



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**Meeting Minutes
City of Fort Lauderdale
Community Services Board
700 NW 19th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311
November 10, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS		PRESENT	ABSENT
Christi Rice, Chair	A	16	4
Sharon Hughes, Vice Chair	A	15	5
Tanya Cohn	P	3	0
Wismy Cius	P	14	1
Shelly Goren	P	7	0
Latrinsha Greaves	A	17	3
Gary Hensley	P	12	2
Wesley Julius	P	1	0

Staff Present

Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager
Jonathan Rogers, HOPWA Administrator

Communications to City Commission

None.

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

- **Quorum Requirement – As of November 1st, 2025, there are 8 appointed members to the Board, which means 5 constitutes a quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. and it was noted a quorum was present.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Board members determined by consensus that Mr. Hensley would serve as Acting Chair (A/Chair) for today’s meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. WELCOME / BOARD AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

The City Staff members present introduced themselves.

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

IV. NEW CSB MEMBER

New Board member Wesley Julius introduced himself at this time.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 13, 2025

Motion made by Ms. Goren, seconded by Mr. Cius, to approve. [The **motion** was approved by consensus.]

V. HOPWA DISCUSSION

Ms. Williams recalled that the City had initially received information that the draft federal funding bill did not include Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) funds in fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026. The final version of this bill did not mention HOPWA at all, and all discussion of the program that had been included in the draft bill was eliminated. No funding for HOPWA was earmarked in the federal budget for 2025-2026.

Ms. Williams continued that the budget bill has not yet been finalized due to the recent federal government shutdown. She noted that members representing Broward and Miami-Dade Counties have advocated for HOPWA funding to be restored. The funding provided in FY 2024-2025 is good through 2029.

Ms. Williams stated that the current government shutdown has not reduced the \$7.9 million in funding which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has indicated the City will receive. It has delayed the execution of grant agreements at the HUD level. She anticipated that these agreements will be signed once the shutdown ends.

Edwin Cordova, representing Legal Aid of Broward County, asked if this meant HOPWA provider agencies should limit the amount of assistance they provide per client, as to do otherwise would mean the agencies are assisting fewer clients. Ms. Williams replied that each HOPWA agency is awarded a certain amount of funds, and it is up to those agencies to budget based on the greatest need. She recommended that when the agencies begin work on their next year's budgets, they review data from the current year, determine where those greatest needs lie, and prepare their budgets accordingly. She emphasized that the City may not spend any funds beyond their total \$7.9 million allocation.

Ms. Williams also encouraged the provider agencies to have candid conversations with their clients to review their options and possibly make difficult decisions regarding their priorities. She advised that it is important to move clients' mindset toward self-sufficiency in the event that additional funding does not become available in 2029 or sooner.

Ms. Williams continued that some clients may need assistance in different programs moving forward; for example, a client in the Tenant-Based Rental Voucher (TBRV) program may transition away from that program, but may still need assistance from the Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) program as they move toward self-sufficiency.

A question was asked regarding the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system. Ms. Williams replied that the City has applied through this system to provide access to HOPWA provider agencies that are not registered within that system. The City has been informed that they must include additional legal language in their requests; however, further communication with HUD has not been possible during the government shutdown. The SAVE system is intended to ensure that funding for housing subsidies is limited to individuals who are documented.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

A question was asked how agencies can assist individuals with fixed incomes in transitioning to self-sufficiency, or how they can serve employed individuals in seeking to increase their incomes. Ms. Williams advised that providers will need to be on the lookout for other mainstream voucher programs to be opened to new clients and encourage their clients to apply to these programs. She acknowledged that the formats of and limitations on these mainstream programs are also changing.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Cordova addressed clients' needs for cars in comparison to the County's bus system, noting that while using buses may contribute significantly to travel time, the purchase or lease of a car and the insurance related to that purchase or lease are also difficult for clients. He concluded that he was not currently clear on whether it is better to recommend clients give up the expense of cars, as cars can be necessary for clients to get to work or appointments on time.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

A/Chair Hensley suggested that the next meeting include a discussion on units of service per client, as mentioned earlier. Mr. Cius also requested further discussion of issues related to moving HOPWA clients toward self-sufficiency.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

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

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