

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

August 25, 2021, 1:00 P.M.

Lee County Human and Veteran Services  
Virtual Meeting

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472923173>

**Members Present:**

Adina Bridges Centerstone  
Alex Olivares Catholic Charities  
Carolyn Johnson Goodwill Industries SWFL  
Daleen O'Dell Advocate  
Danielle Brown United Way  
Danyale Kinney The New Beginnings of SWFL  
Janet Bartos Lee County Homeless Coalition  
Jennifer Nelson City of Cape Coral  
Karen Hawes Advocate  
Kim Hustad Lee County Human and Veteran Services  
Lue Richardson Veteran Affairs  
Maria Auguste Lee Health  
Marcia Davis Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers  
Matt Visaggio Visaggio and Co.  
Robert Tabor CFBHN  
Tara Martinson Centerstone  
Therese Everly Lee County Homeless Coalition  
Terry Streets The Salvation Army  
Tom Felke FGCU

**Other Present:**

Jason Saffels Central Florida Behavioral Health Network  
Jenna Alvarez  
Jon Romine  
Kristy Santana  
Lee Fox Centerstone  
Lois Healy Affordable Homeownership Foundation Inc  
Sylvia Jackson Taylor Jewish Family C Services  
Renee Gray Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers

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

Ana Villacis  
Ashley Candelfino  
Carolina Alcantara  
Chris Sebastian  
Cynthia Bantillo  
Jessica Lynch  
Jolene Adams  
Mark Tesoro  
Natalie Dedes  
Roger Mercado  
Sylvia Ruff  
Tim Gillmore

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**I. Call to Order**

*Jennifer Nelson, Chair*

**a. Welcome and Board Roll Call**

- Jennifer Nelson welcomed the Board.
- Therese Everly reviewed the list of attendees

**b. Members Absent with/without Excuse**

(HVS experienced technical difficulties with accessing the “GOTO” meeting platform at the beginning of the meeting and this may explain the absences below).

- Daniel Kruse Providence Family Life Center absent without an excuse
- Jerod Murphy Advocate absent without an excuse
- Joe Paterno CareerSource SWFL absent without an excuse
- John Campbell Advocate absent without an excuse
- Lisa Vogt Wells Advocate absent without an excuse
- Sharon Rozier City of Fort Myers Community Development Department absent without an excuse
- Sheryl Soukup Residential Options of Florida (ROOF) absent without an excuse

**Public Comment**

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

*Jennifer Nelson, Chair*

**Action:** Linda Hafner made a motion to approve meeting minutes for July. Carolyn Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Rapid Transition Collaborative (RTC) and Family Transition Collaborative (FTC)**

*Roger Mercado*

**Family Transition Collaborative (FTC)**

The Commissioners set aside \$1.9 million to assist individuals that are part of the Connect List, that are either committed couples or families with children. It could be a single parent with children or a two parent head of household. The idea is to take individuals off the Connect List. They currently have 46 households between two different hotels. They had some individuals check out and go into housing. The Salvation Army and Centerstone are on site between both hotels doing case management, providing clinical services for the individuals that are waiting for Rapid Rehousing placement.

**IV. Connect List Meetings/100 x 100**

*Mark Tesoro*

**Connect List Meetings**

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They are continuing to match clients with their programs. They have been working with the Housing Authority to get the Emergency Housing vouchers. Their Coordinated Entry line volume has increased due to the homelessness in the area due to the Economy and Pandemic. Last week their Coordinated Entry did 61 assessments, 40 of those calls were diversions that takes some individuals off their rosters and leaves some resources available for individuals that are in desperate need. They are receiving between 100-150 calls a week.

100X100

They set a goal for themselves to house 100 households in 100 days. They are currently on day 91 and housed 174 households. 321 individuals and 121 were children. They have surpassed their 100X100 campaign goal.

**V. Governance Discussion**

*Mark Tesoro/Therese Everly*

Mark and Therese have discussed how their two groups could work more seamlessly and reduce the number of meetings they are having. The Continuum of Care (CoC) is run by a split lead agency. Human and Veteran Services at the County level is a lead as well as Lee County Homeless Coalition. They discussed to decide what the roles of each of their meetings were for, how to make them more appropriate, more effective and more user friendly for individuals. They discussed on focusing this meeting on policy, procedure, voting on Continuum of Care (CoC) direction, allocations and funding. The Coalition meeting will focus on updates, networking, finding out resources and working with the Community.

**a. PERC**

- They are suggesting having the Continuum of Care (CoC) meetings bi monthly, once every other month and having their subcommittee group Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) meet in between. The Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) group is brought together when they have Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) when trying to make decisions regarding allocation and when to make decisions regarding funding. They would like the Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) group to be a little more active with an active role in reviewing performance of their programs and projects. It is usually comprised of individuals from non-funded agencies. If individuals would like to join the Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC), they are welcome as long as they are not with a funded agency.

