OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 8, 2025.

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:21 a.m.

Commissioner Members

PRESENT:
Christopher Crothers (Vice Chair)
Shantel Davis (Chair)-via Phone
Jitan Kuverji (Secretary)
John Trevathan
Dr. Megan Allyse
Jolita Wainwright
Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll

Commissioner Liaisons

PRESENT:
Commander James Ricks
Capt. Jennifer Parramore

EXCUSED:
CM Jimmy Peluso

COJ Support Staff:
Kenny Logsdon (HCDD)
Shannon MacGillis (OGC)
Kaylee Jones (HCDD)
Neolita Maharaj (HCDD)
Schnell Chin (HCDD)

Guests Present:
Dr. Tracye Polson, COJ
Carol Register, COJ
Brian Snow (Sulzbacher)
Pete Hicks (Youth Crisis Center)
John Wyche (Community at Large)
Dawn Gilman (Changing Homelessness)
Earnest Smith (CPAC)
Jaime Williams (City Rescue Mission)
John J. Nooney (Community at Large)
Clarence Harper, COJ
Major Keith Biggers (Salvation Army)
Brenda Boydston (Salvation Army)
Kim Sirdevan (Youth Crisis Center), Unsigned
Cindy Funkhouser (Sulzbacher)
Monique Elton (Changing Homelessness)
Jeremy Stokes (City Rescue Mission)
Karrisa Lepley (Ability Housing)

Board Meeting called to order by C. Crothers at 9:00 a.m.

Section I.- Quorum met for the approval of minutes for 8 August 2025 (Special), and 11 August 2025 (Board).

Section II.- Capt. Parramore reported the following: total served from October to present is 1,306; 126 contacts since the last meeting (8-11-2025 through 9-8-2025); 1 female top bed open as of 9-8-2025.

C. Crothers asked for an update on women and children's available beds and the response indicated that Trinity Rescue Mission and Sulzbacher have served women and children.

Comm. Ricks provided the monthly data on Homeward Bound Participation from October 2024-August 2025.

Month	# of Participants
October-2024	34
November- 2024	29
December- 2024	33
January- 2025	41
February- 2025	39
March- 2025	50
April- 2025	46
May- 2025	41
June- 2025	73
July- 2025	99
August-2025	39

There are no monthly stats for camping violations. From October 1 through present, 1,284 warnings, 372 arrests and 109 notice-to-appear.

Section III.- Youth Crisis Center Presentation by K. Sirdevan (CEO), and Pete Hicks (CDO). They gave a synopsis of their Continuum of Care such as Residential Crisis Care, Outpatient Behavioral Health, Family Link, SNAP, Bright Beginnings, Touchstone Village, House of Hope and Mills. The PowerPoint is on file.

Questions during this Section:

Dr. Allyse-The House of Hope needs over $187,807 for expansion? Response-yes, see attachment.
J. Wainwright-How are members transported to school? Response-yes.
J. Kuverji-How many members served in a year? Response-House of Hope serves 75 individuals per year. Length of stay depends on the trauma that residents experienced. There is a waiting list and there is capacity for expansion.

Section IV.- S. MacGillis reported that there are no known filed cases for Anti-Camping Laws. Dr. Allyse asked if there are any changes in the budget. S. MacGillis spoke about the tentative budget meeting scheduled for September 9, 2025. She encouraged the Committee to look for 2025-504 Budget Ordinance and look for discussions, no discussions are positive. The final budget approval is on September 23, 2025.

Section V.-Public Comments-Limit 3 Minutes (2 Speakers)
John J. Nooney (Community at Large)- spoke about the public park in District 4 and inspection fund for electric vehicles and chargers.

John Wyche (Community at Large)- spoke about the need to address homeless students from Duval County Public Schools. He said that HIC should focus on emergency beds and wanted to know of the RFP status.

Section VI.- Special Meeting Recap-Dr. Allyse. Changes to the overall budget from $4.274M to $1.844 M for the HIC fund. The Committee discussed the following recommendations:

- Emergency beds for women.
- Expansion of daytime programming.
- Expansion of the CHOP program.
- Expansion of the Voucher program to keep individuals in homes.

C. Crothers reported that the Committee should compliment what City Council has done, as a 'fill the pothole' for additional services. The estimated cost of the recommendations may cost $1.4M. He verbalized on the possibilities of how to use the additional $650,000+.

