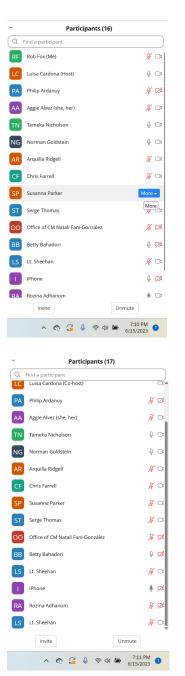
7:09 p.m.

Call to Order; Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction

Aquilla Ridgell, Chair

Objective: Welcome, Review of protocols for online meeting

Guest introduction



7:11 p.m.

Agenda, Minutes Aquilla Ridgell Chair

Objective: Acceptance of agenda and May minutes

Both accepted

7:14 p.m.

Mid County Director Report Luisa Cardona, MCRSO Director

Objective: Update on the Mid-County Regional Area

Wes Moore visit organized by Natali Fani Gonzalez (NFG). Issue we have seen dramatically spike in Glenmont, Wheaton, Aspen Hill areas, Fentanyl use among black and brown youth. Truancy and petty theft increase. We have created a group in the mid-county office of police, HHS, social service providers, to address this very critical issue in the community. We see some teenagers skipping school normally and now it's 20-30 kids out there actively using and publicly dealing drugs. See them in bad states of zomebielike drug overdoses. Seen multiple overdoses in these spaces, at least 3 a week. Most kids are under 16 and mostly Latino youth. This is a shift from earlier in the opioid crisis. We are organizing a listening session for the next WUDAC meeting to talk about this issue and get it the attention it needs.

Philip: a 50% truancy rate in a Kennedy high school is a very significant problem.

Luisa – we need to drill down deeper, as in if truancy is one day or more frequent, but across the county it's 24%. Parents can be connected to resources, but there aren't beds within the county, and we, even a parent, can't force a child to go into rehab.

Tameka – Is the issue concentrated more in mid-county or where?

Luisa – we're still trying to get ahold of the Kennedy high school numbers, there's a lot in mid-county but there's amounts in upcounty as well. We're seeing more overdoses here. We have teams go out, youth positive teams, drop-in center in Wheaton that we've called on to be trained up in youth harm reduction to try to pipeline more kids into those spaces. Calling on tree of hope and steer with outreach teams that are peer to peer based. More is needed. This is a collective action we need to take.

Tameka – I have a few ideas, I'll reach out to Luisa.

Serge – I'm glad you brought this up. MD Dept of Health has reached out to Oak Chapel for training people in the use of narcam. That has arrived so we'll be training soon. It's deadly serious and getting worse too.

Arquilla – I mentioned this when Dept of Ed was here a few months ago. We'd had complaints about students from Kennedy kicking in a neighboring houses door. Their response was that once a child leaves school they're no longer the school's responsibility. They should have started working at this at that time and been responsive. The Glenmont McDonald's owner has put up a sign saying youth are not allowed during certain hours.

Luisa – Dept of Ed hasn't changed their policies, but they are looking to change it. Part of the policy is that kids are let out for lunch but then don't come back. They don't have enough room for all the kids to have lunch in the cafeteria. To me it's not on the schools, the county and community also have steps to take. A lot falls on our educators but it's a collective action for us to undertake.

https://www.fox5dc.com/news/montgomery-county-public-schools-developing-plan-to-address-above-average-truancy-rates-mcps

Summer concert series powered by Chuck Levin is starting tomorrow. All of the summer concert series dates will be released soon. There will be alcohol vendors and we hope to attract positive attention to the area. Juneteenth event as well this weekend and a Caribbean heritage month event as well.

