

## Governance Board Meeting

November 22nd, 2022

9:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/99220435473?pwd=b242dUpMNDVJNzIIRYVIZZnVIZ0xqQT09>

Members – Monica Rego, Madelyn Sutton, Jennifer Hiros, Loretta Robinson, Malikah Morris, Kevin Dowd, Vivienne Stewart, Lila Myers, Todd Wirth, Stephen Ent, Mark Harding, Jaclyn Robinson, Casey Carty

- 1) Call to Order at 9:34 AM
- 2) Open Public Meetings Act read
- 3) Roll Call- Monica Rego, Lila Myers, Malikah Morris, Madelyn Sutton, Loretta Robinson, Kevin Dowd, Stephen Ent
- 4) Approval of July Meeting Minutes- Motion to accept the July Minutes Stephen Ent, second Kevin Dowd all in favor, no abstentions, no oppositions. Motion Carried.

### Public Comment

- Kent Pipes Hainesport, Affordable Homes Group
  - Questioned the Governance Board about the following:
    - the status of a congregate homeless shelter in Westampton
    - the Homeless Trust Fund balance of over \$800,000
    - asked the Governance Board to inquire about the fund with the County Commissioners.

### 5) Reports

#### a) Housing HUB Report

##### i) Malikah Morris reported the following for October:

- (1) The Housing Hub provided 240 new intakes, many of which were veterans who were linked to veterans' organizations.
- (2) The Hub has been seeing an increase in walk-ins, with an average of about 10 to 14 per day
- (3) The Hub has worked closely with the BCBSS and Volunteers of America (VOA). As a result, Malikah Morris reported that the BCBSS had adjusted its hours to assist in serving clients.
- (4) The Housing Hub plans to volunteer in a coat drive with Senator Singleton's office on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Extended Hands Ministries.

#### b) CDBG

##### i) Jennifer Hiros reported the following:

- (1) The CDBG application is currently available on the website and due back on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Any applicants or those with any questions are directed to the Division of Community Development and Housing website or office for either Jennifer Hiros or Linda Horner.
- (2) The Division of Community Development and Housing office has been hosting monthly, 30-minute check-in meetings to share news from the Division of Community Development and Housing office, HUD, and encourage discussion among its members.

#### c) HOME

##### i) Jennifer Hiros reported the following:

- (1) The CV Cares ACT
- (2) CV 1 and 3 have been granted additional money to the Division of Community Development and Housing through the HUD Newark Office. The agencies that were given these dollars are utilizing them, most notably the Food Bank, which conducts Food Distribution monthly. Many applicants are in various stages of their projects and drawdowns due to the varying sizes of the projects.

(3) The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has given the office monies for small cities. This is not money the office typically oversees because DCA does not participate in CDBG, but it is going well. Jennifer Hiros is working closely with Colleen Devereux at DCA and meeting with DCA regularly to spend the money. Some counties could not implement the dollars or get them out to bid, so DCA is recapturing and redistributing to counties that can spend the money. Money must be paid to communities impacted by Covid-19, but this process is going well for Burlington County.

d) HOME American Rescue Plan Funds

i) Jennifer Hiros reported the following:

- (1) The Division of Community Development and Housing has conducted interviews and would like to congratulate Monica Rego, a successful applicant for the HOME program. As a result, Monica Rego will be backfilling the slot, replacing Tim Howard.
- (2) HUD announced that some communities struggled to conduct their HOME-ARP plan, which led to new changes being implemented, notably the planning component due in March 2023. The Division of Community Development has completed 75% of the planning process but had put it aside because of staff shortages and the timeline previously given. The Division of Community Development and Housing is in the public hearing and posting phase, as Burlington County's plan is complete and in draft format.

e) Point in Time (PIT)

i) Jennifer Hiros reported the following:

- (1) Monarch and Abt Associates are beginning to host PIT training for the upcoming PIT count on January 26, 2023. Jaclyn Robinson will need cooperation for the PIT Count through information, a firm and clean housing inventory chart, and HMIS accuracy. If any agency is working with Ashni Mathews from Monarch or Jaclyn Robinson reaches out, take it seriously, as it affects the Burlington County PIT count.