J. Kuverji asked about the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that is used to capture information and data.

Section VII.- Vouchers, Transitional Housing, Budget Discussions-Dr. Polson about the $1.87M Transitional Housing Pilot Program and the $750,000 Homeless Preference Voucher Program.

'Part of the continuum of housing is transitional housing. We propose creating a temporary transitional housing pilot program utilizing area hotel rooms who have offered to help and support transitional housing needs in Jacksonville. The city would cover up to but no more than $500 a month, per individual, for up to 24 months, to move individuals out of the shelter system who qualify for transitional housing, as they work with a case manager and supportive services to locate permanent supportive housing. This will allow even more street homeless individuals to enter the shelter system and minimize the number of individuals who are camping due to the lack of resources and available shelter beds. This would be a pilot program that would be an RFP and would fund the program for 24 months (two years). It would help 150-175 individuals (potentially more) over the course of the two years. Any additional future funding would be used to expand the program, if deemed successful, but would be requested through future budget years.'

'There is virtually no supply of units where the rents are affordable for people on fixed incomes, making it almost impossible to obtain housing. This program would create a homelessness preference voucher program, using these funds to support an additional 35-45 housing vouchers available for our community – especially focused on seniors and veterans. These vouchers would particularly be focused on individuals who are most at risk of becoming homeless without support. The purpose is to keep individuals housed, while they identify a permanent housing solution – this program is not for individuals who are already homeless. This voucher would only be in place for one (1) year, per individual, to encourage turnover. This program would be by RFP and our community partners would apply if interested and go through the selection/procurement process. Once approved, the program would be monitored (oversight provided) by the City of Jacksonville's Housing and Community Development Division. This program will be reviewed each year, based on usefulness, during the annual budget process.'

Section VIII. – 1-Year Plan- Rev. Kate spoke about the need to expand the CHOP program. Dr. Allyse wanted to know the cost for Youth Crisis Center Program for additional beds. C. Crothers recommended that the Committee may revise the Plan after the Budget hearing. He said to be prepared for the worst-case scenario. S. MacGillis stated that the Committee needs quorum for voting during Special and Board meetings; and that voting is not allowed for Workshops.

Section IX.-Legislation to extend 5-year plan deadline- S. MacGillis reported that legislation is needed to change the 5-year plan date and stated that the 5-year plan is in the Ordinance; however, the 5-year plan can have a 3-year benchmark.

Section X.- Commission Bottom Line of Negotiations-K. Jones provided a summary:
'Below are the points we discussed today to be included in the negotiation discussion:

- Consultant to be on-site during meetings.
- Cost to be reduced (idea of $260k).
- Milestone-based payments.
- Strike the 1-year plan from the scope of work.
- Include the following as a part of the scope of work-
    - Emergency bed assessment.
    - Efficient government structure outline.
    - Solutions for disabled (both physical and mental) persons'.

Rev. Kate requested the ability for the Consultant to speak to a designated member of the Committee.

S. MacGillis said that negotiations occur before the signed contract.

J. Wainwright reported that she did not see the Consultant's experience with Mental Health issues.

C. Crothers requested that S. Davis (Chair) to be the appointed point of contact for negotiations.

Dr. Allyse motioned S. Davis to be the identified member for the contract, second by Rev. Kate.

S. Davis accepted the role.

Section XI.- Unfinished Business-K. Logsdon said that he would contact CM Peluso regarding the dates of the 5-year plan, from December 2025 to December 2026. Dr. Allyse motioned about changing the dates, second by Rev. Kate. S. MacGillis stated that CC does not advocate for New Bill Memos.

C. Crothers said that he will meet with Council Members to discuss HIC. S. MacGillis caused the Committee on 'Ferrying' in the context of Sunshine Laws.

Section XII.- New Business- K. Logsdon said that K. Jones will be the point staff for the next meeting, September 12, 2025.

Meeting Adjourned- Meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Next meeting (Special) is scheduled for September 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., 8th Floor, Ed Ball Building.

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CERTIFICATION

Homelessness Initiatives Commission
Board Meeting September 8, 2025

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:

Neolita Maharaj, Commission Staff
Homelessness Initiatives Commission

Approved by:

Jitan Kuverji, Secretary
Homelessness Initiatives Commission