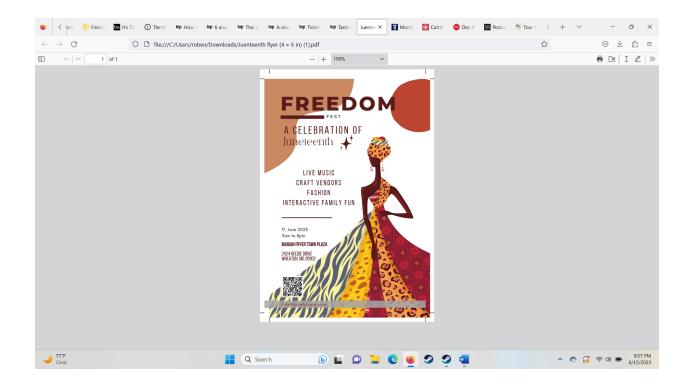
Norman – why isn't there any ability to keep children under their control during that time window? A 14 year old shouldn't have an ability to leave school.

Aggie Alvez – attendance is taken in first period in the schools. If you have to leave you're supposed to bring a doctor's note. In a school with a couple thousand kids there are kids constantly coming and going, with insufficient staff to keep track of all that movement. You have the attendance office, but there's nothing stopping a kid from leaving after first period. There should be follow-up after kids miss every period after that though.

Office of CM NFG – I cover education for the council member and when I started we met with a lot of principals because of the fentanyl crisis and the forums on it. A lot of the parents have the same questions. Why don't parents get called, why isn't there attendance, why can't you lock the doors (safety issue)? In a school of several thousand students its hard to keep track of all of them. Kennedy high school is supposed to be getting a new principal for the new year, it was announced last week.

Aggie – I have friends in the system and it's disheartening to hear that the kids have changed since COVID. There is a marked difference, more discipline and mental health issues. This is a county wide issue with kids acting out in the community as well as in schools. They're saying they've never seen anything like this before.





7:37 p.m.

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee Report Rob Fox, WUDAC Liaison Objective: Updates

7:42 p.m.

Recognition of Any Elected Officials TBD

Objective: Provide an opportunity to any elected officials or representatives to give brief updates.

David Lorenzo for CM Glass – have candidates for Dept of Environmental Protection. The council is starting to get back into the swing of things this legislative session.

Office of CM NFG – the governor was here and did the safety walk along GA ave with the Sec of Commerce and Transportation. We'll get the proper follow-up from that. We're pretty much in the community these past few weeks meeting with groups, learning about challenges people are facing. I know we're talking about the fentanyl crisis, earlier in the year we met with the Governor's Dept of health staff about bringing a treatment center here. Right now we're just following up to see if that's something that can happen this year.

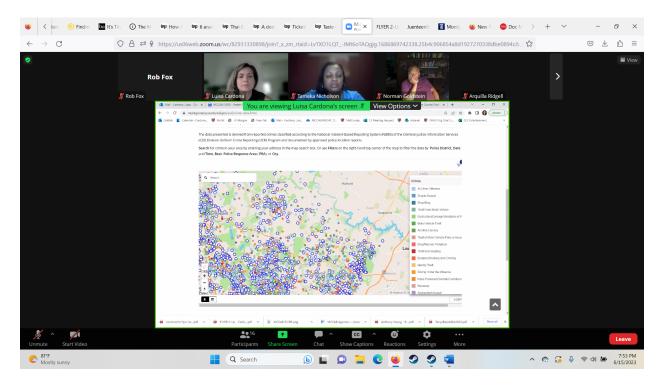
Arquilla – go to Dept of Permitting meetings before MCCAB meetings, and they want to get feedback from businesses about how to improve inspections for them.

7:48 p.m.

Public Safety Update Sergeant Robert Sheehan MCPD, 4th District

Objective: Provide an overview of public safety in Mid-County and per committee request information on speed cameras and mailbox theft.