**b. Data Committee**

- As a co-lead agency, they convene the General Membership of the Continuum of Care (CoC). The agency that provide care in the Continuum of Care (CoC) owns the Continuum of Care (CoC). The Coalition and Human and Veteran Services are there to convene and support individuals. You apply for membership to be in the general Continuum of Care (CoC) you would go to monthly meetings. The Governance Charter says the General Membership will then approve recommendations for Governing Board Members, which they did

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at their last meeting. Marcia Davis from the Housing Authority and John Campbell who's an Advocate went in front of their General Membership and were approved for consideration for the Governing Board. The Governing Board is the oversight policymaking board that represents the entire general Coalition that falls underneath it. Any new happening in the Community go to the General Coalition meetings. The Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) is required to handle \$1.8 million. That starts with the General Coalition as a Data Committee. They have members looking at funds on a monthly basis. They are proposing the Data Committee sit in with the Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) as long as they are not a funded agency to look at data. The Data Committee should be looking at the funds all year long in the General Coalition and communicating ultimately with the Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) then makes the recommendation to the Continuum of Care (CoC) then the Continuum of Care (CoC) makes the decision on where the millions of dollars go.

**c. Frequency of Governance Meetings**

- They are proposing the Governing Board of the Continuum of Care (CoC) meet every other month and in between. The Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) will meet in between the Continuum of Care (CoC) meetings and as needed rather than the Governing Board meeting every month.

**ACTION:** Karen Hawes made a motion to approve the frequency of the Governance Meetings. Carolyn Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership**

*Therese Everly*

As a co-lead agency, the Coalition will be reporting what is going on with the General Membership Board at a high level. They convened on August 19<sup>th</sup>. They had 71 members at the meeting. Their fiscal year started on July 1<sup>st</sup>. They sent out application for renewal of membership. They confirmed the Lee County Homeless Coalition Board of Directors. The Coalition is a 501C3 with a Governing Board that oversees what they do as a Homeless Coalition. Since they are a co-lead agency, they bring that to the General Membership to approve their Board. The General Membership is very engaged and wanted to know what was on their Board.

Their Events Committee is hosting a fundraiser coming up November 13<sup>th</sup>. This year they will be honoring Janet Bartos as she leaves for retirement. The proceeds they receive from the fundraiser allows them to give out small grants throughout the year. They go through their own granting process and those funds go to members of the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Coalition General Membership.

The Event Committee is looking at its Point of Time (PoT) a federal requirement that the Homeless

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Coalition puts on and the stand down which will be in January. They are also hosing a homeless challenge walk a mile in the shoes of a homeless individual.

They have a Resource Committee that gets all information out to the Continuum of Care (CoC).

**Action:** Therese Everly made a motion to approve Marcia Davis and John Campbell to be on the board. Carolyn Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Emergency Housing Vouchers (HACFM)**

*Mark Tesoro/Marcia Davis*

The Emergency Housing Voucher is a new voucher from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There are different waivers that occur on this voucher. They have made the Emergency Housing Vouchers a standing agenda item for their Connect List meetings that occurs every Thursday. They recently reviewed the application process at the last Connect List meeting. They went step by step of what would be involved. They have also provided the forms and packets that is required by the Housing Authority to apply. They are going to take time during each of their Connect List meetings to answer questions as the applications get to Renee from the Housing Authority. If there are items missing from the applications they will review which items are missing and how to follow up making sure those items are in place so individuals can get a successful application and their housing voucher.

There are only 700 Housing Authorities in the Country that received these vouchers. They received 86 of them. These vouchers are special because they help with paying deposits to landlords or electric deposits. To be eligible for a voucher the individual needs to go through the Coordinated Entry process. They had to prioritize and identify individuals within the parameters of what will be required for the vouchers. They provided the list to the Housing Authority. They are now working on placing individuals from that list that are in need to housing.

**VIII. Subcommittee Update: CoC Strategic Plan Review**

*Strategic Plan Subcommittee (C. Johnson, J. Bartos, M. Visaggio, D. Kruse, M. Tesoro)*

The subcommittee met and discussed what they have accomplished, what is ongoing and what they would like to keep moving along. They feel good with the direction they are moving in. This is one of the requirements from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to have a Strategic Plan.

**IX. HRDC Peer Specialist**

*Heather Cross*

The Homeless Resource Day Center (HRDC) has been working with the Center for Progress and Excellence who has brought on and hired an individual as a Peer Specialist. This individual has lived experience working with individuals who have homeless issues. They found they are more compliant, their health care management improves along with motivation improves and their income level improves. It goes along with what they want to see in the Community. They will have someone at the

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Homeless Resource Day Center (HRDC) on a regular basis.

**X. Funded Agencies**  
*Service Providers*

Carolyn Johnson with Goodwill reports they just renovated their store on Del Prado. They made it twice the size. They opened up a little Community Resource Center inside with five computers. It's free and open to the public. The Goodwill has been providing resources to access unemployment and navigating health care applications. What they really want to hone in on is providing digital skills component. When individuals are settled with a roof over their head, with everything falling into place, they need to get a job and they need to have something sustainable. They are at their centers to help with digital skills. They have an affiliation with Hodges University to take it to the next level. After they go through the basics with a job seeker then if they are looking to get certain certifications, industry recognized or a degree, Hodges University is providing those services.

Mark Tesoro with Human and Veteran Services reports they just received approval for the Notice of Funds Available (NOFA). They have the opportunity to refund continuation of programs that are going on, other opportunities for new programs and some focusing on domestic violence.

**XI. Adjourn - Next CoC Board Meeting September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Jennifer Nelson, Chair*

**Action:** Carolyn Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Renee Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**\*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](mailto: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/funding/coc>