arnell	
2	Gadlin, Lucille		X	Andres Christie	
3	Hall, Ronald	X		Cathy Mera	
4	Louis, Ray	X		Eddie Orozco	
5	McGowan, Ed	X		Tahituey Ribot	
6	Reed, Felicia	X			
7	Rolle, Betty		X		
8	Tamayo, George	X			
9	Weathers, Irma	X		Staff	
Quorum= 4				Marlen Hernandez	Kim Tardalo

I. Call to Order

The chair elect, Ed McGowan, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. Mr. McGowan welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

II. Resource Persons

Mr. McGowan identified Behavioral Science Research (BSR) staff as resource individuals.

III. Review Agenda

The committee reviewed the agenda; Marlen Hernandez was added to announcements.

IV. Review/Approve Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of January 21st, 2010,

Motion to accept the minutes of January 21st, 2010, as presented.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: Ronald Hall

Motion: Passed

V. Membership

- Marlen Hernandez

Ms. Hernandez reported that the full Partnership and all committees are in need of members. One Housing Committee applicant was present. Andres Christie from Sunshine for All, Inc., introduced himself and members voted to accept him as a member.

Motion to accept Andres Christie as a member of the Housing Committee.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: Ronald Hall

Motion: Passed

VI. Standing Business

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

No one has been called off of the current waitlist.

The City of Miami may use some of its Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) stimulus grant funding to assist developers in buying and refurbishing foreclosed properties and converting them to low income housing. The City will request that five to seven units per building be reserved for HOPWA clients. This will possibly mean 20 to 25 units by 2011. These units will be more cost effective for the HOPWA program since the rents charged would be below the Fair Market Rent (FMR). These units will be comparable to current project-based units, since the HOPWA subsidy would remain with the unit and not a client. Seven project based units at 54th Street and NW 17th Avenue are due to come onboard shortly. Mr. Louis will verify with HUD and the City's attorneys to see if those clients on the current LTRA waitlist can access these new units or if a separate waitlist will be needed.

The City will attempt to have one more meeting with BAME regarding the management of the property. The current managers have not been responsive and have not attended the Request for Proposal (RFP) workshop.

Offering promissory notes for potential damages instead of providing up front security deposits has saved the program a substantial amount of money. The current RFP includes a request for a legal service provider to work on recouping unreturned deposits as well as other client legal needs such as living wills.

Applications for the RFP are due by April 5th at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Louis will announce the recipients at the May Housing meeting.

- **Report on HOPWA Hearings** - Ray Louis

Mr. Louis reported that the HOPWA hearings went well. He explained that clients of the program are extremely thankful.

Members discussed the need for other housing agencies, such as Camillus House, Carrfour [check spelling], the Homeless Trust, etc., to come to the Housing Committee meetings. Ms. Hernandez explained there was discussion of inviting other agencies at the Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee is working on a list of potential invitees to a Housing Committee meeting to start a collective discussion.

VII. New Business

- **Presentation by HOPE, Inc. on Fair Housing** - Alyssa Arnell

Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence (HOPE) Inc. gave a presentation (copy on file) on fair housing statistics, tenant rights, case studies and how HOPE Inc. can help those facing discrimination. HOPE Inc.'s mission is to fight housing discrimination in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties and to ensure equal housing opportunities throughout Florida.

- **Needs Assessment Meetings in July**

Members reviewed the needs assessment schedule and decided to cancel their July committee meeting to allow members more time to attend needs assessment meetings.

Motion to cancel the July 15th Housing Committee meeting.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: Irma Weathers

Motion: Passed

VIII. Announcements

Ms. Hernandez asked members to review the following fliers (copies on file): Partnership report, Department of Health (DOH) surveillance report, VASH handout, low income housing handout and support groups flier.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting is April 15th, 2010 at the Edison Neighborhood Service Center.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Frederick Downs

Seconded: George Tamayo

Motion: Passed

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.