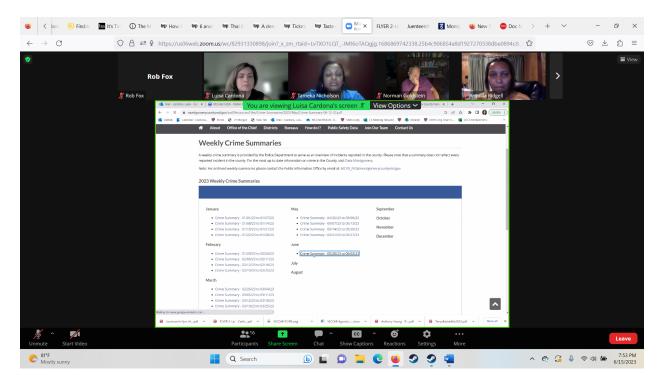
Was promoted to Sargeant two months ago. I came to the Dept in 2003, moved to plain clothes in the Wehaton division. Got promoted went to Silver Spring. I've worked a little bit in Wheaton before. I've been asked to address a few things. I want to let you know that our team is constantly in contact with the staff at Kennedy, at Glenmont shopping center all the time. We met with the East coast head of security for McDonalds. The signs on the door came from that, they didn't want to do that at first but they now also have a security guard for the high time when kids are there. Things have gotten quiet at the shopping center. There are also questions about mailbox and package thefts. There's a certain clearance on shoplifting, but there isn't a clearance for package theft itself. The crime analyst narrowed it down to not interact with shoplifting clearances. June 2021 to June 2023 countywide package thefts are down 23%



We're asked what options people can have to minimize these package thefts. Amazon has pickup locations, along with some other entities. Management offices can keep ahold of packages. There's also keyless entry options for Amazon to deliver packages as well for inside garages. If you leave instructions to the delivery driver to put it behind the house instead of in front, you can get a delivery alert for when the driver gets to your house. If you require a signature they won't drop the box unless they get a signature. Walmart and Amazon both have secured boxes that can be installed to deliver to. Surveillance cameras keep people away, along with signs. I was asked about these standalone pole cameras. We were having issues with the Glenmont McDonalds of kids stealing shoes off of each other. We were able to catch robberies on camera they'll be kept on there for 90 days. We can then go to the school CSOs to identify the perpetrators. With adults committing crimes we can put out the press release with those videos and pictures. The homicide at metro, the three suspects were caught on the camera down at the CBD area at the Reedie building. It caught them going down there and at the Glenmont Metro where they did the homicide. We've had an issue with carjackings, but since the last meeting we've only had one. Shootings are down since the last meeting. Atop these stationary pole cameras we have license plate readers to monitor for carjacked vehicles. There are cameras strategically placed throughout the

county for alerting officers. Violent Crime Information Center VCIC motniros crime throughout the county and they were actually able to catch a homicide suspect by following them through downtown Silver Spring through identification on the county cameras. The commander put a CBD overtime detail after the carjackings, and we've seen a large drop in crime in DT Wheaton due to these details. We could get updates on when crimes were peaking and time it to that.

Working with schools and establishments in the area to identify issues.



Rob – what's happened with the homicide suspects?

The people involved in the homicide at the metro were arrested. The three kids involved in the homicide were three of the kids stopped at an event at a housing complex.

Chris Farrell – Is the ride-along program available to us Friday and Saturday evenings?

Sgt. – Absolutely, give us a call and let us know, submit a request. They'll write it down and ask what time and day you want.

Arquilla – At the Glemont area folks didn't know why the camera went up but knowing why it's there that's great info to have and a good help to have for that area.

Sgt. That's good to hear I'll pass that along.

Arquilla – thank you for the efforts at the McDonalds as well, as we've seen that be improved as well.

Sgt. We had them do some engineering things, upstairs is closed off during school hours, bathrooms as well, and places where employees and security can't see them are removed as well. They were very willing to cooperate with us.

Arquilla – have you noticed any activity at the Starbucks?

Sgt. – I'm not sure if that's because of the employees. The McDonalds folks weren't proactive on it at first but Starbucks did seem to be more proactive on working the issue.

Argulla – is there anything more the community can do?

Sgt. – As far as the schools I'm sure people have been contacting the school, but regarding juvenile issues the more people contacting the school the better that'll be.

Arquilla – so you can contact the school?

Sgt. – You can also contact the police.

