



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**APPROVED**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**Community Services Board**  
**City Commission Chambers, City Hall**  
**July 11, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Christi Rice, Chair (via Zoom)	P	6	1
Pamela Aiken	P	4	0
Wismy Cius	P	3	0
Elizabeth Cupido	A	4	4
Gary Hensley	P	3	0
Ronald Pierre	P	1	0
Dana Somerstein	A	3	1

**Staff Present**

Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager  
Eveline Dsouza, Administrative Supervisor, Housing and Community Development  
Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communication to the City Commission**

None.

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

- **Quorum Requirement – As of July 1, 2022, there are 7 appointed members to the Board, which means 4 constitutes a quorum**

Vice Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. It was noted a quorum was present at the meeting.

**II. WELCOME / BOARD AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

New Board member Ronald Pierre introduced himself at this time.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 9, 2022**

**Motion** made by Mr. Hensley, seconded by Ms. Aiken, to approve the minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**IV. NOMINATE / ELECT CSB CHAIR**

Ms. Williams explained the procedure for nominating and electing a new Community Services Board (CSB) Chair. If the Vice Chair is elected as Chair, the process would need to be repeated to fill the position of Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Rice advised that she would be happy to serve as Chair.

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Rice, seconded by Mr. Hensley, to serve as Chair. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Ms. Aiken suggested that a new Vice Chair be elected at the Board's August 2022 meeting. The Board agreed with this proposal by consensus.

## V. CDBG AND HOPWA UPDATES

Ms. Williams recalled that at the May 9, 2022 meeting, the Board voted that if the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was within a 10% margin of the previous year's award, Staff could make the decision on how to adjust the allocations to CDBG agencies. The awarded amount differed from the previous year's amount by approximately 3.7%. Minimal adjustments were made across the board, resulting in the following allocations:

- Broward Partnership for the Homeless: \$48,105
- South Florida Institute on Aging: \$22,721.10
- Oasis of Hope CDC: \$12,026.25
- Women in Distress of Broward County: \$48,105
- Jack and Jill Children's Center: \$43,294.50
- Covenant House Florida, Inc.: \$24,052.50
- HOPE Fair Housing: \$30,000 (no change)

Ms. Williams noted that HUD requires some funding for fair housing and/or civil rights organizations, which was why there was no change to HOPE Fair Housing's allocation. The agencies will be notified following today's meeting, and Staff will prepare the agreements.

Ms. Williams next addressed Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA), stating that this program received a slight increase in funding which also did not pass the 10% threshold which would have required the Board to vote on the amended allocations. Because rent prices are increasing, Staff decided to allocate most of this difference to the tenant-based rental voucher (TBRV) program. This left roughly \$18,000, which was divided between Legal Aid and Care Resource. Legal Aid received \$10,000 of this allocation and Care Resource received \$8342.

The amended amounts will become the HOPWA agencies' base allocations going forward. This will change the HOPWA amounts as follows:

- Care Resource: \$270,342

- Broward House TBRV: \$1.45 million
- Broward Regional Health Planning Council TBRV: \$1.26 million

Ms. Williams continued that Broward County is experiencing a crisis in fair market rents. To address this, Staff has begun a process with HUD which will move HOPWA from using fair market rent as the standard, instead developing a rent standard that will better suit the needs of the community. This process is in the discussion phase. It will involve collection of data from the agencies that provide rent checks on behalf of HOPWA, which will show the different types of units available and determine what the program's budget can maintain. The length of this process has not been determined. It is hoped that this information will be brought back to the CSB for community input before final suggestions on a new rent standard are provided to HUD.

HUD has also issued an expedited waiver process as part of a continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has applied for additional Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utilities (STRMU) assistance for another 21 weeks of the 52-week period and for the full 52-week period if the need continues at its current level. The waiver process will end in March 2023. The City has submitted its request and is awaiting final approval from HUD, after which time it will notify the agencies providing STRMU assistance that they may continue to work under the waiver.

Ms. Aiken asked if other Broward County municipalities are going through the same process to amend rent standards. Ms. Williams replied that Fort Lauderdale is taking the lead on this issue, as no other Broward County municipality receives HOPWA funding.

Mr. Cius asked what types of strategies are planned to allow HOPWA to work with Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) recipients to provide housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Ms. Williams explained that the Broward County Department of Health has taken the lead on this initiative, although the City was active in these meetings prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff will reach out to determine whether or not these meetings will continue so the agencies can work together to provide housing and stabilize health care.

Mr. Cius noted that the Broward County Department of Health is a recipient of funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) aimed at ending the HIV epidemic. Broward County government also receives funds from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program toward the care of individuals with HIV/AIDS. He recommended that the City find a way to join these efforts to serve the needs of these residents. Ms. Williams agreed that as an agency focused on housing, HOPWA should be a vital part of this discussion.

## **VI. PRESENTATION BY CONSOLIDATED CREDIT**

Sandra Tobon, Director of Housing, Counseling, and Community Outreach for Consolidated Credit, showed a PowerPoint presentation on the services provided by this organization, which has served Broward County for 29 years.

Consolidated Credit serves families and individuals by addressing money management problems through education and professional counseling. One of its core programs is community education. Bilingual staff and financial coaches provide comprehensive financial education using different types of platforms. The COVID-19 pandemic created an opportunity to reach more families using a virtual platform.

Consolidated Credit's website lists over 229 seminars and webinars provided to the community, all of which are free through the site. They offer courses in budgeting, smart spending, credit, retirement, and equity. They are seeking more nonprofit community partners to help them reach more families.

The primary issue behind today's presentation is Consolidated Credit's home buyer education and counseling. They offer services for first-time home buyers, as well as reverse mortgage counseling. The intent is to stop foreclosure. Certified housing counselors also help residents find better rental options, which is very difficult in the current environment. The agency has a strong relationship with Fort Lauderdale, which means they can refer clients to City rental assistance programs.

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, Consolidated Credit will hold a first-time home buyers' fair at Volunteer Park in Fort Lauderdale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They hope to reach clients whose goals include purchasing a home and make them aware of the assistance available to them.

## **VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Francisco Gomez, representing Care Resource, stated that this agency is working with Miami-Dade County on the EHE goal discussed earlier and can provide valuable information on this program to the Board members and the agencies they may represent.

## **IX. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Chair Rice noted that a new Vice Chair will be elected at the next CSB meeting. Ms. Dsouza added that CDBG agencies will be present to provide their nine-month performance reports.

## **X. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION**

None.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 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.]