**Homeless Trust Fund Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 1st, 2024**

**Meeting Via TEAMS**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Wendy Alexander, Shirley Butler, Linda Hess, Rob Jakubowski, Helen Kioikis, Sue Lehman, Gino Lewis, Sharrae Mormon, Alex Staropoli

**Absent:** Amy Schuler, Commissioner Cappelli, Michael Faulk Jr., Dominic Vesper Sr.,

**Guests:** Jamie DiFrancesco, Jim Rhodes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Jakubowski called the meeting to order and welcomed the HTF members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

* 1st - Gino Lewis, 2nd – Linda Hess; Helen Kioukis- Abstain
* The minutes were approved by the group.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Jakubowski reported the current balance to the group. $782,847.39

**NEW BUSINESS**

A conversation was held regarding the best usage of the “wrap-around services” funding. Some Committee members suggested that the agencies have some input in deciding the best usage of the funding, and for which underserved population. Other committee members suggested that the funds be used for families of mid-low income, or seniors who are of mid-low income.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A conversation was had in which Mr. Jakubowski updated the group on the status of the funding made available to service providers through RFP’s and other means. Some money was awarded to service providers through RFP process, others are still in process, some had no applicants apply for the money.

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| **APPROVED PROJECT** | **AMOUNT APPROVED** | **STATUS** |
| Youth Housing | $80,000 | Rosy Arroyo is no longer with the County. Rob to meet her replacement next week |
| NJDCA Homeless Prevention Grant 10% match | $12,600 | Waiting award notification from DCA |
| Sober Living | $50,000 | Spending is underway. Expected to go through this money quickly |
| Peer Support Specialist with Outreach | $40,000 | Will perform outreach on van of Office of Mental Health & Addiction |
| Wrap Around Services with Sober Living | $100,000 | Began talks with CCBSS, if no shared service agreement, then will RFP |
| Outreach Supplies | $25,000 | Most of this has been spent. Waiting for the final invoice. |
| Homeless Resource Fairs | $50,000 | The 2nd Fair was held for Point in Time. It was a success! Another Fair to be planned outside Camden City. |
| Diversion | $50,000 | Awarded to Catholic Charities in conjunction with another DCA grant. They have been spending the funds. |

**UPDATES**

Mr. Jakubowski updated the group on a variety of the other projects being undertaken by the Office of Community Development that are tied to housing and homelessness.

**County Homelessness Initiatives**:

* Internal Workgroup – The County has assembled several departments and divisions connected to homelessness services and will push for new and progressive ways to tackle the problem. Much more to come!
* Point in Time – A homelessness Service Fair was held at Cathedral Kitchen to draw unsheltered individuals inside to conduct HUD-based surveys for the PIT Count. The service fair offered a hot breakfast, showers, haircuts, and access to multiple service providers.
* Shared Housing – The Div of Community Development is in active talks with the Shared Housing Institute in DC as well as the service providers within Camden County who already provide “shared housing” in some form. Training, conducted by the Shared Housing Institute, is in the works.
* New Shelter – To be built outside the City of Camden in another location within the County. Architect has been procured. A basic design has been agreed upon. There is a bid for builder. It is estimated to cost around $20 million.
* M.A.C. – The County will construct a “Multiple Agency Center” (MAC) within the City of Camden, loosely modeled after a structure and program to end homelessness that exists in Bergen County in the town of Hackensack.
* HUD Awards – have come out and our CoC saw a steady improvement in scores.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON FUNDING IDEAS**

A brief conversation took place regarding possible funding ideas for the upcoming year. Topics included homelessness outreach, shared housing programs, resource fairs, youth housing, diversion funding, and more.