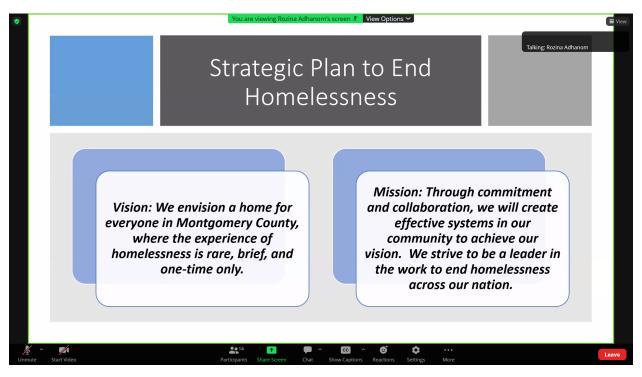
Arquilla – There was an incident at the stained glass pub with 15 officers there, so are you aware of what happened there?

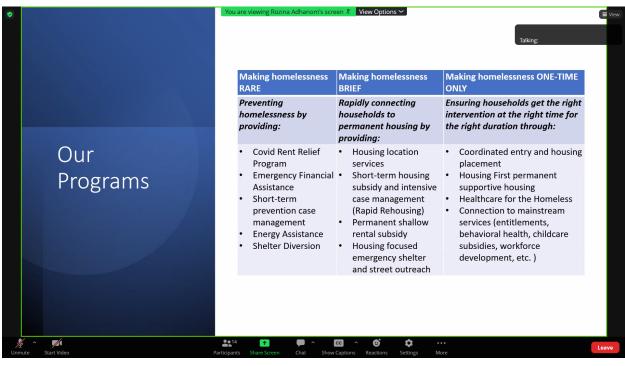
Sgt. – Not immediately but I can look into it for you.

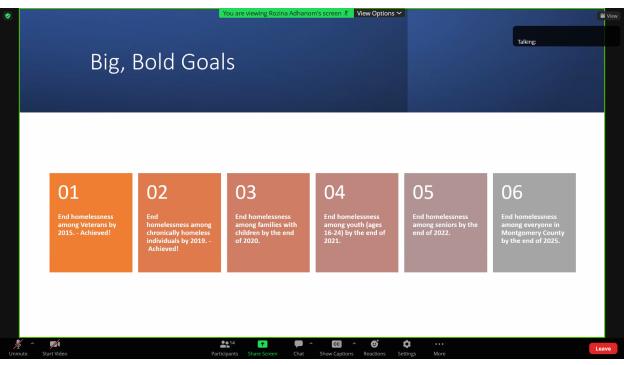
8:09 p.m.

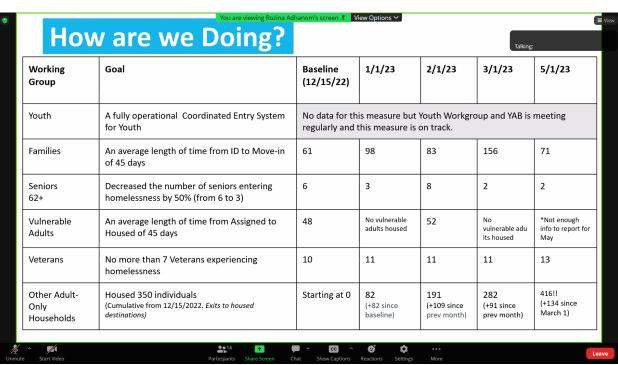
Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH), Rozina Adhanom, Continuum of Care Coordinator Objective: Overview of SEPH and services provided.

