



# LAUDERTRAC

## HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE



Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2022

May 2022

### BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE



City staff meeting with the Salvation Army

### Extending the Support Network

The City is actively seeking new community-based partners to further address the needs of those experiencing homelessness. In the month of April, several new potential partners were reached, including My Mobile/Safelink, a non-profit that provides free cellular telephones for the homeless. Another potential partnership in discussion is with the Salvation Army to further homeless support efforts. Working together with other neighboring cities is also a key to success. Recently, the City of Fort Lauderdale representatives met with the City of Pompano Beach and shared insight, advice, and guidance on how to set up a Community Court of their own.

### Resource Spotlight: HMIS

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a regional system that enables authorized homeless service providers to collect uniform client information over time. The data gathered allows for analysis of the size, characteristics, and needs of the homeless population. It assists community-based service providers to recognize the diverse needs and vulnerability of the homeless community and plan accordingly.

The City collaborates with participating homeless shelters and service providers in the Broward County CoC (Continuum of Care) through the HMIS system. HMIS streamlines client services and also informs users of current system policies with the goal of improving the coordination of care for individuals and families. As a result, clients can be easily referred to other housing programs within the Broward County CoC. Client confidentiality is vigilantly maintained, treating the most vulnerable population's personal data with respect and care.

**HMIS**  
Homeless Management Information System

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### The City's Partnership Spotlight

Henderson Behavioral Health (HBH) is a private not-for-profit organization that serves residents of South Florida to promote their health and well-being. Their mission is to be the premier provider of accessible, cost-effective, quality behavioral healthcare services. The primary care service provided is dependent upon the needs, desires, and availability of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness in Broward County. Other services include outpatient crisis services, inpatient crisis stabilization, youth and family services, community support, psychosocial rehabilitation, adult outpatient, residential and supported housing, and prevention and intervention services.

HBH supported the City of Fort Lauderdale with implementing the Community Court, a first of its kind. HBH aligns with the Court's mission to engage the community and help offenders and individuals in need of services and resources.

Tania Jean-Baptiste, B.A., Court Liaison for Community Court on behalf of HBH, stated, "working with clients through Community Court and seeing their growth through the program is what HBH is all about which is health and well-being. Seeing the transformation in attitude, health, and mindset from the initial assessment to graduation is rewarding and it makes me proud to be a part of this village". The City looks forward to continuing its partnership with HBH and for the organization to remain an active member of the Community Court.



Tania Jean-Baptiste, B.A. - Court Liaison for Community Court on behalf of Henderson Behavioral Health (HBH).



### Checkout Our Team In Action!

Recently our Strategic Communications team, together with the PD Homeless Outreach Team produced a video that shares outreach efforts that take place each week. Feel free to reshare the video on social media. Click the video to watch or visit [ftlcity.info/homelessoutreach](https://ftlcity.info/homelessoutreach).