

# Student Life Alliance PBC Meeting

Minutes from June 9, 2022, at 2:30 PM

(Renamed Continuum of Care for Homeless Students)

## [Google Shared Folder](#)

*(minutes, contact list, agenda, homeless resource lists)*

### **Attendees:**

Maura Plante (Co-Chair, LH), Jennifer Smith (Co-Chair, The Giving Close Project), Jackie Ermola (Secretary, Care Minister) SEC, Founa Badet (Treasurer, Jesus Lounge Ministry), Marjorie Ferrer (DAR), Houston Tate (PBC OCR), Melanie Swenki (SEFLIN), Teresa Dabrowski (Ed Foundation), Susan Geery, Jeffrey Dettman (Sysco), Mitch Katz (DBI), Isabella Rowan (DB Library), Susie Smith (LH), Claudia Sanchez (SEFLIN LCSW), Jacqueline Tobias (SEFLIN MSW), Amanda Canete (Compass), Damba Koromba (Lord's Place)

### **Minutes:**

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions:** Maura Plante reviewed the purpose, and progress on the challenge taken on by the group. The purpose: Come together to advocate & resource homeless students & families. The challenge: HAB Board challenged us organize into a functioning coalition ready to receive funds and collaborate in the work. Based on group feedback, we have all agreed to take on this challenge.
- 2) **Minutes:** Jennifer reviewed the minutes and the committee members moved and approved the minutes from May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting (on the link in the google drive)
- 3) **Resource Network:** [Agency Contact & Resources List](#). Maura presented the contact list for as a RESOURCE LOOK UP with agencies able to ask for help and receive resources from other agencies in the Student Life Alliance for homeless children. Maura discussed 4 cases where agencies within the Alliance resourced each other with an estimated value of \$6,400 worth of items supporting 127 homeless children including 25 personal hygiene bags, 67 backpacks and school supplies, 20 sets of feminine hygiene products, 15 clothing wardrobes. Within the Student Life Alliance, 6 agencies gave/received items. Requests for support were made by Houston Tate, PBC OCR and Sharon Bebout, Cason United Methodist church in Delray Beach. Houston Tate spoke on Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization's Back to School bash, six years running with 10,000 students in attendance, needing help with face painting/balloon animals for kids at events. Maura recommended Rodney Mayo and H3. Houston also needed help to complete the ask for the McKinney Vento students in the Glades (121 students total), needing 67 backpacks which Education Foundation agreed to fill the need. Sharon Bebout, Cason, asked for items to support 50 homeless youth with a back-to-school collection for July 23

event. The Giving Closet agreed to donate custom wardrobes for all 50 homeless students. Lastly, to add to the group, Maura challenged each member to invite 1-2 agencies to join. (Sweet Dreamakers for example).

- 4) **Name Vote:** Jennifer & Founa led the vote and motion to confirm new name as Student Life Alliance passed.
- 5) **Client-Facing Resource Library:** [Homeless Family Reference Guide](#) Jackie Ermola discussed the Lewis Center as homeless intake for the county. Lewis Center is the first step phone call for any homeless family needing housing, supportive services or connections to care. Jackie presented her Care Ministry tool-kit as handouts for homeless families, and made it available on our shared google drive. Food guides by city are also available on the drive. Photos of clients and agencies receiving goods was asked to be added to the google drive.
- 6) **Fundraising:** Jennifer led the discussion on next steps for fundraising readiness. There is donor interest in this collaboration who want to fund the efforts. To get ready we need a draft program design with implementation planning which Maura will work on. Fundraising subcommittees with role descriptions will need to be crafted by next meeting. Jennifer will work on the subcommittee structure and role descriptions. Founa, the Treasurer will work with Maura on setting up bookkeeping structure and model for dollar disbursements to agencies involved and fiscal agency agreement revision with Founa as point of contact for disbursements. Founa raised the need for a “simple messaging in an email” with Vision and Mission of the Student Life Alliance (who we are, what we do, purpose, how it works, photos, key words, texting for donations wording). Jennifer and leadership team agreed to work on this copy writing for Teresa Dabrowski, our fiscal agent and partner Education Foundation to build out the website and landing pages for donations to begin in July.
- 7) **Advocacy:** Maura led the discussion around a group of agencies who will agree to advocate at different county and city commission meetings on behalf of the Student Life Alliance and to present during the 2-minute public comments and attend league of cities luncheons to present # homeless students in specific schools. Research needed for each school counts and an intern can assemble information allowing each school to be sponsored or a city-wide set of schools. Story telling must be included to pull the heart strings.
- 8) **Next Meeting:** *via zoon on July 14, 2:30-3:30*

**Reminders:**

~June 21, 2022 @ 2:00-3:30 PM, HAB Board Meeting

@ [Mayme Frederick Building 1440 Martin Luther King Blvd. Riviera Beach, FL, 33404](#)