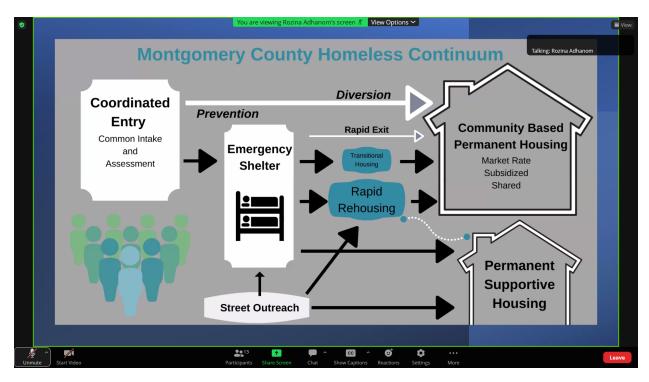


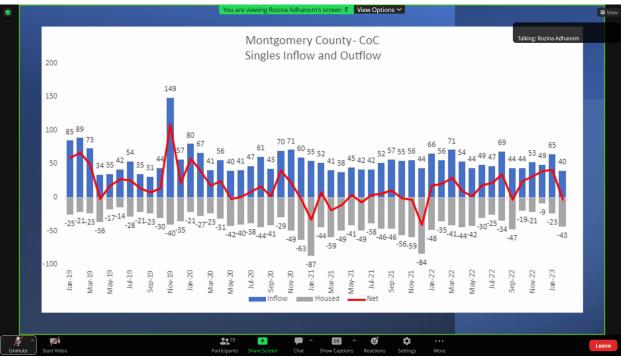




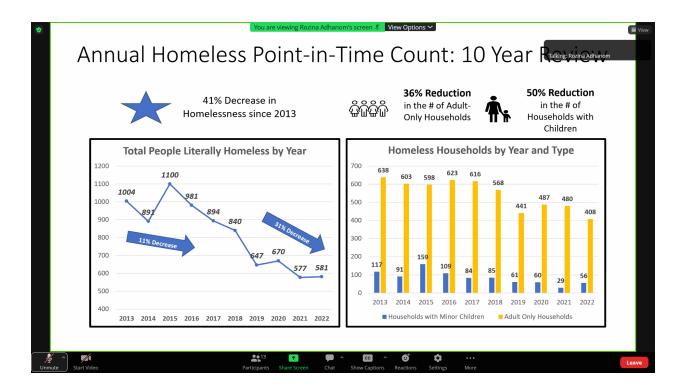


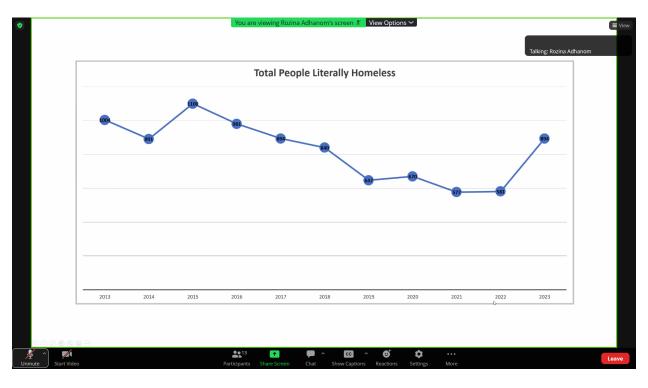




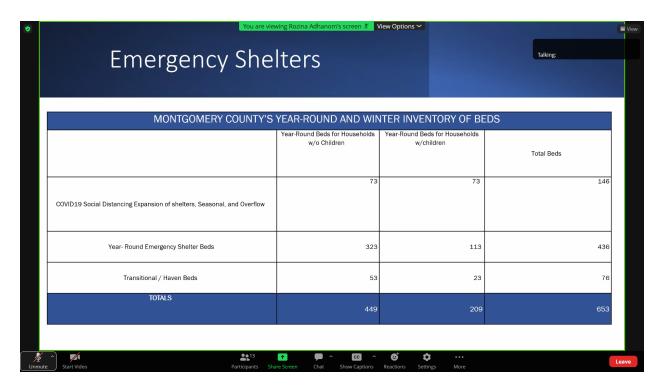


Goal of average number entering homelessness is less than those existing homelessness. Housing is a vital part of how to solve this crisis. Shelters are not permanent solutions, but are a temporary fix.

