

General Advisory Committee of the  
Burlington County Community Development Program  
February 8, 2024, Meeting @ 3:00 PM

Present: Kevin Rijs representing Evesham Township, Paula Kosko, representing Hainesport Township, Lavinia Awosanya, representing Food Bank of South Jersey, Chris Smith, representing SEN-HAN Transit, Barbara Katz, representing Providence House, Ally Schmidt, Literacy NJ, Julia Fadeeva, representing Literacy NJ, Ted Lovenduski, representing Florence Township, Patricia Clayton, representing Edgewater Park Township, Ryan McCarthy, representing Edgewater Park Township, Kevin Gauntt, representing Cinnaminson Township, Joe Barbadoro, representing Cinnaminson Township, William Long, representing Mt. Laurel and Southampton Townships, Susan Danson, representing Maple Shade Township, Mayor Gary Catrambone, representing Delran Township, Bill Harris, representing City of Burlington, Janice Lohr, representing Delanco Township, Pete Taylor, Economic Development, Kevin Dowd, representing Walters Group, Scott Hatfield, representing Burlington Township, Randy Brolo, representing NJ Laborers, Malukah Morris, Division of Human Services, Jennifer Hiros, Linda Horner, Monica Rego, Patricia Lake, The Division of Community Development and Housing.

1. Call to order – Open Public Meetings Act  
The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM by Jennifer Hiros. Jennifer Hiros stated the meeting follows the Open Public Meetings Act. The meeting was opened for public comment. No members of the public were present, and hearing no comment, Jennifer Hiros closed the public comment portion.
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of January 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
The January 11, 2024 meeting minutes were moved to approve by, Randy Brolo, seconded by Bill Harris. **Motion carried.**
4. Spotlight Presentations:
  - a. Providence House – Barbara Katz  
Barbara Katz stated Providence House is the only safe, confidential emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. The mission of Providence House is to not only provide confidential safe housing, Providence House offer clients necessities such as food, clothing, and personal care items. Barbara Katz stated Providence House is a warm, welcoming 27-bed home setting facility that offers supportive services beyond nights of shelter such as a domestic violence education support group and individual counseling as needed. Financial workshops and resume-building workshops are offered to promote self-sufficiency. Case managers are on-site assisting with housing

advocacy, referrals to other agencies, and child stabilization and education.

Barbara Katz reported Providence House has recently completed a renovation using Community Development Block Grant COVID funding. The home renovations were completed through a trauma-informed healing lens, giving clients a sense of wellness and treatment of trauma.

5. Reports:

a. CDBG

Linda Horner stated the FY2023 Community Development Block Grant projects have not yet begun and is looking forward to warmer weather for pre-construction meetings to begin. Public Service agencies continue to spend down. Linda Horner reported the FY2024 Community Block Grant applications are under review for funding requests.

Jennifer Hiros reported bi-weekly meetings with HUD representatives concerning the timeliness of projects and HUD's regulation of 1.5 times of the entitlement must be spent by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Looking ahead to FY2024 funding allocations, projects will be assessed by project preparedness and ability to begin shortly after receiving funding. The General Advisory Executive Committee will reconvene to discuss the budget and determine which projects are adequately prepared to begin in a timely manner.

b. HOME

Monica Rego reported HOME current programs have been notified of the 2023 monitoring which is due back to the Division of Community Development and Housing by the end of March 2024. The Burlington County Housing Inspector has begun visiting units ensuring properties are up to code.

The next HOME Investment Partnerships meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 2 PM.

c. COVID Care Act Funding

i. CV3 projects have slowed and currently not spending down.

Projects have been given a 3-year extension for a total of 6-year project timeline. A project in Pemberton is progressing, however the other 2 projects have stalled. Jennifer Hiros stated one project required a change of location and is experiencing issues with the environmental process.

ii. CV DCA1 and CV DCA2

Jennifer Hiros reported a successful meeting with DCA representatives discussing the movement of funds into the Code Blue emergency shelter program. Jennifer Hiros stated funds are still available for back mortgage assistance.

6. Action Items –

7. Closed Session – A closed session was not held.

8. Discussion

There were no further discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia Lake*

PL/JLH