The meeting of the Saint Louis County Housing Resources Commission was called to order at 4:12 p.m. at Saint Louis County Department of Human Services, 500 Northwest Plaza Drive, Suite 800, Saint Ann, MO 63074.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Executive Committee meeting on this date.

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Harris (by conference call), Kathy Schweitzer, Frank Foster, Catherine Carter, and Susan Rollins.

DHS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Andrea Jackson-Jennings, Yusef Scoggin, Adriann Adams-Gulley, Chaunceia Mayfield, Minnetta Watkins, and Leslie Hughes

ROLL CALL: Leslie Hughes

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion to approve: Kathy Schweitzer
- Move to Accept: Susan Rollins – approved with date correction
- Seconded: Andrea Jackson-Jennings
- Minutes for April 2, 2018 approved

CHAIR REPORT – Kathy Schweitzer

- Nothing to report

PROGRAM UPDATES - St. Louis County Director of Homeless Services: Yusef Scoggin

There were a few questions from the last HRC Meeting which needed to be addressed. As a follow-up to these questions, we have compiled a handout which will show the comparison of the year to year data, along with the Point in Time update.

1. Warming shelter services were provided by Salvation Army from December 18, 2017 thru March 16, 2018. They were awarded 75,000, out of that amount: $14,256 came from HRC. At the close of the shelter, there were four individuals that had no alternative
shelter. During our last meeting, we requested and were approved to utilize $5,000 in partnership with Loaves and Fishes who housed these individuals until more suitable arrangements could be found. We initially thought that we would use the $5,000 funding from HRC, but we were able to tap into an alternative funding stream from the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). There was money which was reallocated, and we were able to use those funds to take care of those clients. Three of the individuals were moved into housing, and one was able to move in with family temporarily. No HRC money was spent.

2. The Annual Point in Time Count is a requirement of HUD, and took place on January 25, 2018 for both St. Louis City and St. Louis County. The data in the handouts compares the numbers between the PIT Count taken in 2017 and the PIT Count taken in 2018. (See Handout, PIT Count Data January 25, 2018.

**Question:** Under the PIT Count Data, there seems to be a significant drop in the Chronically Homeless numbers between 2017 and 2018, which is remarkable. Is there a reason for that?

**Answer:** Chronically homeless; as defined by HUD, means that a person has been homeless continuously for a year or has had four episodes of homelessness within a three year period. So that number has gone down, which is good. However, when we look at total numbers, the most significant decrease was found in the unsheltered count. This is something we talked about previously. The question being, are these real numbers, or an inability to identify individuals throughout our large geographical region. This is something that we are still trying to identify, but we will be able to see better over the course of many years to come.

3. HUD System Performance Measures, are what we talked about in the previous meeting pursuant to program evaluation, and ensuring that we are assessing the projects that we are funding and providing data as to what the outcomes are.

First time homeless numbers can also be somewhat misleading. First time homeless does not necessarily mean that this is the first time an individual has sought shelter: it merely means that this is the first time an intake form has been entered in either the City or County. An individual may be in the system for the city, but they are entering the county system for the first time, which would show up as first time homeless in our database.

An example of this can be seen if you look at the System Performance Measures which were submitted to HUD in May show that the total number of first-time homeless in the city has gone down, while the total number of homeless in the county has gone up.

Multiple CoCs throughout the region: St. Clair, St Charles, St. Louis City and St Louis County, are coming together and have put together what we call the SLARCH (St Louis Area Regional
Commission on ending Homelessness). Ultimately this commission will allow some data sharing so that we can identify what this aggregate information may indicate.

4. Rapid Re-Housing is failing across the board, we will need to look for more creative ways to assist individuals and families. HUD is mandating that Rapid Rehousing should be extended to everyone, and we are seeing widespread failures across all systems. This is an opportunity for HRC to do things differently, and we plan to discuss this in the future with this commission.

This information should be helpful to bring to the Housing Trust Fund meeting. It would be hard to think that there are individuals in West County or South County that need anything, or even in 63131 which is Des Peres. It is interesting how this data is scattered throughout the region. The Affordable Housing Task Force has been established via an executive order. This body is to evaluate whether an affordable trust fund should be set up. We hope that they will make favorable recommendations which will provide more resources for affordable housing and other projects that can address the needs that we are discussing today.

5. We previously talked about the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool). We have been discussing the issue of fairness of service as well as disparities where they may exist, so we have been asking ICA to provide us with service data as it pertains to who is being served, what percentage is from one group or another, and the outcomes of those particular groups.

Individuals seeking housing must first be assessed. This is a universal assessment tool being used in the Coordinated Entry System and is used to evaluate need of individuals/households and then allows for us to prioritize the appropriate housing type for that individual/household. The handouts reveal that African Americans have the lowest scores than any other group. That has an impact on how they are assigned housing, which means that those with lower scores, are not prioritized, nor are they placed high on the list for particular housing types. This is going to be important information to consider as we discuss; specifically, the projects funded by HRC.

As we look at the HRC Data for this first HRC funded project, we see that of the 313 persons served for the full calendar year of 2017, 45% went on to permanent housing; 34% of African American clients and 42% of Caucasian clients. This is the best case scenario as it shows no disparities. However, when we look at the next project, of those who are African American, less than 10% exit to a permanent destination, whereas Caucasians who are in that project who exit to a permanent destination are at 41%. That is just one example where we found racial disparities in accessing permanent housing. There is a fourfold difference in their outcomes, which is something we should note, and take a look at moving forward.

FINANCE UPDATE – Financial Report

- 2018 Revenue to Date is $260,792 ($255,000 fee revenue & $5,500 interest)
- 2017 Revenue to Date (Mid-Year) is $272,448
• Revenue decrease of $11,656
• 2016 (Mid-Year) was $277,399 (decrease of $16,607)
• Revenue is trending downward.

• Fund has paid out approximately $165,000 in provider invoices/reimbursements, and we have incurred $6000 in program administration costs.
• Ending Cash Balance, as of June 30, 2018 is $1,054,700
• The Minimum Reserve is set at $175.000: the fund is showing a loss of $54,649, but we believe that at the end of 2018 we will be in the black.

We have contacted the Collector of Revenue to find the cause of the steady decrease, and was informed that there has been a decrease in the collection of title fees within St. Louis County. The collection of this $3.00 title fee and has been decreasing steadily for the last five years. Each year has shown an approximate decrease of 5%.

Question: How does that $3.00 affect the County’s budget? The amount seems awfully low.

Answer: The amount of the fee has not changed. A change in the amount of this fee would call for a vote of the County residents.

One way of ensuring we use this money to our advantage is to make sure that the dollars are utilized to their maximum, making sure that we negotiate contracts with providers to provide the same services with less. We have done that, during this cycle; as we discussed with the commission late last year.

Secondly, is appropriate program evaluation, which is part of what we discussed earlier, making sure we fund projects that work well.

Thirdly, is understanding that if we continue in a 5% decrease every year, we will need to figure out how to deal with these issues that we face. Ultimately we will need advocates. Advocates like the Housing Resource Commission, who understand many of the issues we are facing, and are aware of our appropriate utilization funds. Eventually, we may need to look into increasing the title fee for the County to something that is commiserate with the changing landscape.

OTHER BUSINESS
No other business

PUBLIC FORUM
No attendees

MOTION TO ADJOURN - Kathy Schweitzer

MOVE TO ACCEPT – Catherine Carter
SECONDED – Andrea Jackson-Jennings

General Meeting adjourned: 5:18 p.m.