

**Tampa/Hillsborough County Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2016**

**Meeting Location: ACTS – 4612 N. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Tampa, FL 33610 @ 9:00 A.M.**

**Presiding: Antonio Byrd – COO**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.
<b>Welcome</b>	Antonio Byrd, THHI
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	February minutes were approved.
<b>CoC Governance and Structure – Meeting Info for CoC Committees</b>	<p><b><u>Antonio Byrd (THHI)</u></b> Antonio stated that the CoC Governance and Structure is a topic that will be discussed often as the CoC moves thru the process of structuring itself according to HUD regulations. The Committees were acknowledged for an amazing job out the gate by establishing committee goals and objectives and participating in the 5 Year Strategic Plan review sessions, thereby developing their own strategies to accomplish the goals of the 5 Year Plan.</p> <p>Antonio reiterated that in order to provide documentation to HUD of active members (those attending 80% of both CoC and committee meetings), attendance sign-in sheets to include agency name and notes/minutes of the committee meetings should be forwarded to: <a href="mailto:PritchettB@THHI.org">PritchettB@THHI.org</a>. Beginning with the April 7<sup>th</sup> CoC meeting, committee Chairs will give a brief summary of their meetings. Also mentioned was the fact that when RFP’s are issued for funding, the Rank and Review Committee uses the status of an agency as one of the criteria for receiving funds. The CoC body impacts not only CoC and HUD funding but impacts all of the money that goes into the community.</p> <p>It was announced Susan Raines has volunteered to be Acting Chair of the Consumer Advisory Committee.</p>
<b>Faces of Homelessness (Scenarios)</b>	<p><b><u>Cathy James (THHI)</u></b> Cathy introduced the film, “Sincerely, Me”, created by Blake High School’s Fine Arts Department for the Gasparilla Film Festival showing how students viewed homelessness. As the school district was also presenting at this meeting – H.E.L.P. Students in Transition Program – it was thought as an opportune time to get the two views together. Cathy also introduced from Blake High School Pam Glas, Fine Arts Department Lead Teacher, Sean Phillips, TV and Film Teacher, Maddie Glas, Producer and Director, Zavier Watt, Producer and star of the film and Kyle Tran, Director and Producer. Kyle gave some background on the film, noting that upon submitting the film to the Palm Beach International Film Festival – the largest student festival in Florida – it was ranked in the top ten (10) out of 1,600 submissions – a huge win as a first time entry. CoC members were asked to take out their phones and vote (<a href="http://PBCgov.com/filmfestival">PBCgov.com/filmfestival</a>) for the film to possibly win the Audience Award, which is not only an honor but would bring awareness to youth homelessness. Swag bags were given to the film makers to thank them for a job well done and putting their hearts into the film.</p>

**H.E.L.P. Students in  
Transition Program**

**Antonio Byrd (THHI)**

As part of the Strategic Plan, innovative ways are needed to address the issue of homelessness, e.g., Human Services/Homeless App, which identifies resources to be used while on the streets such as emergency shelters, meal sites, food pantries, healthcare centers, etc. Another area of technology being looked at will give the youth the ability to access youth services without having to engage anyone as youth will not readily admit to being homeless. Outreach to youth in the traditional manner does not work, therefore new and innovative ways must be found to reach this population.

On the index cards supplied at the start of the meeting, Antonio asked the membership to write down profiles of those that touched and/or had an impact on them. He explained that the profiles would be used to develop new and innovative ways to engage a specific population by knowing their stories of how they became homeless.

**Angela Thomas (Hillsborough County Public Schools)**

Ms. Thomas noted that the Blake High School film was a good lead in to what the school district does in working with the homeless student population. The H.E.L.P. Students in Transition Program started in the school district in 1980 with a staff of one (1) person. Formerly known as The Homeless Educational and Literacy Project, it was felt that a name change was needed to get away from the stigma of being a homeless student. Understaffed to service the entire school system, the program's current staff includes (1) homeless liaison, also the Coordinator w/the schools social workers dept., (4) school social workers, (2) school counselors, (4) part-time tutors and a data processor.

Governed by McKinney-Veneto Homeless Educational System Act, the program's themes are: school stability, school access, support for academic success and best interest of the child decision making. The purpose of the program is to make sure those students identified under McKinney Veneto Act are given the same rights as any other student in the school system by eliminating any barriers to identification, school enrollment, attendance and overall academic success. McKinney-Veneto is a grant with the goals being enrollment and attendance, academics and achievement and coordination with local and community agencies.

The program provides the following services: training and counseling on the McKinney-Veneto Act, identification of homeless students, collaborate with school personnel, coordinate school transportation, connect pre-kindergarten children to early childhood programs, forming partnerships with community agencies for identification and services of homeless students, providing referrals when necessary to agencies for services other than academic.

Additionally, support is provided to classroom teachers and academic interventions – working one on one with students allows a needs assessment which is passed on to their teachers and guidance counselors – collaboration with teachers, counselors and tutors to improve academic performance and progress, tutoring and academic consultation at select sites, engaging parents in student learning, assisting students in creating a path to graduation, preparation for post-secondary plans, working with unaccompanied homeless youth (not living with a parent or legal guardian) to ensure they receive the same educational opportunities.

<p><b>CoC Approval for Future Grants Opportunities</b></p>	<p>McKinney-Veneto framework goals are: ensure equal education, collaborate to meet outside needs, keeping students enrolled, prepare for students’ needs and increase school sensibilities.</p> <p>Continuum of Care homeless goals are: implement community-wide commitment to end homelessness, decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness, decrease the time of homelessness, optimize self-sufficiency, quickly and permanently re-house more people, utilize mainstream services which leads to positive outcomes for homeless students.</p> <p>Most youth are refused assistance by community services because by HUD’s definition, sharing of housing or “couch surfing” is not considered homeless. Once identified as McKinney-Veneto eligible, the youth has immediate school enrollment and attendance, they may remain at their school of origin for stability and to lessen emotional stress, given transportation to and from school of origin, given free breakfast and lunch and given prompt resolution of school placement.</p> <p>Showing collaboration within the school district, school social workers are the McKinney-Veneto liaisons to which school personnel can go to with questions. Once students are identified, usually thru student residency forms, liaisons contact the student or family to see what services are needed and makes the appropriate referrals.</p> <p>Handouts were distributed by program representatives. For additional information on H.E.L.P. , please call: 813.315.4357.</p> <p><b><u>Antonio Byrd (THHI)</u></b> THHI strives to keep the CoC involved in the various available grant opportunities and will seek the CoC’s thoughts/approval before applying for available funds. These additional dollars will allow THHI to contribute additional beds and support services to the CoC.</p> <p>In support of a list of grants that are available for application, Antonio asked for a vote of “Aye” or “Nay”. There were no “Nays” voiced. It was noted that this was not an official vote, but just a way to get feedback from the CoC. It was also noted that a lot of RFP’s have not been issued, therefore, how some funding sources are to be used have yet to be identified.</p> <p>A motion was made that when official vote is to be taken on an item at a CoC meeting, information on the actionable item be distributed a week in advance for review and possible questions before voting. The motion was approved by a show of hands.</p> <p>In answer to the question, “How are efforts coordinated to avoid a Lead Agency competing with the agencies for the same funding?”, Antonio answered that it is up to the CoC Lead Agency to coordinate the overall community effort . It was clarified that the funding opportunities that THHI will seek are only available for CoC Lead Agencies to apply for and THHI will not apply for any grant opportunities that competes with the CoC service providers. When the CoC Lead considers applying for a grant that may conflict with an agency, the CoC Lead would allow the agency to apply and will collaborate with the agency or the CoC Lead will apply at the higher level for only CoC Lead Agencies where it doesn’t compete at the agency level. All of the grants presented are for the CoC Lead only to apply for per the funder. In those cases , THHI applies for the funds, releases a RFP and awards funds to an agency who provides services to the community.</p>
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**Announcements**

**Mike Marshall (Affordable Housing – Hillsborough County)**

Currently in the middle of building their comprehensive consolidated plan for HUD in order to receive funding for county residents, homeless activities, affordable housing and community development. There will be four (4) community meetings:

March 7th - Ruskin – 6:00 p.m. – Southshore Community Resource Center, 201 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., S.E.

Tampa, University Area – 6:00 p.m. – University Community Resource Center, 13605 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

March 8th – Plant City – 6:00 p.m. – (Old) Plant City High School (downtown), 605 N. Collins Street

Tampa, Town & Country – 6:00 p.m. – Morganwoods Recreation Center – 7001 Armand Drive

The purpose of these meetings are to get residents to come out and interact with their consultant and staff and tell them what the needs are in the community. This input will assist in developing their plan for HUD along with the survey info at their website: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org) or THHI's website: [www.THHI.org](http://www.THHI.org).

**Officer Randi Whitney (Tampa Police Dept.), Deputy Stephanie Krager (HCSO)**

Officer Whitney and Deputy Krager conduct an outreach the second Tuesday of every month. For the month of March, they will start at Trinity Café at 8:00 a.m. If you would like to join them or for further details on their coverage area, you may either access Basecamp or go to THHI's website: [info@THHI.org](mailto:info@THHI.org).

Antonio encouraged the Outreach Committee to participate noting that doing an outreach counts as a meeting for that month.

Deputy Krager announced the opening of a homeless outreach center for outreach workers who need to meet with a client in the vicinity of Dale Mabry and Waters. The center's grand opening will be April 8, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend and invitations with more information will be distributed at the April 7<sup>th</sup> CoC meeting .

**Kevin Baker (Florida Dept. of Health)**

On March 25<sup>th</sup> in celebration of World Tuberculosis Day, the Florida Dept. of Health will offer free HIV, STD and tuberculosis testing at Trinity Café, 2801 N. Nebraska Ave., 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Also being offered are glucose screenings, pregnancy tests, rapid hepatitis C tests, blood pressure checks and immunizations. Kevin offered flyers and invited attendees to see him at the end of the meeting to answer any questions or for more information.

**THHI**

Cathy James announced the Tampa/Hillsborough County CoC Street Survival Guide published by THHI has been updated and copies will be available at the end of the meeting.

Lesa Weikel thanked the volunteers who participated in the Homeless Point In Time Count conducted on Thursday, February 25, 2016. The number of volunteers is still being tallied. The data for the results of the street count are still being finalized and should be available by the beginning of May.

	<p><b><u>Salvation Army</u></b>  A fashion show fundraiser hosted by news personality, Gayle Guyardo to include guest speaker, Susan Raines from the Salvation Army has been planned. For more information, visit their website: <a href="http://www.salvationarmyflorida.org/tampa/us">www.salvationarmyflorida.org/tampa/us</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Miracles Outreach</u></b>  Will host their Annual Community Health Fair on March 26, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. – 4501 E. Hillsborough Ave. Visit their website: <a href="http://www.miraclesoutreach.org">www.miraclesoutreach.org</a> for more information.</p>
	<p>If your agency has an event and would like to have the flyer or information disseminated to the CoC, please email your event information to <a href="mailto:WeikelL@THHI.org">WeikelL@THHI.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Next CoC meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2016 – ACTS – 4612 N. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Tampa 33610</b></p>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	10:30 a.m.

