

**Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)
Governing Board Meeting**

March 8, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Alex Olivares – Catholic Charities
Barbara Short – CareerSource SWFL
Carolyn Johnson – Goodwill Industries SWFL
Jessica Cosden – City of Cape Coral
Joseph Rea – Centerstone
Kim Hustad – Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Linda Hafner – United Way
Lue Richardson – Veteran Affairs
Michael Overway – Lee County Homeless Coalition

Others Present:

**Lee County Human
And Veteran Services
Staff Present:**

Mark Tesoro
Roger Mercado
Jeannie Sutton
Tim Gillmore

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I. Call to Order

Carolyn Johnson, Chair

a. Welcome and Board Roll Call

- Mark Tesoro reviewed the list of attendees. He stated that there was not enough members present for a quorum.

b. Members Absent with/without 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
- Dr. Tom Felke (FGCU) absent without an excuse
- Jennifer Nelson (City of Cape Coral) absent without an excuse
- Marcia Davis (Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers) absent without an excuse
- Marie Aguste (Lee Health) absent without an excuse
- Mary Grubbs (Center for Progress & Excellence) absent without an excuse
- Sheryl Soukup (Residential Options of Florida ROOF) absent without an excuse
- Stefanie Ink Edwards (Community Cooperative) absent without an excuse
- Terryn Streets (The Salvation Army) absent with an excuse

Public Comment - None

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes* (November)

Carolyn Johnson, Chair

- Voting will be done remotely.

III. Board Membership – Erin Dalla Costa, LCSD, “Project Access”/Amber Hentz, CEO Park Royal Hospital*

Mark Tesoro

There are two individuals that were approved by the Lee County Homeless Coalition and nominated to join the Lee County CoC Governing Board, one of those individuals is Erin Dalla Costa. Erin Dalla Costa works at the Lee County School District and works with “Project Access”. Project Access with the School District is a program that advocates for homeless children and their families, they also coordinate efforts with transportation, helping parent’s complete enrollment forms, and they collaborate with other agencies to provide homeless children and their families with the resources they need. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has just been completed with the Lee County School District because the populations overlap.

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The next individual is Amber Hentz. Amber Hentz is the CEO of Park Royal Hospital, which is a 114-bed psychiatric hospital. Park Royal is hospital that works with the homeless population to treat adults that deal with mental illness and substance abuse.

Voting on approving the nominations of Amber Hentz and Erin Dalla Costa to join the Lee County Continuum of Care Governing Board will be done remotely.

IV. PERC Recommendations – SAMHSA Behavioral Health and ESG RUSH Applications*
Tim Gillmore/Jeannie Sutton

The Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee reviewed two projects. The first was in response to grants for the benefit of homeless individuals through SAMHSA. Fort Myers Police Department, Centerstone, and Major Impact applied for this funding. The PERC recommended that the full funding amount of \$500,000 a year for five years, conditional on the boards reward, be granted to Centerstone to support their Homeless Outreach and Treatment Team. The application to SAMHSA will be submitted later this month and if awarded, that funding will go to Centerstone.

The PERC also met to review applications for ESG Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) funds, in the amount of \$418,000 from the State of Florida to support Rapid Re-housing families impacted by Hurricane Ian. The PERC recommended the that full amount go to Catholic Charities.

Voting will be done remotely.

V. Data Committee Update*
Tim Gillmore

Lee County Data Committee has a data quality plan that is updated on an annual basis, that plan has been sent out and there was only one change on it. That change is that there used to be five or six charts at the end which were the data quality threshold, those charts have been simplified and have been condensed down to one chart and standardized it across all programs to make it more accessible and more closely match the data quality competition.

Voting will be done remotely.

