

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MEMBERS OF
HARRIS COUNTY POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

The Committee of Members of the Harris County Housing Policy Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) convened in their second session at 10:03 a.m. on the 18th day of December 2019 in the Auditorium Conference Room of the Harris County Community Services Department, 8410 Lantern Point Dr, Houston Texas, and roll was called at 10:04 a.m. of the duly constituted acting members of the Committee, to-wit:

Daphne Lemelle	Harris County Community Services Department
Allison Hay	Houston Habitat for Humanity
Lance Gilliam	Precinct 1
Mike Moody	Greater Houston Builder’s Association
Mike Nichols	Coalition for the Homeless
Zoe Middleton	Texas Housers
Oudrey Hervey	United States Veterans Initiative
Chang Chiu	County Judge
Starla Turnbo	Houston Apartment Association
Mary Green	Harris County Children and Adult Protective Services
Tom McCasland	City of Houston Housing and Community Development
Quentin Wright	Lone Star College
Eric Heppen	Precinct 3
Assata Richards	Sankofa Research Institute
Jennifer Herring	Criminal Justice Re-Entry Population
Wayne Young	Mental Health Authority
Mercedes Sanchez	Precinct 2
Horace Allison	Harris County Housing Authority

All of said members were present at the convening of such meeting, except Paul Shanklin, representing Precinct 4, Loyd Smith representing County Engineering, Umair Shah representing Harris County Public Health, thus constituting a quorum. The following persons also attended the meeting: Christy Lambright, Rene Martinez, Richelle Henderson representing Harris County Community Services; Aimee Shultze and Staci Lofton representing Harris County Public Health; Kyle Shelton of Kinder Institute; Mary Itz of City of Houston, and Jeff Hall and Andy Teas of Houston Apartment Association.

Call to Order

Chair Daphne Lemelle gave a brief presentation about the committee and introduced Desi Canela with Harris County Community Services as Senior Housing Policy Analyst at 10:07 a.m.

Affordable Housing Study Update

Kyle Shelton made a brief housing study update at 10:08 a.m., slating finalization of the study county portion in early January, and an early scope to be shared with all members. It was mentioned along with

other items: conversations with City and County, data information, what direction the study is taking, opening opportunities for ideas, focus on flooding and the environment, relocation of people to safe areas of the city, joint work between City and County, differences between the two levels of power, finding the best way to work with the power with both, approaches to mixed-use properties, new development forms, innovative and newest approaches to housing based from ideas around the world, based on what's doable to County City standards. Kyle covered reflection on engagement process and how people define affordable housing. Tom McCasland with Houston Housing and Community Development stated the need of a brief that defines the specific problems in Houston, and the number of families who spending more than 50% of their income on rent. Tom mentioned studying the data for the first three month, briefs and engagement, topic resources to come from that study resulting on action items, an ultimate plan with action steps, and how to address the issues. Assata Richards with the Sankofa Research Institute mentioned using study data to solve the problems of affordable housing, and stated the importance of the entire committee to familiarize themselves with the data, and understand and plan set of recommendations. Assata mentioned people should be able to access data, by zip code for example. Wayne Young stated the need for a QA/QC to make sure that data is being reviewed and accurate, and mentioned feedback between the committee to delegate is the best way to do it, based on each member's knowledge. Kyle Shelton noted the importance of quality control, and mentioned there is no formal review setup. Kyle added he would work on a way to make that happen, and suggested two companies suggested to be able to review data. Chair Lemelle stated the City contract would be finalized in early January, and the schedule will last 13 months after finalization of documents. Chair Lemelle mentioned data would be analyzed for 7-8 months, and that a new meeting schedule will be setup. Constantly creating an engagement creating brand and outreach component. Chair Lemelle added the plan should consist of multiple components, such as public hearings throughout the county/city, speak-outs on public areas to identify people, and an online survey. Chair Lemelle stated local organizations could place kiosks at for the public get information and mentioned that February is the target date to have everything up and going, and participation will run through during Rodeo season, but it is a mere possibility because rodeo can be costly - dollars may be better used geared toward public events. Chair Lemelle suggested that the media has the option of getting free advertising options so Kyle can reach a broader public audience. Chair Lemelle added that veterans needed to be included on that discussion and that the census outreach could coordinate for more public outreach. Chair Lemelle stated that comments and concerns should be given by the end of January.

Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention Program

Maria Verdeja, Assistant Director Case Management, CSD Office of Social Services presented slides for homeless prevention at 10:50 a.m. During the presentation she showed slides explaining ways to help ease the rent burden, and help people avoid going to court or getting evicted. Ms. Verdeja explained different ways to educate people to ask for assistance. At 11:08 a.m. Tanesha Franks, Deputy Assistant Director, CSD Office of Social Services facilitated presentation on the rapid rehousing program. Tanesha explained policy issues with voucher acceptance, and answered questions from Committee members. Starla Turnbow stated the need is there, but requirements are too difficult to be met. Ms. Turnbow also asked a question about the length of stay in the program. Mike Nichols offered a response based on the Continuum of Care homeless system outcomes that shows 84 percent retention rate in programs providing permanent housing.

Proposed Work Group Discussion

At 11:35 a.m. Chair Lemelle discussed the priorities of creating work groups. Member Alison Hay suggested the Design and Construction workgroup be changed to resilient construction. Wayne suggested the addition of a QA/QC workgroup.

Homeless Taskforce

At 11:49 a.m. Daphne Lemelle gave a brief explanation of the Homeless Taskforce

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:53a.m.

** Minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting of the Committee**

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