

**Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)
Governing Board Meeting**
January 11, 2023, 1:00 P.M.
Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Alex Olivares – Catholic Charities
Arlene Goldberg - Visuality
Barbara Short - CareerSource SWFL
Carolyn Johnson - Goodwill Industries SWFL
Dr. Tom Felke – Florida Gulf Coast University
Joseph Rea – Centerstone
Jennifer Cosden – City of Cape Coral
Linda Hafner - United Way
Marie Auguste - Lee Health
Terryn Streets - the Salvation Army
Therese Everly - Lee County Homeless Coalition
Michael Overway – Lee County Homeless Coalition

Others Present:

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

Mark Tesoro
Tim Gillmore
Clare Molloy

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I. Call to Order

Carolyn Johnson, Chair

- a. Welcome and Board Roll Call
 - Mark Tesoro Reviewed the lists of attendees. He stated there was enough for a quorum.

- b. Members Absent with/without Excuse
 - Carl Baxter (BCW Consulting) absent with an excuse.
 - Daniel Kruse (Providence Family life Center) absent with an excuse.
 - Jennifer Nelson (City of Cape Coral) absent with an excuse.
 - Lue Richardson (Veterans' Affairs) absent with an excuse.
 - Kim Hustad (Lee County Human and Veteran Services) absent with an excuse.
 - Marcia Davis (Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers) absent with an excuse.
 - Mary Grubbs (Center for Progress & Excellence) absent with an excuse.
 - Matt Vissagio (Vissagio & Co.) absent with an excuse.
 - Sheryl Soukup (Residential Options of Florida - ROOF) absent with an excuse.

Public Comment - None

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes* (November)

Carolyn Johnson, Chair

ACTION: Therese Everly made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 1, 2022, with the amendment to correct the error of Carolyn Baxter to Carolyn Johnson. Joseph Rea seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Board Membership -

Mark Tesoro

- a. Board Membership (1 year term) conformation document – signed and returned

Meetings occur every other month but periodically a meeting will be held in between if pushed against deadlines. If you are going to be absent, please contact Mark Tesoro because there are deadlines that have to be met on federal, state and county levels. Board Members are removed from the Board with two unexcused absences.

The Board Membership confirmation document has been sent out to sign and return, confirmation documents were also sent out for those who are interested in

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participating along with the coalition application to sign and return, because the bylaws state that all board members must come from the coalition.

IV. Update - CoC Activities/Status Post Hurricane Ian

Mark Tesoro

- Increased Volume
 - Pre-Post Ian Homeless

The Coordinated Entry line is now addressing calls for individuals who are chronically homeless prior to the hurricane and those who are post-hurricane homeless. There has been an increase in the number of post-hurricane homeless individuals calling the coordinated entry line, and they have been provided different resources within FEMA and the County.

- Prevention Application

There has been an increase in the amount of Homelessness Prevention applications coming in, which is used to prevent homelessness. There has also been an increase in the number of individuals needing assistance from the electric & water bill assistance program, LIHEAP/LIHWAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program/Low Income Household Water Assistance Program), the volume has increased so much that the cases of those whose utilities have been disconnected are being prioritized.

- Veteran Referrals

There has been a great influx in the number of Veteran referrals. The numbers for Veterans are normally low but as of right now they are up to about 80 veterans. Saint Vincent De Paul and Jewish Family and Children Services are the agencies to assist Veterans but with the influx of referrals for the Veterans, they are currently reaching out to the Outreach Team and Community Cooperative to assist with reaching out to the Veteran population to address their needs.

- Staffing
 - Coordinated Entry

After the Hurricane, the State provided 15 additional staff for 90 days to assist with the Coordinated Entry line. Those 90 days are up, and so now

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there are 6 Coordinated Entry Specialist, over the next couple of weeks the number of staff should go up to 9 and they will continue to add more staff if needed.

- Outreach Coordinator position posted

A vacant Outreach Coordinator position has recently been posted, so that would bring the number up to 7 or 8 staff members.

