

**Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)**  
**Governing Board Meeting Agenda**  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 1:00 PM  
Lee County Human and Veteran Services  
Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:**

Barbara Short – CareerSource SWFL  
Michael Overway – Lee County Homeless Coalition  
Joseph Rea – Centerstone  
Terryn Bach- Acheamfour – Salvation Army  
Luella Richardson – Veteran Affairs  
Mary Grubbs – Center for progress and excellence  
Tom Felke - FGCU

**Other Present:**

Therese Everly

**Human and Veteran  
Services Staff Present:**

Juan Albino  
Caitlyn Roberts  
Jason Coleman

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**I. Call to Order**

*Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

*a. Welcome and Board Roll Call*

- Jason Coleman reviewed the list of attendees. He stated there was not enough members present for a quorum.

*b. Members Absent with/without Excuse.*

- Marcia Davis (City of Fort Myers Housing Authority) absent without an excuse
- Erin DallaCosta (Lee County School District) absent without an excuse
- Arlene Goldberg (Visuality) absent without an excuse
- Carl Baxter (BCW Consulting) absent without an excuse
- Daniel Kruse (Providence Family Life Center) absent without an excuse
- Jennifer Nelson (City of Cape Coral) absent without an excuse
- Sheryl Soukup (Residential Options of Florida ROOF) absent without an excuse
- Carolyn Johnson (Goodwill Industries SWFL) absent without an excuse
- Alex Olivares (Catholic Charities) absent without an excuse
- Linda Hafner (United Way) absent without an excuse
- Amber Hentz (CEO) absent without an excuse
- Jessica Cosden (City of Cape Coral) absent without an excuse

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes\*(December)**

*Jason Coleman, HVS*

- a. Minutes unavailable, will be reviewed next meeting.*

**III. HVS, CE and Outreach Activities**

*Jason Coleman*

- Jason Coleman went over HVS updates. Roger Mercado is no longer working with Human and Veteran Services. Kim Hustad is retiring, and Caitlyn Roberts is taking her position. Caitlyn Roberts will be applying to take Kim Hustad position on the COC Governing Board.
- Coordinated Entry receives about 1/1.5 thousand calls every month. Coordinated Entry received a new employee, so that has helped with the influx of calls.
- Outreach has encountered some cold weather and severe weather alerts. Only one or two people accepted shelter during those events. In events like this, the HVS Reach app is utilized to let the public know what assistance is available.

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- Juan Albino discussed events coming up for the Point in Time (PIT) count. The first PIT training will be at 10am on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The training will be recorded and posted on the Homeless Coalition website. The second training will be on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am. The second training will be the same as the first. This training is recommended for anyone that is going to be involved in the PIT count.
- Michael Overway said there are 37 volunteers signed up so far for the Stand Down Event. 98% of vendors from last year have committed to coming back for PIT week, along with new vendors.
- Tom Felke said 50 students have signed up to help with the PIT count.

#### IV. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update

*Michael Overway*

- Michael Overway discussed opening a new office at the LeeSar building in Lehigh Acres. Lee County Homeless Coalition occupies the whole second floor.

#### V. The Salvation Army- Operations Update

*Terryn Baah-Acheamfour*

- Terryn discussed the soft opening of the LIFNAV program. This will be more intensive case management with clients. The Community Resource Center is no longer a day center. The medical wing has been revamped; it has 10 beds. They are attempting to receive funding to help people that need medical recovery, but not a hospital. It will be designated for senior plus healthy homes. They have two more rooms with 8 beds total designated for the LIFNAV program.
- There are about 6 people who frequented the day center and now have made appointments with case workers. If any other organization has clients inquiring, they can call to get information.
- They are utilizing the money from the Bezos Family Foundation to get families from the shelter into housing. It is not rapid rehousing, because the funds will not last for 12 months.

#### VI. Public Comment:

- Therese Everly from Castle discussed their 14-bed treatment facility. They are going through inspections now but hoping to open before the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year.
- Barbara Short announced they have ‘pathways to promise’ focusing on individuals who receive DCF benefits or have aged out of foster care. It is case management to help find resources or find a job.
- Joseph Rea said Project Hope is ending in January, but there is still a need for the program. The program is especially needed in Pine Island, Fort Myers beach, and North Fort Myers. They have been passing along the information for Coordinated Entry during outreach. The Wish Harm Reduction Program is still up and running. An Overview of services Centerstone offers is: No cost services for psychiatry, case management, peer support services, therapy, and medication.

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- St Matthews women's and children's shelter is opening January 16<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was had on requesting more information including admission criteria to fill up their beds. It is suspected 35 beds will be available, as well as a few family rooms. Unsure if beds will be available to coordinated entry.

**VII. Adjourn - Next CoC Board Meeting March 13, at 1 p.m.**

*Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

Michael Overway motioned to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Short seconded the motion.

*Meeting adjourned*

**\*Item Needing Action**

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For translation services or additional information, please contact: Clare Molly, Lee County Human and Veteran Services at 239-533-7958.

**Meeting minutes and agenda are posted on our website: <https://www.leegov.com/dhs/partner>**