**Homeless Trust Fund Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 3, 2023**

**Meeting Via TEAMS**

Attendance: Wendy Alexander, Kevin Hickey, Linda Hess, Rob Jakubowski, Sue Lehman, Gino Lewis, Sharrae Mormon, Alex Staropoli, Dominic Vesper, Sr.

Absent: Shirley Butler, Commissioner Cappelli, Michael Faulk, Jr., Amy Schuler, Marlin Young

Guests: Lisa Anthony, Christine Hentisz, Jamie DiFrancesco

A motion was made by Mr. Vesper to approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2023. Second by Mr. Lewis. Minutes were approved

Mr. Jakubowski welcomed the group and introduced the new members who were approved at the July County Commissioners meeting.

The balance was reported as $835,697.44.

New Business

Mr. Jakubowski reported that the Social Services for Homeless Grant through NJDFD has exhausted all homeless prevention funds for the year. There is a grant coming out from NJ DCA Office of Homeless Prevention that will fund additional prevention dollars. One will be awarded in Camden County for $126,000. This grant requires a 10% match. Mr. Jakubowski suggested the trust fund consider offering that 10% match to whomever the state awards the contract through their procurement process. Mr. Vesper motioned that the HTF provide the 10% match. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. After discussion on the value of matching dollars, the question was called and passed.

Old Business

Mr. Jakubowski reported that the outreach groups appreciate the on-going support of materials they have for distribution to the unsheltered homeless. The summer items included sunscreen, bug spray, body wipes and cooling towels.

The HTF previously approved $50,000 for homeless diversion. The State recently awarded a grant to Catholic Charities for Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Diversion. They were selected through a public RFP procurement process. We will provide the HTF funds to Catholic Charities just for Diversion.

Homeless Initiative

Mr. Jakubowski reported that Work Now will begin next week. This program will provide day jobs for panhandlers in the City and offer services and support to housing and employment. The County recently identified the CCIA as the developer for a new interim housing and permanent housing development. More details will follow in the coming months. Our office will issue an RFP soon for Tenant Based Rental Assistance using over $4M in HOME-ARP Funds. Mr. Jakubowski reported he and a staff member of the CCIA are completing a five-week Home Buyers Course with HUD. We hope to make some meaningful changes to the HOME First Time Homebuyers program. The SNJCoC is currently preparing for their response to the annual HUD NoFo. We will also be creating a web page for HTF on Camdencounty.com

Mr. Jakubowski announced some changes in the Community Development office. Anthony Bianco was hired as the COO for CCIA. Mr. Jakubowski was elevated to Director of Community Development. Jamie DiFrancesco was brought over from Health and Human Services. He has an MSW and previously worked with the HEARTH Act while working for CPAC several years ago.

We had a discussion of ideas from the Advisory Committee. Mr. Lewis asked questions about Code Red.

There were no other items for discussion at this time.

Mr. Lewis motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hickey seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Jakubowski