

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

March 17, 2021, 1:00 P.M.

Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Virtual Meeting

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/353813405>

Members Present:

Adina Bridges Centerstone of Florida
Carolyn Johnson Goodwill Industries SWFL
Daleeen O'Dell Advocate
Daniel Kruse Providence Family Life Center
Danyale Kinney The New Beginnings of SWFL
Eduardo Gloria Catholic Charities
Heidi Shoriak Lee Health
Jarod Murphy Advocate
Janet Bartos Lee County Homeless Coalition
Jennifer Nelson City of Cape Coral
Linda Hafner United Way
Lue Richardson Veterans Affairs
Myra Fiory Central Florida Behavioral Health Network

Other Present:

Jana Balicki St. Vincent De Paul
Tony Ceresoli Salvation Army
Tony Ramos Lee County Port Authority Police Department

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

Ana Villacis
Christine Sebastian
Cynthia Bantillo
Emille Sharp
Isabella Alcantara
Jeannie Sutton
Jessica Lynch
Matthew Wallace
Roger Mercado
Sylvia Ruff
Tim Gillmore
Vennesia Adu-Amanfoh

I. Call to Order 1:01pm

Jennifer Nelson, Chair

- a. Welcome and Introductions
Mark Tesoro reviewed the list of attendees. He stated there was not enough members for a quorum.
- b. Members Absent with and without excuse:
Jaerod Murphy Advocate absent without an excuse
Joe Paterno Career Sources SWFL absent without an excuse
Kim Anderson Lee Health absent without an excuse
Kim Hustad Lee County Human and Veteran Services absent with 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 ROOF absent without an excuse
Tom Felke FGCU absent without an excuse

Public Comment- None

II. Approval of February Meeting Minutes*

Mark Tesoro

ACTION:

Approval of February meeting minutes tabled until next meeting.

III. Update: Connect List/100 x 100 campaign

Mark Tesoro

March 11, 2021 ended the 100X100 campaign.

It ended with housing:

- 121 households
- 193 individuals
- 60 children

The plan is to continue housing families and households. Before the campaign starts back up, they will take a look at what worked, what may not have worked, how they can improve and how they can streamline the process with making adjustments as needed. The campaign will pick back up next month.

IV. Update: "Rapid Transition Collaborative"

Roger Mercado

The City of Fort Myers, Lee County and Salvation Army partnered on a project regarding those who are experiencing homelessness residing at Lions Park, Fort Myers Regional Library

and Schandler Hall. The original plan did not pass. That didn't stop the group from moving forward and trying to rapid rehouse individuals that are staying at those different locations.

Roger presented a slide of the Rapid Transition Collaborative. As of February 24, 2021 you can see the results as part of the collaborative. The Salvation Army went out two days with the Hot Teams and Outreach and enrolled as many people they could in the rapid rehousing programs.

- 19 individuals were either referred to or placed in permanent housing from Lions Park
- 51 individuals enrolled in rapid rehousing
- 22 individuals agreed to go into shelter
- 11 individuals were placed in hotels waiting on the placement of housing

There are individuals being successfully housed every day, being transported out of Lions Park by the rapid rehousing coordinator. This project shifted a little as a result of political decisions that were made. The county still made an investment with Salvation Army and the City has contributed to make an investment into this project.

The City and the County are going to start enforcing County Ordinances at Lions Park on March 19, 2021 at 10:30pm. The Hot Team, Outreach, Goodwill along with other providers will be trying to get people connected with jobs. Teams are going out daily to try to engage individuals to shelters and give them opportunities and options. Their plan is to get as many individuals housed into shelter before the deadline Friday night.

V. Update: Focused Homeless Outreach

Roger Mercado

The County did agree on March 16, 2021 to invest \$1.9 million of the general fund into another program that would allow any single adult with children, any two headed household with children or any committed couples that are currently on the connect list. Based on those stats 69 families and 27 committed couple's investment will provide opportunities for them to engage with those individuals. The idea is to set up a plan and program to provide hotels for those individuals to get them off the street, get them out of their cars, wherever they are currently residing into a hotel or a series of hotels while a rapid rehousing program gets put in place and those individuals get housed.

The commitment was funding for hotels, security and basic needs. More importantly staffing and the ability to pay rent for up to 12 months, as long as the individuals are working towards their life plan and getting recertified every month. The foundation for this larger group is going to be called the Family Transition Collaborative. The Rapid Transition Collaborative is something separate.

VI. System Performance Measures

Mark Tesoro/Jessica Lynch

The system performance measures are one of a few factors that are considered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in our annual Continuum of Care (CoC) program competition. The numbers are very important. There are seven metrics that they look

at. Each one of the metrics are reported annually to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mark presented a slide show.

- Slide 1 is Measure 1, which is the length of time individuals remain homeless. This measures the number of individuals active in the report date range across Emergency Shelters, Supportive Housing and Transitional Housing along with their average and median length of time homeless. They have set a target for themselves that no individual should remain homeless for longer than 90 days.
- Slide 2 is a line graph about the length of time an individual remains homeless. They collected data from 2015 to 2020 that shows the length of time a person remained homeless.
 - 2016 and 2017 there was a spike in the number of days a person remained homeless. They speculate that a number of things have changed since then until now.
 - 2018 to 2020 the length of time an individual remained homeless was below the maximum of 90 days. The range is where it should be right in the forties.

