

**LEE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY  
AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 10, 2019**

**Members Present:** Lee Coleman  
Ian Connell  
Anne Gomez  
Kari Lefort  
Deb Reardon  
Joseph Redmon  
George Sand  
Richard Sapp  
Keesha Wick

**Others Present:** Allaris Russ

**Members Excused:** Gabriel Falk  
Charles Garretson  
Rebecca Hines  
Aimee McLaughlin  
Frederick Richards  
Garfield Vasciana

**Members Unexcused:** None

**Staff Present:** Diane Durr  
Kim Hustad  
Laura Purks  
Christine Sebastian  
Matthew Wallace

**ITEM**

**I. Call To Order/Establish Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Ms. Keesha Wick welcomed everyone. Quorum present.

**A. Members Present**

**1. Members Absent/With Excuse**

Mr. Gabriel Falk, Mr. Charles Garretson, Ms. Rebecca Hines, Ms. Aimee McLaughlin, Mr. Frederick Richards and Garfield Vasciana are absent with an excuse.

## **2. Members Absent/Without Excuse**

None.

## **B. Approval of November 15, 2018 Minutes**

Ms. Wick requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2018 meeting.

### **ACTION:**

Mr. Ian Connell made a motion to approve the November 15, 2018 minutes and Mr. Richard Sapp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **C. Introduction of Housing Manager – Kim Hustad**

Ms. Hustad introduced Ms. Diane Durr, Lee County Human & Veteran Services Housing Manager. Ms. Durr gave an overview of her background.

## **II. Public Comment**

None.

## **III. Reports**

### **A. Program Reports**

#### **1. IRMA Recovery – Christine Sebastian**

Ms. Kim Hustad introduced Ms. Christine. Ms. Sebastian mentioned she is the Long Term Recovery Coordinator. Currently there are 4 disaster case managers working with her. One case manager is partnered with Habitat for Humanity, which focuses on repairing homes. Another case manager is partnered with Affordable Home Ownership Foundation, which is working with mobile home issues. The other 2 case managers are working with individuals who were renting. She said if there are agencies aware of individuals who were affected by the hurricane; they should contact United Way 211. The goal is to provide case management to bring back some normalcy, whether to rehouse or repair, assist with job search, emotional support, and to navigate the system. Since the hurricane, they have reached out to 590 households. Currently they are working with 119 households with 53 people rehoused, 15 homes have been repaired, 12 homes are under construction, and 4 are approved and ready for construction. Additionally, 40 people received H.I.F.A. (Hurricane Irma Funding Assistance) provided by the American Red Cross. Red Cross recently gave Human and Veteran Services a list of 970 people who are pre-qualified. The Salvation Army will be transferring 70 more cases to Human and Veteran Services. Ms. Sebastian said their biggest challenge is working with mobile homes. She is thankful for Rebuild Florida as they are assisting if one qualifies. Other challenges are affordable housing, transportation and mental health. Ms. Sebastian discussed some of the cases they encountered.

## **2. Homeless Outreach – Matthew Wallace**

Ms. Kim Hustad introduced Mr. Matthew Wallace, Homeless Outreach Coordinator. His position is funded through a grant by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.). He has encountered approximately 400 homeless individuals. His primary objective is to work with the chronic homeless. He provided his business cards should you need to contact him at 281-9393 (cellular number). Mr. Wallace interacts with multiple agencies in the community to provide services for the homeless. Florida Gulf Coast University (F.G.C.U.) initiated the “Kindness Project” providing hygiene products for homeless individuals. He discussed successes/challenges he encounters.

## **B. Neighborhood Reports**

### **1. Charleston Park – Joseph Redmon**

Mr. Redmon reported on December 15, 2018, Charleston Park hosted their Christmas picnic sponsored by Faith Methodist Church. There were 150 in attendance. On December 22, 2018, they held their annual Charleston Park Winter Wonderland event. They received several generous donations to provide gifts to approximately 200 children and 20 seniors. Florida Gulf Coast University is returning with their nursing students to assist residents understand and keep compliant with their medications. There are a total of 20 students enrolled in our afterschool tutoring program. The Teen Outreach Program is making a difference in their lives and in the community. Four students attended the inauguration of the new governor in Tallahassee. The Hunger Walk will be held on January 19, 2019 with 6 residents and their resident coordination attending. They will have their 1<sup>st</sup> community yard sale on January 26, 2019. On February 8, 2019, movie night will be at the community center at 7:00 p.m. with a \$2.00 donation. February 22, 2019 they will host black history and a dinner. Preorders are welcome. The dinner will entail the history of Charleston Park and soul food. The cost of the dinner is \$10.00. “Night Out Against Drugs and Alcohol” will be held in March, date to be announced.