VI. Long Term Recovery/Unmet Needs Group
Roger Mercado/Jeannie Sutton

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An Unmet Needs/Long Term Recovery Group has been assembled, they meet every Friday afternoon to engage individuals who were coming in the county from out of the area for disaster recovery work or local Human Service network to find out what's happening as the community starts to recover. This group had been providing updates, getting updates from FEMA, getting updates from the State, and getting updates from disaster recovery case management with the expectation that the unmet needs long term recovery duties and organization will be turned over to a local non-profit. The County has appointed Catholic Charities to lead that Unmet Needs/Long Term Recovery group. Lee County Human and Veteran Services and the County have been working with Haggerty Consulting Group, who specialize in disaster recovery, and they have been providing organization and created some bylaws to create structure within that committee. Within the Unmet Needs/Long Term Recovery Group there will be other committees doing things related to disaster recovery, like United Way doing warehousing and volunteer recruitment. Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane has assembled a disaster recovery task force.

FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management have been placing people in mobile home units or trailers depending on their needs. They are almost at the 400-household mark for placing families in trailers and are proceeding with the development of group sites, which are areas where there's a large concentration of trailers and mobile homes. There are currently three group sites under development and one of those are set to be finished in April and the others are set to be finished in June.

They are actively planning to receive Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funding. This funding will be used towards infrastructure and other housing projects. Actively planning with the task force, the BOCC, and County Admin to get pipeline projects laid out to prepare for the funding. All the housing related projects will be sent out through a notice of funding availability.

VII. Coc Activities – Post Hurricane Ian

Mark Tesoro

- Increased Volume

There has been a significant increase in the number of calls received after the Hurricane Ian.

- Staffing
 - New Coordinated Entry Staff – Supervisor, Coordinator, 11 Specialist – Lee County Human and Veteran Services is now up to 11 Coordinated Entry staff members who are answering the phone during business hours,

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after business hours the calls get transferred over to the Center for Progress & Excellence.

- New Outreach Staff Member (Orientation March 9th) –
Expanding the Outreach Team. A New Homeless Outreach staff member will be starting on March 9th, 2023.

- HOT Team Activities – FMB Bridge Activities

The HOT Team had a weeklong activity, from February 13th – February 17th, at Fort Myers Beach where they went out at different times on those days to make contact with the homeless individuals living under the bridge to address their needs and provide them with resources. The majority of the homeless individuals that they made contact with were living on their boats and were displaced after the Hurricane.

- CE Prioritization Workshop – March 9th @ 2 p.m.

March 9th at 2 p.m. there will be a Coordinated Entry Prioritization Workshop that will be conducted at the Collaboratory. This workshop will be to gain insight on how the community wants to us prioritize our clients. Being that there is only a certain amount of resources available, they have to prioritize based on the community's needs.

VIII. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update

Michael Overway

- Homeless Coalition is growing

There are two new applicants for the CoC this week. The Lee County Homeless Coalition has received a grant from CareerSource SWFL to begin hiring displaced workers, they currently have 2 onboarded of the 5 coming in so the goal is onboarding the remaining 3 by the end of the month. There is now an employee onboard who be handling data and engaging in the HMIS system. An Administrative Assistant has been onboarded.

- Committee Updates
 - Events Committee Planning a Poverty Simulation -
Currently in conversation with AHA Process to have a bridges simulation and training later this year for the community.
 - LCHC joining Lee County Human & Veteran Services

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- Point in Time (PIT) Count

The Events Committee had a meeting and have decided to reevaluate the point in time count and to get started on the PIT Count earlier so that the planning is more solidified by the end of the summer rather than scrambling at the very end.

IX. Adjourn – Next CoC Board Meeting May 10th at 1 p.m.

Carolyn Johnson, Chair

ACTION: Carolyn Johnson Adjourned the meeting.

Item Needing Action*

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs, or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate, contact Joan LaGuardia by phone at 239-533-2314, adarequests@leegov.com or through the Florida Relay Service, 711. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requestor. Request should be made at least five business days in advance.

For translation services or additional information, please contact: Jeannie Sutton, 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>