



**NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**JACKSONVILLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 28, 2021
9:30 am**

Proceedings before the Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission taken on
Wednesday, July 28, 2021
Ed Ball Building, 8th Floor, Jacksonville, FL 32202
Commencing at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Commissioners

David Wakefield, Chair
Raul Arias, Vice Chair
Diana Galavis, Commissioner – **Late Arrival**
David Hacker, Commissioner
Curtis Hart, Commissioner – **Unexcused**
Ericia Moore, Commissioner – **Unexcused**
Randy DeFoor, Commissioner
Sharol Noblejas, Commissioner
Lauren Parsons Langham, Secretary
Thomas B. Waters, Commissioner
Sol Wynter, Commissioner

City of Jacksonville Staff:

Dr. Johnny Gaffney - **Unexcused**
Mary Staffopoulos, OGC
Chiquita Moore, Operations Director
Thomas Daly, Chief
Travis Jeffrey, Affordable Housing and Community Development Administrator
Adebisi Okewusi, Director Finance
Barbara Florio, Board Liaison
Sam Nester, Board Administrative Support

Guests Present:

Kim Sirdevan, Youth Crisis Center
Stephen Durham, Youth Crisis Center
Pete Hicks, Youth Crisis Center
Andy Fink, Ability Housing
Brooks Dame, COJ
James Coggin, Community Foundation

Staff:

Tina Griffith	Kenny Logsdon	Neolita Maharaj
Robert Ownby	Melody Saftner	Carolyn Herring
Davetta Williams		



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Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chair David Wakefield called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Thomas Waters and seconded by Commissioner Raul Arias.

Motion Passed: 8-0

I. Public Comments

No public comments.

II. Presentation

Kim Sirdevan, President and CEO of Youth Crisis Center, gave a brief overview of Youth Crisis Center and shared details regarding their newest program House of Hope. House of Hope opened in December 2020 and provides emergency housing services to homeless young adults 18-24, including the LGBTQ community. The CDBG funded House of Hope is a 9-bed facility setup to provide a safe environment with 24-7 supportive care services. The goal of the program is to stabilize the crisis and the transition the individual to permanent safe housing.

Commissioner Arias asked to see data next year on how many participants were served for the year and how many returned to the program. What is the maximum someone is allowed to stay? What would be the reason to have someone move on?

Ms. Sirdevan indicated the 60-day mark should be the maximum time of stay. There may be circumstances that lead to someone staying longer. She will provide the data within the year.

Commissioner Arias inquired as to what is the expected cost per individual for 60 days.

Ms. Sirdevan said she would have to get back with the specifics regarding cost per individual. The overall expected budget is just under \$500,000 because the facility is staffed 24-7.

Commissioner Arias asked how many participants they expect to serve during a year?

Ms. Sirdevan stated the goal is to serve 125 young people a year.

Commissioner Langham asked how often, when and under what circumstances would you communicate with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to prevent the participant from returning to an unsafe home environment?

Ms. Sirdevan explained these participants are adults, however, if they discover situations took place prior to the individual becoming an adult then DCF and JSO could be involved.

Commissioner Hacker inquired as to how individuals find out about House of Hope.



NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Ms. Sirdevan explained they do presentations through schools, parents reach out to them for assistance, word of mouth, their website, and social media campaigns.

Commissioner Wynter inquired if the brochure is available in other languages and if the staff speaks other languages? She inquired about the comparison of participation between Duval and Clay County.

Ms. Sirdevan explained they do have staff that speak other languages and their brochures are printed in various languages.

Regarding the data for county comparisons, she can provide a report which shows the zip codes of where the participants come from.

Commissioner Wynter asked if the families are part of the process, counseling, and integration?

Ms. Sirdevan explained families are involved when it is possible. However, the participants are adults and it has to be their desire to include family in the process.

Commissioner DeFoor asked for Ms. Sirdevan to explain how permanent housing works?

Ms. Sirdevan explained Touchstone Village (19 single apartments) is on the same campus and is an available option for permanent housing transition from House of Hope. The age range for Touchstone Village residents is 18-21.

Commissioner DeFoor asked how many people per apartment?

Ms. Sirdevan indicated it is one person per apartment.

Commissioner DeFoor asked for clarification as to if it is 19 participants and is located in Clay County.

Ms. Sirdevan explained Touchstone Village has two locations. One in Clay County which is a home with 4 rooms and the Duval County location that is located on Youth Crisis Center campus and is an apartment complex with 19 individual apartments.

Commissioner DeFoor asked how much public assistance they received in regards to their \$500,000 budget?

Ms. Sirdevan shared they receive funding from CDBG, private donors and foundations. They do not receive funding from State or Federal dollars.

Commissioner DeFoor asked how much do you receive from CDBG?

Ms. Sirdevan stated they receive \$53,000.

Commissioner DeFoor asked if they received any COVID money?

Ms. Sirdevan indicated \$40,000 of COVID money was received as a Basic Center Grant for Run Away Homelessness use. This program is for those under 18 years of age. The funds were not able to be used for House of Hope.