### **2. Page Park – Lee Coleman**

Mr. Lee Coleman reported they served 70 people for Thanksgiving and gave away 100 turkeys and cooked 10. They served approximately 270 people for Christmas dinner and distributed over 200 presents. Catholic Charities donated 147 presents to families. The windstorm took off the roof at the community center. They are waiting on insurance. They are distributing food outside until they can get back into the center. Fire Service assisted with water restoration. Mr. Coleman was very thankful for their service.

### **3. Palmona Park – George Sand**

Mr. George Sand mentioned on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Florida Rural Legal Services is providing an in service at the North Fort Myers Recreation Center. Mariel Orenge, Community Resource Specialist is doing a great job in bringing outside agencies to provide information to the residents. Christmas breakfast went well. There are 2 volunteers driving individuals to their day labor jobs. Mr. Sand stated the price of affordable housing is out of reach. The new construction of the library is delayed for 6 months.

**4. Pine Manor – Anne Gomez**

Ms. Gomez reported on January 19, 2019, they would participate in the Harry Chapin Hunger Walk. The next culinary school starts February 11 through February 22, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The sewing club currently has 5 students learning how to hand sew and use a sewing machine. The garden is doing well. Teen Hope has 11 to 18 teens attending regularly. Children's Advocacy Center summer camp has 30 children attending. ACCESS and Joblinks continues daily. The food bank distributes food the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. The next culinary class is February 11, 2019. A new group CARRGO will begin this month assisting individuals with felonies and individuals at risk to assist with life skills. This will be held on Thursday evenings.

Ms. Gomez stated on Thanksgiving they served 255 people. The adopt a family program, 144 children received gifts. The AmeriVETS Foundation, Tots N Tails program provided 282 children with gifts. There were a total of 350 people in attendance for the Tots N Tails event. Their annual Christmas dinner, 250 people attended and 125 kids had their pictures taken with Santa Claus.

**5. Suncoast Estates – Laura Purks**

Ms. Laura Purks reported for Suncoast Estates. The archery club attended a tournament in December. This was hosted by Six Bends Harley Davidson in Fort Myers. The team did really well bringing home multiple trophies. They distributed Christmas toys to 186 children. On January 22, 2019, the Health Department will attend the food pantry and provide confidential screening for HIV. Suncoast will also participate in the Harry Chapin Hunger Walk on January 19, 2019.

**IV. New Business**

**A. \*Approval of Community Services Block Grant (C.S.B.G) Work Plan – Kim Hustad**

Ms. Hustad mentioned Human and Veteran Services receives 1 grant agreement for Community Services Block Grant (C.S.B.G.) and 1 grant for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) from the Department of Economic Opportunity each year. They are converting to an umbrella agreement for both grants for 3 years. Funding is being dedicated toward core services in family self-sufficiency. They will receive an additional \$468,000. She mentioned \$50,000 will go towards homeless prevention for eviction notice or a utility shut off notice. She is dedicating \$184,534 for homeless services. Currently there is a long wait list for homeless services and will have to prioritize the wait list. This will serve approximately 26 additional households. Client development supports all programs internally. This program assists families increase their income or better manage their money.

Ms. Hustad requested a motion to approve the Community Services Block Grant (C.S.B.G.) Work Plan.

**ACTION:**

Mr. Ian Connell made a motion to approve the Community Services Block Grant (C.S.B.G.) Work Plan and Mr. Lee Coleman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**B. \*Seating of Commissioner Appointed Remaining Members – Kim Hustad**

Ms. Hustad mentioned the following members were appointed by the Lee County Board of Commissioners to sit on the CAA/NDC committee. It is required to formally seat these members, Mr. Ian Connell, Charles Garretson, Anne Gomez, Rebecca Hines, Joseph Redmon, George Sand and Richard Sapp.

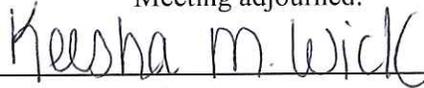
**ACTION:**

Mr. Lee Coleman made a motion to seat the appointed committee members and Ms. Kari Lefort seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Richard Sapp mentioned their agency received a federal grant to conduct HIV testing. They are also implementing non-occupational exposures. This will cover Lee, Hendry and Glades and eastern Collier counties. Mr. Sapp discussed the different risk factors. Mr. Sand suggested combining the testing when Palmona Park has their mobile food pantry distribution.

**V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned.

  
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Keesha Wick, Chair

  
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Gabriel Falk, Secretary

- C: Lee County Board of County Commissioners, District #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5  
Glen Salyer, Assistant County Manager  
Roger Mercado, Director, Human & Veteran Services  
Amanda Swindle, Assistant County Attorney  
Dorothea Austin, Department of Economic Opportunity