

**LEE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE
GOVERNANCE BOARD
Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2016**

Members Present:

Janet Bartos, Lee County Homeless Coalition
Rosemary Boisvert, SalusCare
Dane Brandon, Independent writer
Sherri Campanale, Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers
Emma Chin, SalusCare
Connie Myers for Erika Cooks, Lee County Housing Development Corp
Suzanne Czarnik, Lee Memorial Health System in for Heidi Shoriak
Kathy Hoffman, Ft. Myers Police Department
David Justiniano, Homeless Advocate
Becky Madsen, Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers
Kaitlin Major, Delta Family Counseling
Shaurie Mathews, Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers
Ranice Monroe, Lee County Schools
Beverly Reed, City of Ft. Myers Community Development
Sharon Rozier, City of Ft. Myers Community Development
Amy Yearsley, City of Cape Coral Department of Community Development
Johnnie Terrell, Open Arms Advocacy Foundation

Staff Present: Julie Boudreaux Sally Flint, Administrative Asst.

ITEM

Welcome and Introductions:

Chairperson Ms. Kaitlin Major called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., introductions were made.

ITEM

Approval of February 3, 2015 Minutes:

Ms. Janet Bartos made the motion to accept the minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Amy Yearsley. The motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM

Board Membership

Ms. Kaitlin Major reported on the following Board Membership:

She thanked all in attendance, acknowledging the new faces at the meeting. There is still a need for a representative from the Cape Coral Police Department.

Ms. Chris Nesheim has retired from Lee Memorial Health System and Ms. Heidi Shoriak will be her replacement.

Ms. Major also mentioned that if there is anyone who might be interested in joining this Board, contact either herself, Ms. Boudreaux or Ms. Flint.

Ms. Julie Boudreaux noted at the next meeting, August 3, 2016, the Board will vote on the chair & co-chair positions. Mr. Jeremy Gentile, holds the co-chair position at this time. He has taken on a new role at United Way and Julie does not know if he will still be active on this Board.

ITEM

Point in Time

Ms. Janet Bartos handed out copies of Census and Comparison Reports for this presentation. Point in Time is the once a year count of the homeless population. The event was held at the Homeless Service Day and the Veteran's Stand Down on January 23, 2016. The number of homeless can be misleading. However, these are the numbers the Federal government uses to determine our share of funding.

The number this year was 439. The HUD definition of homeless is "on streets or in a shelter". The School Board uses the definition "doubled up", those families who share a home.

There was a 30% decrease in the numbers reported from last year. There was a 50% decrease in the chronic homeless and a decrease of 70% for the Veterans. The economy and the increase in better resources contributed to the drop in numbers.

Dr. Ranice Monroe reported that Lee County Schools on January 29, 2016, had a number of 876 homeless students.

The HUD VASH, geared toward Veterans, helps them find places to live. Discussion ensued regarding the veterans who prefer 2 bedroom homes/apartments – but only have one person living in it. Veterans are given housing vouchers and if the person can afford it, it is their decision on where they want to live. If at a later time, they decide they want to share the place, the second person will need to go through the eligibility process with the Housing Authority.

Mr. David Justiniano, reported on Point in Time from Charlotte County homeless where he was a Plan Coordinator for 3 years. Their numbers were about 500, the double-ups were counted as well. He said there were approximately 40 agencies involved in the 10 Year Plan, in which he helped with their advertising and recruitment. He also reported there were volunteers that partnered with the police to go to the homeless camps in the woods at very early hours to get a head count there. Charlotte County also had a Stand Down, however that was only for vets and the count was about 150.

ITEM

Zero: 2016 Update

Ms. Janet Bartos reported: Zero: 2016 is a national initiative in which Lee County's Homeless Coalition, Dept. of Human Services, Housing Authority and Veteran's Administration are involved. The Federal strategic plan is to end Veteran Homelessness by 2015 and Chronic Homelessness by 2016. 272 Veterans were reported for the year and by last December there were only 2 vets reported as homeless. It should be noted that vets can be offered a place and decline to accept, which takes them off the homeless list. Ms. Bartos explained the term Functional Zero means there are enough resources to meet our needs. Lee County has met this for several months for veterans. To qualify for this, paperwork was submitted for the Mayor's Challenge and also USICH. They check everything in the packets and give us feedback, which we are waiting for. A press release is prepared for the announcement of our accomplishment, however, it will be held until the results from the government confirm the numbers.

There was discussion on how it will be announced. The agencies that are funding the veterans are afraid of their funding being cut. People are working hard and they want to make sure the funding does not go away.

ITEM

10 Year-Plan to End Homelessness

Ms. Major reported on the progress of the 10 Year Plan and the sub-committee meetings that have met so far.

- The **Transportation Meeting** took place on March 2, 2016, very few attendees. Janet has offered to be in contact with Infinity, a group working on community engagement. Specifically community partners working toward transportation.
- The **Health Services Meeting** took place on April 13, 2016, attendance was better, and some goals have been met and other goals combined.
 - Minutes from the Apr 13 meeting:

Goal: Improve access to and expand community health care services.
Report any ACTIONS that address any of the following OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Promote the provision of pro-bono “fair share” services. - COMPLETED**
- 2. Increase health services outreach efforts.- COMPLETED**

3. Increase placements in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Facilities and medical respite beds.- NOT REALISTIC. HOSPITALS WILL NEED TO REQUEST PAYMENT REMOVE IT?

4. Increase the capacity of existing medical, dental and medical respite beds services. and mental health care sites and services

New #3, combined #3 & #4= Increase the capacity of existing medical sites and services.

5. Increase detoxification and mental health services and beds to meet current and emerging needs.

She reported in further detail on outreach, the timeliness of receiving referrals, healthcare, and Salvation Army handling the dental services.

Ms. Rosemary Boisvert, SalusCare, reported a new goal was established last week to move clients from detox directly to outpatient for substance abuse, as well as the immediate engagement into mental health services for those in need of that service. It is still in the beginning stages so there was no way to tell how successful it will be.

Ms. Major also mentioned that Eric Pateidl, DHS, will be working on the logistics of the chart. Re-arranging some of the information to fit the 10 year plan better and adding stats. Some info should be moved into the correct sections which will also help streamline the goals.

Agencies are being asked to update their specific accomplishments in the goals on the DHS Website. A suggestion was made to send out a yearly update of the goals.

The next sub-committee meeting will be Housing, it was originally scheduled for May 11, however, do to conflicts it is going to be re-scheduled for May 18. (After this CoC meeting, the Housing sub-committee meeting changed to May 25).

Ms. Boudreaux announced that DHS put out a request for applications for the ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) from the state, due date of May 24, 2016. Approval of the grant would assist the City of Cape Coral and City of Ft. Myers for the homeless.

Tier II funding for CoC, has received \$13,354 for CASL the approximate amount of which they had applied for; there is no funding for HMIS; and no funding for SalusCare.

Ms. Boisvert of SalusCare reported the cuts in their HMIS funding will take away 9 of their chronic homeless beds. This is a problem because their new goal is 18 to 20 beds a month. They will be looking for other funding, possibly from the State. Also the loss in their transitional housing which served 140 homeless individuals a year in mental health & substance abuse services is another area affected. It will be an impact on the community. Meetings are planned to see how this can be sustained.

Ms. Boudreaux introduced Ms. Jeannie Sutton, who has filled the position as Grant Coordinator. Ms. Sutton was out of the office today.

New monthly sub-committee meetings for the 10 Year Plan:
May 25, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. **Housing** meeting

ITEM

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The next Board Meeting will be August 3, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lee County Human Services.