- Severe Weather Outreach

The Severe Weather Outreach was activated on December 22nd, 2022. 8 separate teams went out to 8 different locations where the homeless population is known to congregate. They engaged 64 individuals, transportation and sheltering were provided to 31 of those individuals and the other 33 of those individuals refused sheltering. Currently, they are in communication with the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) about temperatures possibly dropping this weekend, if the temperature drops to the 40s for an extended period of time the severe weather outreach team is activated, they are possibly going out this weekend even though the weather might not reach as low as needed.

Mark Tesoro has a meeting with Lee Health to restart the Community Health Task Force meetings. There is a significant amount of elderly and medically fragile clients that need shelter, so that meeting will be beneficial to those clients.

V. Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH)

Tim Gillmore/Jeannie Sutton

HUD awarded Lee County a little over \$288,000 in Rush Funding in response to Hurricane Ian. Those funds will be administered by Catholic Charities to run a program where families experiencing homelessness will be placed into a hotel and then placed into housing through a Rapid Re-Housing program. The clients will need to be selected through the Coordinated Entry process, they will be assigned to a homeless outreach worker, then a vulnerability assessment will be done and then they can get a referral into that program. Pre-award spending is allowed for that funding.

VI. 2022 Collaborative Application Update

Tim Gillmore/Jeannie Sutton

Both the annual application and the supplemental application have been turned into HUD on time and are now currently waiting to hear from HUD to see which programs are selected for

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funding. HUD has begun the process for next year's applications so in the months to come they will be working on a Notice of Funding Opportunity.

VII. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update

Therese Everly

- New Executive Director

Therese Everly has turned in her resignation from her position as Executive Director at the Lee County Homeless Coalition and that will take effect on February 3rd, 2023. Michael Overway will be the new Executive Director at the Lee County Homeless Coalition. Michael Overway currently serves and will continue to serve as the Executive for the Collier County Hunger and Homeless Coalition, he's looking to bring programs and services back and forth between the two coalitions that will be beneficial for both counties. An Administrative Assistant will be hired to be there 40 hours a week.

- Committee Updates

The Lived Experience committee does not meet regularly but they did meet in December, this committee is one that consists of individuals who lived experiences with homelessness, they come from various parts of the region, so each have had different experiences and provide good feedback. Their task in December was to rate the different types of housing options within the CoC and what they see as priorities, they also spoke about the different programs offered. The top three programs rated were permanent supported housing, emergency family sheltering, and emergency sheltering for individuals.

ACTION: Therese Everly made the motion to amend the governance charter to show that the communication committee will be sunsetted and the objectives will be moved to the resource and events committee until such time the Governing Board reactivates the communication committee. Kim Hustad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Candlelight Vigil

The Candlelight Vigil took place December 21st, 2022, it was successful and was well received.

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- **Point in Time (PIT) Count**

The Point in Time Count will be taking place on January 23rd – January 28th, 2023. Two training sessions have already taken place and the next one will be taking place on Tuesday of next week. There are a total of 27 base camps, which are identified locations of where people who experience homelessness reside, there are team leaders assigned to each base camp. The team leader will meet up with their volunteers to go out and survey those who are experiencing homelessness. The entire PIT Count will be done via GIS phone app, the app will be able to drop coordinates and provide more accurate data, and after each of these surveys are done Juan Albino and Tim Gillmore will be able to clean the data up and get it reportable to HUD.

The Stand Down will be January 28th, 2023, that date will also be the Homeless Service day and the last day for the PIT Count. To get into the event, the individual must take a survey. At the event, they will be doing the paper surveys. There will be over 25 vendors that will be providing direct services to individuals such as clothing, social services, meals, health services, haircuts, etc. they will also be holding a Traffic Court with Judge Gagliardi, the Lee County Clerk of Courts and the Lee County Tax Collector's Office will be there as well. The Jewish Family Children and Services will be taking the lead on Veteran Services. The Traffic Court will be available for those experiencing homelessness and veterans.

VIII. Adjourn – Next CoC Board Meeting January 11th 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>