

Camden County Homeless Trust Fund

June 1, 2023

9 a.m. via Conference Call

Members Present: Anthony Bianco, Jr. , Michael Faulk, Jr., Kevin Hickey, Rob Jakubowski, Gino Lewis, Sharrae Mormon, John Saban, Amy Schuler.

Guests Present: Jim Rhodes, Lisa Anthony

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 and it was noted a quorum was attained. Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the minutes of May 6, 2023. Mr. Hickey seconded the motion which was approved.

The balance of the trust fund was reported as \$766,377.04

New Business

Mr. Jakubowski presented a program for support from the Trust Fund. Community Development was looking to partner with the Camden County Youth Services Commission. They were looking to create a program for young adults who are system involved and homeless. Together we would identify group housing for youth. Youth Services Commission would fund wrap around services. The request is for HTF to support the housing. It is estimated to cost \$40,000 for a year. It was noted this could be a two-year program Mr. Lewis motioned to approved up to \$80,000 to prove the rental payments for this partnership. Mr. Hickey seconded the motion. It was unanimous.

Old Business

Mr. Jakubowski reported that there were 23 total vouchers funded for the Welcome Home Voucher program. As decided by the HTF previously, the program had sunset. The purchase order will be closed.

Sober Living funds continue to be spent.

Homeless Initiative

Mr. Bianco reported that our office had distributed a few hundred thousand dollars for food, toiletries and personal care items for food banks and pantries using the CDBG-CV funds received through the State.

He reported that we have awarded funds to VOA for the Work Now program in the City. It will be a three-year grant helping two teams of homeless with day labor work and services. Metro Police are in the process of hiring a social worker to be on the streets with police to help with homelessness and other issues. Our office is exploring options for a potential day center with a location to be determined. He also reported that several long-term housing projects will be completed in the coming months with as many as 3,000 new affordable housing units being made available.

Mr. Jakubowski reported that the SNJCoC received their scores for the Unsheltered Homeless NoFo. Our scores regionally were good. We know areas to improve our scores for the future and to plan our program design around. The SNJCoC continues to develop an action plan based on our strategic plan that was written for this grant. NJDCA awarded shelters grants around the state with some new dollars coming into agencies serving Camden County. We await the announcement of the State awards for Diversion which HTF previously approved to support when awarded. SNJCoC is working to submit a Youth Homeless Demonstration grant.

Regan shelter continues to have positive outcomes. Within our SSH program we are moving funds from other areas into Prevention, which has a higher than usual need this year.

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

Mr. Lewis asked about Code Blue and Code Red. Code Blue had no reported issues this year. Code Red has not yet been mandated by statute. HTF previously purchased Outreach materials which included items for summer conditions which continue to be given to homeless outreach groups.

The next meeting is August 3, 2023. Mr. Jakubowski noted that some members will not be re-appointed as they represent towns who are no longer noted as the top 3 in the most recent point in time count. Appointments and re-appointments are planned for the July Commissioner meeting with a new term starting at the August meeting

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