Commissioner DeFoor shared that they could have tapped into more money and to be on the lookout if more comes.



NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Commissioner DeFoor asked how her program compares to Sulzbacher and does Youth Crisis Center partner with other organizations such as JASMYN?

Ms. Sirdevan explained House of Hope is a partnership with JASMYN. House of Hope provides accessibility for the LGBT population and provides security that they have a bed to come back to.

Commissioner Arias asked if the occupants at Touchstone Village are required to pay rent and if so, is the goal of House of Hope to get them off the street, get them a job and transition them to Touchstone?

Ms. Sirdevan indicated they are required to pay rent at Touchstone Village, maximum amount is \$300 monthly. The goal with House of Hope is to get them off the street, stabilize them, get them a job, and then transition them to permanent living arrangements, whether it is to Touchstone Village or not.

Commissioner Arias asked if they have a list of possible employers for job opportunities?

Ms. Sirdevan stated they are working on building a list. They generally work with businesses within their area because of transportation limitations. Most participants do not have a vehicle and rely on the bus system. They currently partner with Winn Dixie, Publix, Starbucks & Walmart.

Commissioner Arias suggested to also look at smaller business within the community as possible employers.

Commissioner Wynter suggested looking into a partnership with JTA to provide the participants monthly passes for commuting to and from work. She asked how many bedrooms are in each apartment unit? Would it be possible for the occupants to have roommates in order to serve more?

Ms. Sirdevan indicated the apartments in Duval are only 374 square feet. Additionally, due to the trauma most of the participants are coming from they need space for healing. The model in Clay County does have two per room. It's a different model and has a 24-hour house parent.

III. Chief's Report

Chief Daly reported that the Mortgage Relief Program (MRP) has expended \$2,386,068.76. We have received 55 applications for the CDBG-DR Hurricane Matthew Disaster Relief Program. Projects completed: 6; Projects Under Construction: 9; Total Funds Expended: \$669,022.94. Staff is working on Environmental Analysis for the neighborhood encompassed by the project boundaries of the CDBG-DR Hurricane Irma Voluntary Home Buyout Program. Interested parties will be contacted once the review is complete. Headstart to Homeownership (H2H) has had 61 closings and 16 pending closures. There is \$777,530.00 of funding remaining. The Limited Repair Program has 36 completed projects; Approved/Under Construction: 6; Negotiating Bids/Ready to Sign: 2; Obtaining Bids: 1; Pending Inspections: 6. The Emergency Repair Program (ERP) has 20 completed projects; Approved/Under Construction: 1; Negotiating Bids/Ready to Sign: 2; Obtaining Bids: 0; Pending Inspections: 4. The Utility Tap-In Program has 8 completed projects; Approved/Under Construction: 7; Negotiating Bids/Ready to Sign: 2; Obtaining Bids: 3; Pending Inspections: 4. Rental program has assisted 1,021 households, spending just over \$4,000,000. Foreclosure Intervention Program has been in operation for about 2 months – Processed 26 applications; expended \$125,000 of the \$450,000.

Commissioner Noblejas asked what the delay is with Hurricane Matthew Program?

Chief Daly explained we just received the funds a year and a half ago. A second grant was just released along with a year extension to the program. DEO has changed consulting firms which resulted in changes to



**NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

regulations and interpretations. We are working with the new staff and new firm on how to implement the program. Ran into obstacles with Procurement. COVID caused delays. We are only a year and a half in, and things are ramping up.

Commissioner Arias asked what is the deadline for Hurricane Matthew and Irma programs to be completed?

Chief Daly Matthew deadline is June 10, 2022. The Irma program has two years left.

Commissioner Arias asked what happens to the left-over funds at the deadline?

Chief Daly responded that any left-over funds would revert to the State.

Commissioner DeFoor asked for a highlight of what the JHCDC Commission does and asked for a list of all activity that is being done.

Chief Daly indicated that we provide a quarterly update of all activities.

Commissioner DeFoor asked how we interplay with other housing authorities?

Chief Daly explained that we don't interplay with the other housing authorities and gave an overview the programs we manage.

Commissioner Thomas provided an explanation of the difference between Jacksonville Housing Authority and the JHCDC department.

IV. New Business

No new business

V. Unfinished Business

Operations Director Moore followed-up regarding the Boards request for a video regarding foreclosures practices, predatory lending, etc. She has been in contact with Public Affairs department and will continue to move this forward with more to come in a couple months.

Operations Director Moore asked Commissioner Waters to contact her to provide additional information regarding the issue with his HOA.

Commissioner Waters provided further background information concerning the issues with the expiration of HOAs and the lack of retention ponds being maintained in the neighborhoods.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

CERTIFICATION

Recorded and Transcribed by:

Signature on File
Sandra Nester, Administrative Assistant
JHCDC Staff Support

Submitted by:

Signature on File
Barbara Florio, Operations Manager
JHCDC Board Liaison

Approved by:

Signature on File
Lauren Parsons Langham, Secretary
JHCDC