

Camden County Homeless Trust Fund

April 6, 2023

9 a.m. via Conference Call

Members Present: Wendy Alexander, Anthony Bianco, Jr. , Susan Cantando, Michael Faulk, Jr., Rob Jakubowski, Sharrae Mormon, John Saban, Amy Schuler.

Guests Present: Jim Rhodes

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 and it was noted a quorum was attained. Mr. Bianco motioned to approve the minutes of February 2, 2023. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion which was approved.

The balance of the trust fund was reported as \$723,257.46

New Business

There was no new business to report for consideration by the trustees.

Old Business

Mr. Jakubowski reported that the outreach materials are being used. We purchased materials for warmer weather and they will be distributed now the weather has been changing.

There were about 14 Welcome Home vouchers spent in March and few more being processed. The sunset period set by the Trustees has expired. Though this was an increase from the past, Mr. Jakubowski does not recommend we extend the sunset period.

The Sober Living program is going well. Seventy-five percent of the funds have been spent so far.

Mr. Bianco brought up the Diversion fund which was previously approved by the Trust Fund. He shared a case of an issue brought by the Health Department where a family has a severe bed bug infestation but could not afford the extermination. This is a good example of diversion that keeps a family from becoming homeless.

Homeless Initiative

Mr. Bianco updated the Trust Fund on the homeless plan that is being led by Commissioner Director Cappelli. This included the Work Now RFP that was opened the day before the meeting. If approved by the County Commissioners it will fund the program for three years.

He reported that a request for a Federal earmark was submitted to fund a new Day Shelter in Camden City. The City has not had a day shelter since before 2018.

Mr. Bianco reported we issued a grant to provide food, toiletries and personal care items for food banks in the County. We opened grants earlier in the week and will award over \$300,000 using CDBG-CV funds given to us by NJ Department of Community Affairs.

Mr. Jakubowski reported that most prevention funds have been running through their funds quickly this year due to the overwhelming need. Mr. Jakubowski called a meeting among prevention providers to discuss what was still available and how they can work together to best help residents.

Mr. Jakubowski also reported on bonus funds received by the SNJCoC with the recent NoFo. We also learned there are more funds available in the Unsheltered grant. Since no grants were awarded in New

Jersey with the first round we hope funds come here in the second round. SNJCoC is also pursuing a grant from NJ Office on Homeless Prevention to improve data quality.

Mr. Jakubowski reported that homeless encampments can now be reported on the GovAlert App. This sends an alert to the VOA Navigation Team who will offer services. Mr. Rhodes commented on the app and shared that it ties into the GovPilot program and will help us track and map homeless encampments.

The balance of the meeting was offered to the trustees to share ideas and suggestions for the trust fund to pursue.

Mr. Faulk asked a question about recent tornadoes and how we are able to respond to people becoming homeless. Mr. Bianco responded that is generally managed by the Red Cross and FEMA.

Ms. Alexander reported that her agency, Center for Family Services, will soon announce a Homeless Prevention and Workforce Development program located at Community Centers throughout the City of Camden. It will be a partnership with the city to help upper-lower income and moderate-income families in the City.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Robert Jakubowski, Homeless Services Coordinator.