



**MEETING MINUTES**

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
 HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC)  
 TOWER 101-101 NE 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE  
 SUITE 1100 CONFERENCE ROOM  
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.**

<b><u>Committee Members</u></b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Paula Yukna, Chair	P	10	1
Robin Martin, Vice Chair	P	9	2
Ray Dettman	P	10	1
Michael O'Brien	P	10	1
Amy Schimelfenyg	P	10	1
Colby Williams	P	8	3

**Staff**

Marie Joseph, Homeless Initiatives Coordinator  
 Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development  
 (HCD) Division Manager  
 Carole Mitchell, Homeless Initiatives Program Manager  
 Officer Brian Blount, FLPD Homeless Outreach Unit  
 Monique Young, Community Health Coordinator MIH, FLFR  
 Gullenne Smith, Community Health Coordinator, FLFR

**Others**

Tony Docal, Hope South Florida (Volunteer)  
 Joe Kenner, Hope South Florida, President  
 Jackie Anderson, Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division (HOSSD), Broward  
 County  
 Greg Hunt  
 Garry Smyth, Rotary Connection  
 Gwynne Beatty, Rotary Connection  
 K. Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype Inc.

**I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Yukna called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

## **II. Determination of Quorum**

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

## **III. Public Sign-In**

## **IV. Approval of December 2025 Minutes**

**Motion** made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Schimelfenyng, to approve the minutes of the December 2025 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **V. Agenda Items**

### **a. Presentation:**

#### **i. Fire Rescue Mobile Integrated Healthcare Team**

Monique Young, Community Health Coordinator, Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH), Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue (FLFR), accompanied by Guillenne Smith, Community Health Coordinator, FLFR, presented an overview of the MIH team's work with unsheltered and high-needs individuals. The presentation described how the team coordinates with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Mobile Crisis, and community partners to provide follow-up care, reduce unnecessary emergency transports, and connect clients to appropriate services. Young noted the team consists of three members, operates from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and conducts regular street outreach and weekly participation in Community Court.

Chair Yukna asked about follow-up and medication compliance, and Young and Ms. Smith explained how coordination with Police, Mobile Crisis, and medical providers supports continuity of care. Board Member Schimelfenyng asked about staffing and crisis response, and Young confirmed current staffing levels and coordination with Mobile Crisis. Board Member O'Brien asked about ideal staffing, and Young stated that additional staff would improve coverage. Vice Chair Martin asked about referrals, outcomes, and funding, and Young explained that Fire Rescue refers clients in need, hospital coordination improves placement outcomes, and funding is provided through the City budget and grants.

### **b. City Data and Program Updates:**

#### **i. HB 1365 – FixIt FTL**

Carole Mitchell, Homeless Initiatives Program Manager, reviewed the purpose, objectives, and structure of the FixIt FTL Committee, noting that the program's objectives were established in 2023. She reported that in December 2025 there was a slight decline in service requests, with 118 requests received and an average closure time of 25 hours for HB 1365 homeless concerns, with Districts 2 and 4 continuing to generate the highest volume of requests overall. For FY26 first quarter (October through December), Districts 2 and 4 remained the areas with the most consistently high number of concerns.

ii. Community Court Data and Service Expansion Initiatives

The discussion on Community Court data and service expansion initiatives noted that there were 188 unique participants and 250 total visits. This trend has been consistent for several months, with housing identified as the highest priority need among participants.

iii. Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) – FixIt FTL Response Time

Ms. Mitchell reviewed December Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and FixIt FTL data, noting two (2) reunifications and eighteen (18) requests through FixIt FTL, and opened the floor to the HAC Committee to pose question to Officer Brian Blount, FLPD Homeless Outreach Unit.

Officer Blount explained call prioritization across three police districts, noting that FixIt FTL complaints typically close within 24 hours but can take up to five days, with 20–30 calls pending citywide. Staff adjustments and coverage overlaps are being implemented to improve response times.