6) Action Items

a) Nomination for Veterans Slot

i) Corey Panati

- (1) The Governance Board reviewed the resume. Lila Myers made a motion to accept Corey Panati for the Veterans Slot. Loretta Robinson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. No abstentions, No oppositions. Motion Carried.

b) Nomination for Youth Education Slot

i) Toni Porreca or Claudine Archer

- (1) The Governance Board reviewed both resumes. Lila Myers made the motion to accept Toni Porreca for Youth Education Slot. Stephen Ent 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. No abstentions, No oppositions. Motion Carried.

c) Affordable Homes Group Appeal *See attached appeal letter from Kent Pipes.*

i) Kent Pipes stated the following:

- (1) Since he submitted his appeal, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has reviewed his proposal for a building dedicated to recovery housing, including 25 permanent housing units and ten transitional housing units. In addition, the DMHAS has agreed to endorse his application to the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA). The DMHAS requires a letter of support before they commit funding from special needs housing trust fund dollars that the NJHMFA administers. With this, the Affordable Homes Group would be one step closer to getting legal support at the state level.
- (2) Only some people are suited for emergency shelters; some clients can go directly into transitional housing, and some are more suited for Rapid Rehousing. Others still need additional services and supervision with case management.
- (3) There are dollars available, but the state wants to know that local CoC's support the application. Last year, the Affordable Homes Group didn't get the \$400,000 for the same project because the continuum didn't endorse his project, which is why he is appealing. Kent Pipes asked the Governance Board to reconsider his access to those dollars available through the state.

ii) Jennifer Hiros stated the following:

- (1) The Governance Board does not provide letters of support; it states that someone's request is consistent with the Governance Board's planning which is what the Board has done. Jennifer Hiros informed Kent Pipes that if he asks

explicitly if the Governance Board is consistent with the Homeless Trust Fund, this Governance Board does not oversee that planning.

- iii) Kent Pipes clarified
  - (1) He was not asking about the Homeless Trust Fund but general support for an application for the state for transitional housing.
  - (2) Kent Pipes stated that the state is the only source that he is aware of that will support transitional housing and that there is no other funding he knows of. Further, Kent Pipes stated that it differs from permanent housing as it is limited to 24 months, so it is the bridge between homelessness and permanent housing.
- iv) Madelyn Sutton asked for clarification about the units.
- v) Kent Pipes stated the following:
  - (1) There is a total of 35 units in Westampton; 25 units will be new construction and permanent housing lease based, so tenants can stay as long as they like. In addition, ten of the 35 units will be transitional housing for those already or newly out of treatment programs.
  - (2) The entire property would be dedicated to clean and sober living with medication support.
- vi) Jennifer Hiros inquired:
  - (1) Who will provide medically based services, and did Kent Pipes have an MOU with a mental health agency that provides medically assisted treatment?
- vii) Kent Pipes stated:
  - (1) Oaks Integrated Care would deliver those services, which is possible through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, which gave Affordable Homes Group \$750,000. Kent Pipes replied that the Affordable Home Group still needed an additional \$400,000 from the state.
  - (2) Kent Pipes stated that Oaks Integrated Care is located a half mile up the street from the location of the units and received additional funding from the state to expand service times.
  - (3) Burlington Comprehensive Counseling will also be across the street from the units.
- viii) Jennifer Hiros inquired:
  - (1) whether an MOU was provided with the appeal letter.
- ix) Kent Pipes stated:
  - (1) that he had not but could provide one that afternoon.
- x) Jennifer Hiros asked:
  - (1) if Kent Pipes intended to apply for the 9% tax credit for leverage.
- xi) Kent Pipes replied:
  - (1) His project needed to be more significant for a tax credit.
- xii) Madelyn Sutton made a motion to vote on the appeal.
  - (1) Lila Myers abstained from voting
  - (2) Todd Wirth abstained from voting.
  - (3) Loretta Robinson made the motion to accept the appeal.
  - (4) 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Dowd.
  - (5) No opposition.
  - (6) 2 abstentions-Lila Myers and Todd Wirth, 4 yes-Loretta Robinson, Kevin Dowd, Madelyn Sutton, and Stephen Ent.
  - (7) Motion Carried.
  - (8) Jennifer Hiros requested that Kent Pipes send her the MOU between Affordable Homes Group and Oaks Integrated Care. Kent Pipes agreed.
- xiii) Closed Session- No Closed Session was made.
- xiv) Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM