



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED
Meeting Minutes
City of Fort Lauderdale
Community Services Board
January 13, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.
City Commission Chambers, City Hall
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

October 2019-September 2020

MEMBERS		PRESENT	ABSENT
Noah Szugajew, Chair	P	4	0
April Kirk, Vice Chair	A	3	2
Jonathan Bennett	A	2	1
Elizabeth Cupido	P	4	0
Christina Disbrow	A	1	3
Mary Kinirons	P	3	1
Richard Morris	A	3	1
Christi Rice	P	4	0
Terra Sickler	P	4	0
Marisol Simon	P	4	0
Dana Somerstein	P	3	1

Staff Present

Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager
Simone Flores, CDBG Grants Administrator
Marco Urquidi, Senior Administrative Assistant for HOPWA Grants
Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- **Quorum Requirement – As of January 7, 2020, there are 11 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 constitutes a quorum**

Chair Szugajew called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

II. WELCOME / BOARD AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

The Staff members present introduced themselves at this time.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2019

Motion made by Ms. Simon, seconded by Ms. Somerstein, to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. [The minutes were approved by consensus.]

IV. CSB BUSINESS

- **Conflict of Interest**

Ms. Flores distributed copies of the City's Conflict of Interest forms to the Board members. Ms. Williams explained that in the event of a conflict involving financial gain with any agencies applying for funds, members are asked to fill out and send this form to both the Community Services Board (CSB) and the City Clerk's Office.

Conflict will be discussed in greater depth at the annual orientation meeting for new City advisory body participants. Should a conflict arise, affected Board members may not participate in the review or scoring of funding applicants.

Ms. Somerstein recalled that in December 2019, the Board had requested that a representative of the City Attorney's Office address them regarding the whistleblower complaint raised against Care Resource. Ms. Williams advised that this is not a City or CSB issue: direction from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) states that the Board is to carry on business as usual. The Board will be notified if there are any findings in the case.

- **5:00 p.m. Planning Meeting**

Ms. Williams stated that this meeting will provide an overview of all grants that will come to the Department of Housing and Community Development, including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA). Because this is not a year in which a HOPWA RFP will be issued, the meeting will focus more closely on CDBG and other grants for which applications may be submitted in 2020. Board members are welcome to attend.

V. CDBG

- **Updates**

Ms. Williams stated there are no updates at the moment.

VI. HOPWA

- **Updates**

Notice has been published regarding the additional HOPWA funding recommended to pay for case managers, an attorney, and extra beds for the facility-based housing program. Once 30 days' notice has been provided, this recommendation will go before

the City Commission for approval. HUD will publish an additional 15 days' notice, after which they will provide the City with a release to set up accounts for HOPWA agencies.

Chair Szugajew requested that at the February 2020 meeting, Staff review an email sent to the Board members regarding budgets for HOPWA agencies.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rafael Jimenez, Director of Social Services for Care Resource, provided a brief update on the whistleblower allegations against the agency, stating that their official response was shared with Ms. Williams on December 5, 2019. He read a letter describing the whistleblower's claims as well as the agency's response to the allegations. He concluded that Care Resource's investigation has been completed and the allegations determined to be unfounded.

IX. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Chair Szugajew requested an update on the possibility of a joint meeting between the Board and the City Commission. Ms. Williams replied that she has sent a reminder of this request to the City Clerk's Office, where joint meetings are coordinated.

X. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]