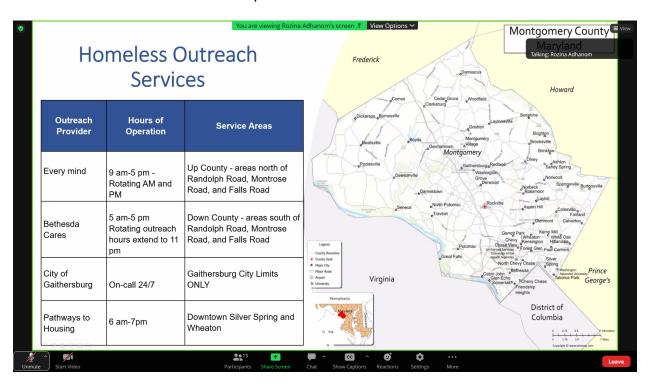


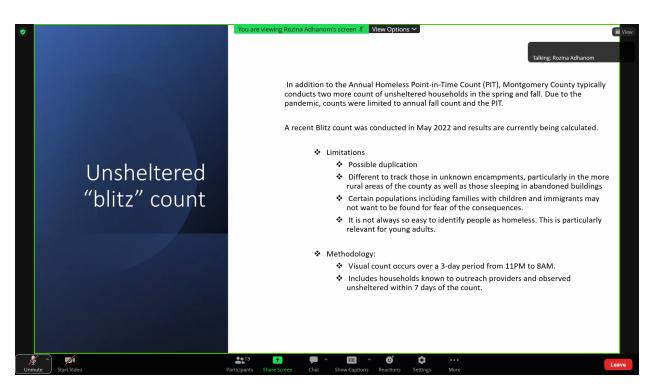


Saw a spike in the last year, a huge increase we haven't seen for some itme in our system. That's the pandemic impacting us.

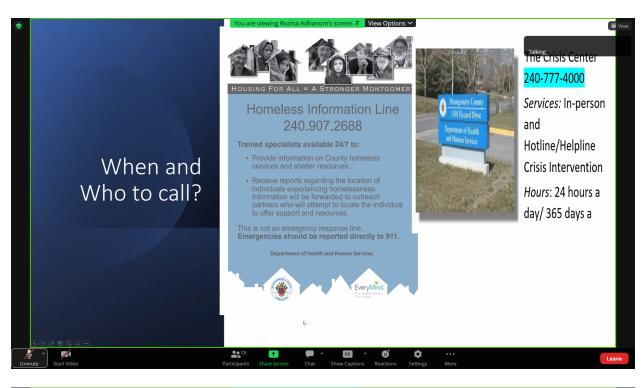


This is the number of individuals in our system and our beds.

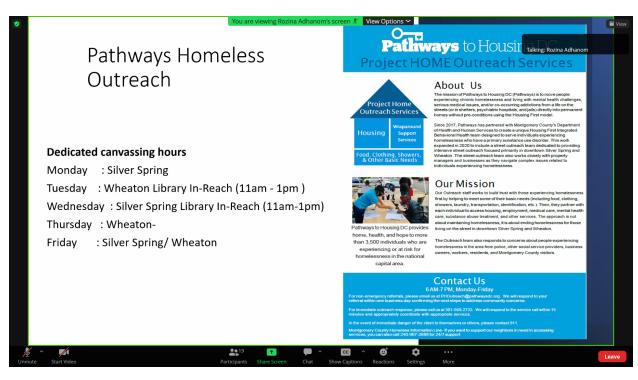


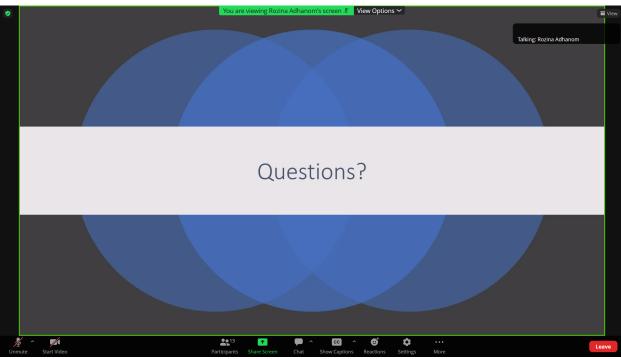














Arquilla – Is anyone ever turned away where capacity has run out?

