



**Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Health Services  
Planning Council  
137 Peachtree St  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

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**Housing Committee Minutes**

**Date:** June 21, 2019

**Attendees:** Spencer Webb, MaKia Fye, Bernie Bradley, Leroy Braxton, Chi Hughes, Monyca Roberts, Trevor Pearson, John Warchol, Shekinah Thomas, Ailene Gordon

**Absent:** Sandra Vincent and Stephanie Sparks

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**Introductions:** Meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by Spencer Webb.

**New Business:**

- A. “ Kathleen Trimble has resigned” -Spencer
- B. “230+ clients facing eviction due to agency not paying rent and there is no knowledge of why the rent is not being paid.”-Spencer
- C. Housing providers, (Hope Atlanta, Positive Impact, NAESM, AID Atlanta, AID Athens, and DeKalb County Board of Health) met to discuss ways of keeping clients from being evicted.
- D. John stated “that text messages are being sent to clients with a picture of Stephanie Sparks’ card along with a message stating “Call Legal Aid and they will help.”
- E. A 24-hr emergency hotline (404-796-0792) has been established by the City of Atlanta for those that are receiving HOPWA assistance. The hotline calls are answered by either Spencer Webb or Denise Zigler. Phone calls will be tracked to compare to the list of clients to ensure they are contacting the right agency. A Flyer was created for the public and the flyer has also been placed on the grant management website.
- F. Spencer noted that client contact information is not provided, only the client tracking number.
- G. If families did not have to worry about housing, they could be more focused on self-care (i.e. taking medications, keeping doctor appointments, etc.)
- H. “AID Atlanta cannot pay rent for the months of July and August.” -Spencer
- I. How do we prevent families from facing possible eviction?-Chi
- J. Shekinah suggested to refer clients to local churches for help with food and sometimes rent assistance.
- K. “If clients are evicted, they will now have this on their record which will prevent them from being able to rent in the future.” Shekinah
- L. Trevor stated “There is no plan for the future. Let’s not wait for the crisis to happen. We as a housing committee should come up with a plan and present it to the city. This program was built to help clients get on their feet instead of crippling them. Our goal should be to have each client equipped and stable enough to live on their own without the governments help.”



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- M. Spencer asked “What are our priority concerns to take to the city?”
- Do we have monies in affordable housing? - Spencer
  - How are we going to substitute the money we have lost? – Chi
- N. Spencer stated that money is decreasing but beds are increasing.
- O. “Clients are staying in unapproved facilities and not being reimbursed for monies spent which causes a problem.” -Spencer
- P. Environmental review would prefer having a Housing Quality Standard (HQS) passing score before review.
- Q. “As a housing committee we should come together and build a team of voluntary peer navigators. Let’s make it happen.” -Spencer
- R. “Training should be offered to case workers to encourage them to become peer navigators. They are more hands on with the clients.” Chi
- S. Education offered to clients:
- a. Atlanta Tech offers a 2-year education program
  - b. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) pays for schooling, offers resume assistance, developmental skills and mock interviews.

**Action Steps:**

- A. Present affordable housing to the city
- B. Form a voluntary group of peer navigators for housing.
- C. All ideas should be emailed to Spencer Webb at [saburtonwebb@atlantaga.gov](mailto:saburtonwebb@atlantaga.gov)
- D. Host a housing fair event for the 230+ clients facing eviction.
- E. Look into resources for employment and education.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:24pm with a motion by John Warchol, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trevor Pearson. Motion Passed.