



MEETING MINUTES

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC)
FIRE STATION NO. 2
528 NW 2ND STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
THURSDAY, July 10, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.**

Committee Members

	Attendance	Present	Absent
Paula Yukna, Chair	P	6	0
Robin Martin, Vice Chair	P	4	2
Ray Dettman	P	6	0
Michael O'Brien	P	6	0
Amy Schimelfenyg	P	5	1
Colby Williams	A	4	2

Staff

Carole Mitchell, Homeless Initiatives Program Manager
Luisa Agathon, Neighbor Support Manager
Marie Joseph, Administrative Supervisor - Homeless Initiative Coordinator
Kayla Weinberg, Homeless Initiatives Senior Administrative Assistant
Jorg Hruschka, Chief Service Officer

Others

Luis Nicola Aguilar, Broward County Human Services Administrator – Housing Innovation (HOSS-D)
Patrice Paldino, Broward County Human Services Director (HOSS-D)
Michael Mulheron
Goldie Weakland
Tony Docal
K. Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype Inc.

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Yukna called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. Determination of Quorum

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

III. Public Sign-In

IV. Approval of June 2025 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Dettman, seconded by Ms. Schimelfenyg, to approve the minutes of the June 2025 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Agenda Items

a. Presentation: Broward County Housing Options Solutions and Supports Division (HOSS-D) Homeless Continuum of Care/Coordinated Entry Assessment

i. Luis Nicola Aguilar, MBA Human Services Administrator

Luis Nicola Aguilar, MBA Human Services Administrator, provided an overview of Broward County's Homeless Continuum of Care (HCoC) and the Coordinated Entry (CE) system, which connects individuals experiencing homelessness with shelter and housing services. CE operates through four primary components: access, assessment, prioritization, and referral. He explained the County's structure, including governance, housing programs, and the CE workgroup.

Emergency shelter inventory includes approximately 600 beds, though demand exceeds capacity. About 700 households are currently housed, with an additional 500 households on waitlists, including roughly 300 families waiting for shelter. Wait times vary, and while referral timelines have improved significantly—now averaging under 90 days—challenges such as household size, criminal history, and limited unit availability continue to impact placements.

Ms. Patrice Paldino, HOSS-D Director, joined to provide budget and outreach data, noting that the County's \$47 million budget supports services funded by federal, state, and local sources. Outreach teams encounter approximately 5,000 individuals quarterly. Shelter is costly, averaging \$16,000 per person annually, prompting the County to explore shared housing and other more efficient models. Many clients fall short by \$1,500–\$2,000 per month in rent, a gap that general funds may address for those ineligible for HUD programs.

Discussion included a recommendation to expand Broward Partnership / Central Homeless Assistance Center (HAC) capacity from 230 to 300 beds by revising the City ordinance, and support for a Safe Parking Program. The presenters emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships, landlord engagement, and educating the public on effective giving strategies to better support structured services.

b. City Updates:

i. HB 1365 FixIt FTL Data

Carole Mitchell, Homeless Initiatives Program Manager, reported that in June there were a total of 140 FixIt FTL requests, with an average time to close of 42 hours. Of these, 94 were related to general homeless concerns, 5 were outreach inquiries, and 42 requests specifically addressed House Bill (HB) 1365 which prohibits public camping or public sleeping. In total, there were 136 requests related to homeless concerns and HB 1365. Over the fiscal year, the number of requests fluctuated, with the highest volume occurring in October, January, and April. Districts 2 and 4 consistently received the greatest number of requests.

ii. Community Court and PD Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) Data

Ms. Mitchell provided an update on the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), noting they are still finalizing some June data, which has caused some discrepancies. In June, the team conducted 114 outreach encounters, responded to 46 SeeClickFix requests, and issued 5 Notices to Appear. Community Court served 251 individuals totaling 321 visits, focusing primarily on needs like housing, shelter, food, and transportation. Ms. Joseph observed a decline in outreach interactions over recent months, likely due to seasonal factors, although the homeless population itself has not decreased.

Concerning program highlights, from October 2024 to June 2025, for Housing Navigation, 111 unique individuals were on the housing list of which 29 were housed or reunified with family, and 42 declined services. Emergency shelter referrals numbered 62, with 37 individuals engaged in housing and employment plans, and 53 individuals self-discharged.

Regarding the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Housing Program (mid-March 2025 – June 2025), 63 individuals were referred for mental health services via Homes United of which 41 were received; 129 individuals were referred for substance misuse via Fellowship Recovery of which 78 were received. The City Commission approved extending the Fellowship contract for another year. Lastly, Henderson Mental Health continues to collaborate closely, providing weekly Community Court evaluations and accepting police referrals for mental health needs.

c. Homeless Advisory Committee

i. Open Discussion

Motion made by Vice Chair Martin, seconded by Mr. Dettman, that the City Commission review and revise the ordinance capping the number of people who can be served on any given night at the Central HAC (Broward Partnership), to expand capacity to serve 300 individuals, including families. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Dettman, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, to ask staff to explore creating a GoFundMe page or other funding sources the City could utilize, including programs from other parts of the country that could be replicated. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Input

Michael Mulheron, a community researcher with the University of Miami and someone who donates to the homeless, agreed with concerns about asking individuals for money. Drawing on over 20 years of experience in resource development, he noted that while individuals might hesitate due to government taxes, many businesses would be willing to support initiatives by having their names associated with buildings or programs. This support would also serve as a tax write-off for the businesses, making it a viable funding option to consider.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 14, 2025, AT 1:00 P.M.