Rozina – during the summer months we have overflow. We provide for individuals that are coming into the schelter with mats on the ground. Any additional space like conference rooms will be converted in winter months. In summer months we won't turn people back, but we are facing a major issue now that shelter beds are full but we're having people come in from out of district. We prioritize MoCo residents for shelter beds but the increase is very apparent.

Arquilla – I previously volunteered at shelters, and they have different criteria. How do you determine which shelter a person is the most appropriate and are they different in how long they can stay?

Norman – are there shelters for men, women, families?

Rozina – there are shelters for women, families, and men. The men's shelter with the capacity for 200 men, people ask for exemption. People are in the shelter but they need to leave for two days and they don't want the bed taken away. So there are allowances for that. We encourage and provide people guidance on what options exist for people. We conduct assessments on the level of need that a person has. If someone is presenting with higher need, we have permanent supportive housing but that's a rare resource. Vulnerability plays a big role. And trust building impacts what people can accept for help.

Arquilla – do you work with private organizations to see if they have housing? Or is it all county?

Rozina – we contract with permanent supportive housing with federal housing vouchers. We work with Rockville enterprises, which have issued 45 vouchers. We work with any landlord. For example we have housing initiative housing vouchers, and we work with any properties that are rental properties and we can subsidize those individuals.

Arquilla – is any of the housing for battered women or in a domestic crisis?

Rozina – we do have a domestic violence shelter in the county where they can stay for 30 days. That's where they funnel through referrals as well. We can connect with housing but that particular domestic violence shelter comes from the abused women shelter at HHS.

Arquilla – if someone wants to volunteer at shelters can they do that?

Rozina – Shepherds table is the biggest entity and they take volunteers, all the nonprofits take volunteers. I can send the websites for the non-profits for people to volunteer.

Arquilla – is food provided at the shelter?

Rozina – food is provided, along with anything else that's needed for people's well being and care. There are mental health clinics in some of the shelters. Dental care, medical examination by clinical nurses, and a medical respite shelter with a 20 bed capacity.

Arquilla – Do you have any prospects for expanding the shelters?

Rozina – We've expanded men's capacity from 75 to 200, a great extension that comes out of COVID. The needs are there, what we need is housing resources and the dollars we're getting for that. We need to increase the places for people to outflow into. We have a lot of seniors in our system. They're scared of becoming homeless again after six months on the subsidies. Expanding the shelters would only camouflage the issues.

Arquilla – are your resources all county?

Rozina – we receive county, state, and federal funds. All of the non-profit organizations we work with are private funded.

Norman – there's an astronomical estimate for affordable housing needs, and there isn't a coordinated plan to meet the gap, am I correct on that?

Rozina – the projection for evictions coming is really increasing. We're wanting to look upstream at the prevention side to promote stability before people are coming into the system. For the ones that are in the homeless system what can we do to help them.

Norman – One of the problems with affordable housing is the idea of NIMBY folks fighting against it.

Betty Bahadori – how would a person's nondocumented status impact their experience?

Rozina – some of our funds are federal and that includes requirements along those lines, and that's a challenge. We were given the ability to house 14 individuals who are undocumented through local funds and couldn't be served or housed elsewhere. For folks without identification people have a trust issue about opening up. Landlords also would need documentation and work status for people. Increasing the local funds provides the most flexibility. We increased our housing options to cover short time housing resolution program, first/last month security deposit and one year of rent subsidy.

Betty – for teenagers, some do couch surfing but not all and they can't do it perpetually. Do you track how many are teenagers?

Rozina – for minors we do referrals to child protective services if they aren't connected to a family member. For 18-24 our access is the drop-in center where it's safe with youth dedicated services. Majority of youth don't come to our services.

8:53 p.m.

Community Concerns Community members Objective: Opportunity for public comments

9:00 p.m.

Adjourn Aquilla Ridgell, Chair Objective: Close out meeting