



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD**  
**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE**  
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

**MINUTES** – Approved as Distributed on April 24, 2023

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**DATE:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

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**Committee Members:**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Samantha Carter	
Aaron Esry	
Stephanie Fortado	
Jenny Lokshin	
Jim McGuire	
Diane Michaels	
Kyle Patterson	

**Others Present:** Chris Stohr (County Board Member)

**County Staff:** Darlene Kloeppel (County Executive), Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

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**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Ms. Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. June 21, 2022

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve the minutes of June 21, 2022; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

## **V. Public Participation**

Vincent Andujo, HACC Youth Build Program, informed the Board that he and several others that are in the room look forward to doing the work of violence prevention and mentoring the young people in the community. They have not had a lot of grant money in the past and with the availability of more resources they can do more meaningful work and make a difference. He invited the Board members to come out and see the programming that Youth Build is offering.

Carlos Harvey, owner of Cut Above the Rest Academy, read an article that correlates with the mission of his academy. He was a victim of gun violence and has served time but described how he has been mentored by many people in the community and turned his life around. He gave more details of his program and why there is a need for it. He believes a lot of violence is coming from inequality and he that it is his job to bring back value to their lives. He is wants to help by being part of the H3 Initiative.

Marlon Mitchell, First Followers, came to share his thoughts on community violence. He reminded everyone of his history with gun violence. He told them every time there is a shooting it takes him back to the moment his life was affected. He sat down with many like-minded people in the community and came up with the H3 Initiative. He explained that the initiative stands for recognizing we have all been harmed, recognizing we need to start the process of healing and finding the hope that is needed. He believes they can no longer work in silos, so they are making a collective effort to make a change. They have a 3-year strategic plan that they have already started working on. He explained the 5 pillars of their strategic plan and some of the programs they have already put in place.

Will Kyles, Champaign City Council, believes we have an opportunity to do amazing things and to become one of the greatest communities. The challenge is to open our minds and don't leave anyone behind. We talk about "black problems" but not "black business" and we need to create pipelines to entrepreneurship. Anything is possible with intention.

Crushion Stubbs, First Followers, knows that it takes a village to nurture and heal a community which is exactly what the H3 Initiative is doing. He came to speak specifically about Go MAD (Go Make A Difference) a workforce training program. They partner with the Youth Build Program to gain experience and create affordable housing. He said they try to mirror the level of excellence that is expected at the U of I's engineering school by building bridges of betterment, streets of success, and pathways to progress. In order to build effectively they need tools and resources, and they are here to request that from the County Board.

Heather Rose, Forever Healing, said her business offers coping skills and strategies to the community and provides a space for people to feel safe. She is part of the H3 Initiative. She explained exactly what they are offering to people through her program. She wants to develop a system that maximizes the impact they have, and they need more funds to do that.

James Corbin, First Followers, stated he is here to focus on workforce and economic development. He explained the different elements that they need to teach to some of these young adults and they are exposing them to different fields so they can find their strong points. They are currently collaborating with others to get economic resources to these same individuals. They want to bring everyone together to create a system. They are putting in the hard work and we will continue to see positive results.

**VI. Communications**

Mr. Patterson mentioned a story from Danville where a 14-year-old boy was shot and killed and pointed out how that really puts a perspective on what they are doing here today.

**VII. Presentations**

A. Temeka Couch, Housing Authority of Champaign County

Lily Walton, HACC Executive Director, is here in place of Temeka Couch to present on their request for funds for three programs. She gave some background on services offered by the Housing Authority, their 2022 priorities and their full request of \$495,000. She presented a dot map showing low-income families are segregated in bad neighborhoods. Ms. Walton continued by giving information about the three programs they want to fund: Opportunity Area Landlord Incentive, Tenant Damage Reimbursement and Supportive Services.

Mr. McGuire continued the discussion with Ms. Walton about their waiting list and what happens when there is not longer any ARPA funding. She explained that they have other programs that will still give them incentives but not as large. Ms. Carter asked for more details about the Move to Work program and it was explained that they can only receive assistance for eight years. Mr. Patterson asked about the payments and how many years that would cover. Ms. Walton believes this would cover approximately 18-20 months.

**VIII. New Business**

A. Discussion of funding plans and recommendation to the County Board

Task Force members continued the conversation about the requests they have received and the path they want to take for funding. Ms. Fortado explained they have \$1.4 million to allocate for this year with the intention that they will appropriate additional \$2.6 million next year.

Mr. Patterson suggested funding the H3 Program (\$515,000), the DREAAM program (\$500,000), two of the Housing Authority programs in full (\$300,000) but only half the request for their landlord incentive program (\$85,000). Ms. Lokshin agreed with this suggestion. Ms. Fortado requested to amend Mr. Patterson's suggestion for the specific amounts listed above and encouraged these programs to come back for additional funds next year.

Ms. Fortado explained that she would like to see if the City of Urbana is going to give any funds to the Urbana Park District before the County gives any funds to them. Ms. Carter agreed with Ms. Fortado's reason for waiting to allocate funds to the Park District.

Ms. McGuire mentioned programs that the County already funds that are doing the same work. Ms. Carter clarified that the current programs are not reaching the targeted groups that these new groups will be focusing on.

Mr. Esry requested to bring the H3 Program funding down to \$500,000 and to give the \$15,000 to Vision to Succeed.

**MOTION** by Mr. Patterson to recommend County Board approval of contracts/agreements to give funds to the H3 Coalition, DREAAM and Housing Authority.

**MOTION to amend** the motion by Ms. Fortado to include the specific amounts: \$515,000 for H3 Coalition, \$500,000 for DREAAM and \$385,000 for Housing Authority; seconded by Ms. Michaels.

**MOTION to amend** by Mr. Esry to make the H3 Coalition \$500,000 and give \$15,000 to Vision to Succeed. The Committee agreed to these motions and amendments by roll call vote:

Yea: Carter, Esry, Fortado, Lokshin, Michaels, Patterson

Nay: McGuire

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IX. Other Business**

A. Future Meeting Date

The Task Force decided the next meeting date would be determined at a later date.

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.