Vice Chair Martin asked about prioritization, response times, and HOT Dashboard metrics. Blount clarified routing procedures, typical response hours, and under-reported encounters, including outreach to “homeless snowbirds” and activity at Caring Place shelter. Martin suggested clarifying notes on metrics, and Young noted upcoming increases in community engagement.

Chair Yukna emphasized the importance of keeping the public informed. Blount committed to improving reporting, and Vice Chair Martin agreed to retain the metrics. Blount was thanked by the committee for his work.

v. CDBG-DR RFP Draft – Follow-up Discussion Committee Member O'Brien expressed concern that the \$19M CDBG-DR RFP funds may not reach those in need and suggested relying on outreach staff for guidance. HCD Division Manager Williams clarified that

homeowner assistance is separate and noted frontline data supports the need for transitional or individual shelter spaces, reflecting national trends away from congregate shelters.

Committee Member Dettman emphasized including as many developers as possible. Vice Chair Martin asked Ms. Young, Community Health Coordinator, to estimate shelter acceptance. Ms. Young and Officer Blount noted that only about 10% of chronic homeless individuals are likely to use shelter, while Ms. Smith stressed focusing on those who can be helped. Ms. Young highlighted the importance of building rapport.

Vice Chair Martin discussed emergency shelters functioning as long-term placements. Ms. Williams said the RFP is expected to be published before summer. Challenges tying funding to the April flooding were noted, and Vice Chair Martin suggested consulting the Task Force regarding families doubling up in shared housing.

#### v. Safe Parking Program Update

Joe Kenner, President of Hope South Florida, provided an update on the Safe Parking Program, launched December 15. He noted a slow start with five (5) referrals over the holidays, operational success with family advocates, and challenges working with children and families in the Sistrunk area. Kenner clarified that participation requires meeting an income threshold and that families are not intended to stay long-term, with many participants working while in the program. Currently, seven (7) adults and twelve (12) children are enrolled, with background checks completed and school performance for children reportedly positive. Kenner expects participation to increase and will provide future updates.

HCD Division Manager Williams explained the income requirement is intended to facilitate temporary transfers rather than provide permanent shelter. Vice Chair Martin expressed appreciation for the City evaluating the program. Tony Docal, Hope South Florida, noted an issue with a participant unable to access funds due to lacking identification. Ms. Mitchell confirmed that families can receive mail at LifeNet4Families in Lauderhill and noted pending follow-up from the Salvation Army; the Community Services Director plans to address this issue.

#### c. Homeless Advisory Committee

##### i. Open Discussion

None

#### VI. Public Input

Chair Yukna opened public comment

Garry Smyth, Rotary Connection, provided an update on the bus program launched in August, noting 700 riders in December and a goal of connecting individuals to services, not just providing transportation. The program includes a driver with lived experience and a certified peer navigator, conducts referrals to DCF and other agencies, and makes 62 stops per day. Smyth highlighted successes, including a relocation program averaging nearly one per day, with seven relocations already in January, and discussed planned expansion. He was commended by the Committee.

Gwynne Beatty, Rotary Connection, described the program's low-barrier, one-on-one approach, HOT handoffs, same-day treatment, and bus tickets for returning home. She noted that 67 individuals were assisted and over 2,000 people were transported to services in 2025, supported by marketing and social media outreach. Beatty also mentioned that a high school junior, Sam Danzig, helped with the bus wrap design and commended the committee and program teams.

Mr. Smyth proposed adding three (3) additional buses; an additional bus for central Fort Lauderdale, one for Hollywood, and one for Pompano, funded through private and corporate donations, with discussions underway for sustainable funding.

Greg Hunt raised a suggestion regarding homeless individuals who are artists or entertainers, asking if other cities' approaches have been reviewed. He proposed a shelter catering to that demographic and using their talents for compensation. Committee Member Dettman suggested creating a homeless networking webpage to support referrals.

Chair Yunka closed public comment.

## **VII. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON February 12, 2026, AT 1:00 P.M.**

[Minutes prepared by J. Burnham, Prototype, Inc.]