



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 18, 2025.

Time: 9:04 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Members

PRESENT:

Christopher Crothers (Vice Chair)
Jitan Kuverji (Secretary)

Dr. Megan Allyse

ABSENT (Excused):

Shantel Davis (Chair)
Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll

Jolita Wainwright

Commissioner Liaisons

PRESENT:

Commander James Ricks
CM Jimmy Peluso

Capt. Jennifer Parramore

COJ Support Staff:

Kenny Logsdon (HCDD)
Shannon MacGillis (OGC)
Kaylee Jones (HCDD)

Neolita Maharaj (HCDD)
Schnell Chin (HCDD)

Guests Present:

Dr. Tracye Polson, COJ (Unsigned)
Travis Jeffrey, COJ
Mary Cameron, COJ (Unsigned)
Isaac George, COJ (Unsigned)
Brian Snow (Sulzbacher)
Brenda Boydston (Salvation Army)
Jen Earst (Salvation Army)
Sylvester Harden Givens (Overflow Health)
Mykeia Jackson (Overflow Health)
Constance Robinson (Overflow Health)
Kimberly Nice (Community at Large)
Malloy Tinhomme (Sunshine Digital Design)

Dustin Freeman, COJ (Unsigned)
Clarence Harper, COJ
LaTaysh Davis, COJ (Unsigned)
Justin Davis, COJ (Unsigned)
Major Keith Biggers (Salvation Army)
Marcus Harden-Givens (Overflow Health)
Darrell Snow (Trinity Rescue Mission)
Christy Hitaffer (Overflow Health)
Lanita Jackson (Overflow Health)
Will Evans (CHI)
John Wyche (Community at Large)
J. Brown (Gorilla Way CCC)



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Board Meeting called to order by C. Crothers at 9:04 a.m.

Section I.- Approval of Minutes - Quorum not met for the approval of minutes for 12 May 2025 (Board), 16 May 2025 (Special), and 9 June 2025 (Board).

Section II.- JFRD and JSO updates - Capt. J. reported that JSO encountered 1,093 individuals to date. All 92 male beds are full and 17 out of 18 female beds are full. At the time of this report, there is 1 top bunk bed available for females.

Comm. Ricks said that from October 2024 to present, there were 1,017 warnings. From November 2024 to current, there were 288 arrests and 85 Notice to Appear. He reiterated that emergency shelters must have programs, and there should be money budgeted for programming.

C. Crothers asked if there was an increase in emergency beds and how to connect beds to reinforce programs.

Dr. Allyse commented that Sulzbacher, City Rescue, Trinity and Salvation Army have daytime programs for emergency beds.

B. Boydston (Salvation Army) said that they have no daytime programs for beds.

Due to the large public presence at this Board Meeting, C. Crothers gave a brief overview of HIC and the planning process to hire a Consultant for the City.

Section III.- OGC – Update and Impact of Legislation - S. Gillis reported that no new filing or complaints about the Homelessness Statues.

The \$202,969.969 has not changed. There is \$1.8M in the Trust Fund. Shannon will work with the auditors to figure out an appropriation account for HIC. The concern is how HIC can allocate the appropriate account. She gave the Tree Commission as an example and how HIC can use the Tree Commission best practice model to approve funds under \$100,000 without Council approval.

The Committee asked questions such as (1) what is the budget process? (2) what bank does the City Use? (3) when is the budget process? (4) and how the money tagged on HIC uses. These concerns/questions were examples of an ongoing learning process. They have secured partnerships throughout Duval to assist their clients.

Section IV.- Mayor's Proposed Budget for Homelessness - Dr. Polson spoke about the mayor's homelessness budget. This is the budget breakdown:

- \$1.8M for a transitional housing pilot program using area hotels.
- Homelessness Prevention Housing Program working with the Jacksonville Housing Authority for a transitional housing pilot to serve 150 individuals; and \$750,000 the homelessness intervention program to work with individuals with fixed incomes.
- \$400,000 for a Chronic Homelessness Program.



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- \$447,500 for Mental Health.
- \$400,000 for the Urban Rest stop.

Outside this budget

- Expansion of Sulzbacher shelter beds for women.
- Additional funds for the Urban Rest Stop Day Center.
- \$2.5 M Housing Budget through Neighborhoods \$1.5M for Downpayment Assistance, \$500,00 for Emergency Rent Assistance, and \$1M from HUD.

Dr. Polson encouraged the Committee and the public to attend the finance committee budget hearings. S. MacGillis stated that section 504 of the budget pertains to the Homelessness budget, and the budget hearing dates are August 7 (JFRD), 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 2025.

Section V.- Overflow Health Alliance Presentation - Marcus Harden-Givens, CEO. He reported that the organization opened and started wraparound services in 2018. Their programs include workforce development, medical services using the 340 B federal program which allows healthcare organizations to purchase outpatient drugs at a significantly lower price for those who serve low-income and uninsured individuals.

Comm. Ricks verbally praised the organization and reported that it is the cleanest facility in the area.

The Committee asked questions such as (1) the location and land usage (2) a tour of the facility and (3) and any challenges for getting more clients to the facility. See PowerPoint.

Section VI. - Public Comments - Limit 3 Minutes (4 Total)

Brenda Boydston (Salvation Army) gave a synopsis of funding and services. Please see her follow-up email:

“Current Emergency Beds agreement compensation is \$31.64 per person/night - does not cover actual costs

- Security Costs are approximately \$10,500 per month - \$8.63 per night for 40 beds
 - The emergency beds program is in an entirely separate area from the other two transition shelters, with separate access and separate security & monitoring.
- Estimated Salvation Army costs per person/night are \$49.60
- As we have only been "live" since April 23, it is too soon to determine the full costs accurately. Still, we know there are considerable expenses, including consumables such as laundry supplies and bedding that are taken.”

Lanita Jackson (Overflow Health Alliance) spoke about her past and her positive experiences with Overflow Health Alliance.



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Constance Robinson (Overflow Health Alliance) spoke about her 25 years of homelessness and the helpful wraparound services that assisted her immensely at Overflow Health Alliance.

John Wyche (Community at Large) summarized how he mobilized the community to assist families who were in a homeless crisis. He advocated for Overflow Health Alliance in reference to increasing shelter beds.

Section VI. - Consultant RFP Update - D. Freeman reported that the top three candidates were selected and that they are awaiting a decision from HIC. He mentioned that Procurement does not negotiate contracts. He said that the recommendation must come from HIC and there should be no communication between HIC and the candidates.

C. Crothers asked about the process after recommendation. D. Freeman that after negotiation with the #1 candidate, then it is submitted to the Jacksonville Procurement Awards Committee (JPAC), which meets every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Once approved by the City Council, it is the mayor's office for signature, then the Office of General Council (OGC) will execute the contract.

Dr. Allyse motioned to have an emergency 30-minute meeting to vote on the top candidate. Motion unanimously approved by HIC.

C. Crothers reported that K. Logsdon will send a poll to HIC members to select a date for the emergency meeting and to send a 24-hour public notice.

Section VII. - Unfinished Business - none reported.

Section VIII. - New Business - none reported.

Meeting Adjourned - at 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting (Special/Emergency) is scheduled for July 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., 8th Floor, Ed Ball Building. HIC and the Public were informed about the parking changes.



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CERTIFICATION

**Homelessness Initiatives Commission
Board Meeting July 18, 2025**

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:

Kenny Logsdon, Commission Staff
Homelessness Initiatives Commission

Approved by:

Jitan Kuverji, Secretary
Homelessness Initiatives Commission