

Facilitator: Porsha Goodman (DOH)

Minutes: Dustin Kane (CAFTH)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Committee Chair, Porsha Goodman.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the last CoC Planning meeting in February were reviewed. With a motion from Mary Hamlett, and a second from Lawrence Wilson the minutes were approved as presented.

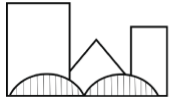
Presentations & Discussion

a. COVID-19 Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance Program

Alexandra Schwarz from the Shelby County Department of Community Outreach shared a presentation about the COVID-19 Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance Program, which was created to help Shelby County residents experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Alexandra explained that the program can pay up to 12 months of past due rent and utilities directly to landlords and/or MLGW. Selected applicants are also eligible for financial counseling and free legal services if they have an eviction case. Alexandra explained that individuals can apply by completing the application online at home901.org or text HOME901/CASA 901 to 21000 for assistance in English or Spanish. The application opens the 1st of every month and closes on the 14th for applications to be reviewed and selected. Alexandra explained that to be eligible a household must be able to demonstrate indirect or direct financial hardship due to the COVID-19, demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing instability, and have a household income below 80% AMI. She explained that they are prioritizing applicants who have received an eviction or utility cut off notice. Eligible applicants not selected during the first 14 days will not have to reapply to be considered for future months. She encouraged committee members to reach out with additional questions by emailing: alex.schwarz@shelbycountyttn.gov.

b. CAFTH Updates

Dustin Kane reported on CAFTH's COVID-19 vaccination events with the Memphis Fire Department, Hospitality HUB, and Union Mission to host several COVID-19 vaccination events. He encouraged any agencies interested in hosting a vaccination event for employees or clients to contact him. Dustin also reported on a new funding opportunity available through the 901 Home, Together – Strategic Plan to End Homelessness Action Implementation Grant (AIG). He explained that grant funds can cover activities to further the goals and objectives of the 901 Home, Together Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. Dustin mentioned that applications are due by Wednesday, May 21st at 3pm. Dustin also



announced that the CoC Renewal Monitoring process will be conducted virtually this year. CAFTH will be offering optional office hours to go over this year's monitoring process. Dustin also announced that HUD released an extension for the COVID-19 regulatory waivers. He encouraged members to reach out to him or Grant with additional questions.

c. Member Updates & Discussion

Porsha Goodman asked committee members to complete an anonymous survey regarding their comfort levels with in-person meetings. She explained that the data will be used to inform longer term transition planning. Eli Cloud of Thistle & Bee, an organization that serves women who have survived trafficking, prostitution, and addiction, announced that they have been able to double their residential capacity. Eli encouraged members to refer eligible clients by calling 901-338-9288. Mary Hamlett introduced MIFA's new Director of Emergency Housing, Lakais Bailey. Shirley Brown of Push Faith House introduced herself to the group. Shirley explained that her organization was applying to utilize the Marine Corps Reserve Center to establish a clothing closet, warming/cooling shelter, and other resources for the community.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am with no further discussion.