There has been system changes and procedure changes in place since then. They have been working hard on the data, making sure it's accurate as possible. They have been standardizing screens and providers are entering information more accurately.

- Slide 3 is Measure 2. The extent to which individuals who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness. This measures individuals who exited homelessness or assisted permanent housing to a permanent housing destination in the date range two years prior to the report date range. They have set a target for themselves no more than 35% of individuals who exit should return to homelessness.
- Slide 4 shows the percent of returns from 2015 to 2020. The percent of people returning to homelessness was lower in 2020 than in 2015. 2017 to 2020 there was a 9% decrease in the risk for homelessness over six months. Over five years the percent of returns to homelessness was at least 20% lower than their goal of 35%.
- Slide 5 is Measure 3. The number of homeless individuals within the Continuum of Care (CoC). This measures the change in the Point In Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not yet established performance targets for this measure, but prefers that the number of homeless individuals counted in the Point In Time (PIT) each year does not increase.

- Slide 6 is about the number of homeless individuals from 2015 to 2020. In 2015 and 2020 the number of homeless people were actually the same. The trend from 2016 is the one that's positive. They are looking at a decrease in the numbers.

The data for 2021 is still being worked on. They were trying to decrease the amount of exposure to COVID. It was an abbreviated survey they worked hard on to keep the elements in the survey. It's the first survey that has been fully completed on a phone app. They are hoping to get the 2021 numbers back in April 2021. The numbers are important and tend to be used by many individuals. They want to make sure the numbers are as accurate as possible.

- Slide 7 is Measure 4. Employment and income growth for homeless individuals in the Continuum of Care (CoC) program funded projects. This measures the change in earned and unearned income for individuals enrolled in the Continuum of Care (CoC) programs. The Continuum of Care (CoC) through consultation with local service providers has determined that a minimum of 45% of households should increase income by program exit.
- Slide 8 is a bar graph of income growth from 2015 to 2020. There are two bar graphs next to each other. Income growth of leavers and income growth of stayers. These are people that are enrolled in the program and no longer enrolled in the program.
 - 2019 to 2020 the income growth increased by 20%.
 - In 2019 the target goal was met at 45% of households increasing their income growth.
 - In 2020 they missed that 45% goal by a hair. There are a number of different reasons potentially for them not hitting that number. COVID and the economy played a big factor in it.
- Slide 9 is Measure 5. The number of individuals who become homeless for the first time. This measures the change in the number of individuals entering a Continuum of Care (CoC) program with no prior enrollment in the homeless management information system. The Continuum of Care (CoC) has set a goal of decreasing the number of individuals who become homeless for the first time by 20% each year.
- Slide 10 is a graph of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time from 2015 to 2020. The number of individuals becoming homeless for the first time grew in 2016 and 2017. The target is to have a decrease of 20% a year and they did not reach that during the first five years. In 2020 they were close to their final number of people homeless for the first time. The goal was 624 and the final number was 645.

Measure six is not applicable for Lee County. They need to be ranked as a community of excellence and an extremely high performing community.

- Slide 11 is Measure 7. Successful placement from street outreach and successful placement in or retention of permanent housing. This measures the change in exits to permanent housing destinations from street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive housing or other permanent housing. The Continuum of Care (CoC)

though consultation with local service providers has determined a minimum of 65% of individuals should be exited to a permanent housing destination.

- Slide 12 is the percent of exiting of positive destination from 2015 to 2020. Less than half of the individuals that are exiting the program exited to a positive destination. The target is 65% exit to a positive destination. Looking at the data over the last five or six years they have not been able to obtain that. They put a target number on themselves that's a little too difficult to reach. They would like to look at what things they need to alter to make sure they are increasing the percent of exiting to a positive destination.

VII. Review of Strategic Plan

Mark Tesoro

ACTION:

Strategic Plan is tabled until next meeting. Mark will send an email to everyone for their review.

VIII. NOFA Recommendation*

Jeannie Sutton

The performance evaluation committee met last week to review the three applications received for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Cares Act round two money through the State. One application did not qualify. The performance evaluation committee determined the other two applications to be incomplete. The applications received didn't include the required elements of the actual funding. The committee elected to go back to those two agencies and offer them the opportunity to restructure their proposals then bring them back as a presentation to the committee. The committee will meet on March 23, 2021 to have those presentations made by the applicant.

IX. Update: Funded Agencies

Service Providers

Tony Ceresoli with Salvation Army has been working with Lions Park. They have 51 individuals they are housing right now. Rapid rehousing has come to a stop until they can focus on the Lions Park condition.

Christine Sebastian with Human and Veteran Services works with rapid rehousing and just closed a few cases which will let her take on more cases.

Alex Olivares with Catholic Charities said they took a large amount of referrals at the end of February, his team is working on getting everybody housed.

Carolyn Johnson with Goodwill said they are doing well with the rapid rehousing. They have picked up a couple of clients. They have been assisting with the Hot Team at Lions Park last week and this week.

Janet Bartos with Lee County Homeless Coalition is working on updating the Lee County Pocket Guide to Emergency Assistance. She asked everyone to send her back information with any

updates on their programs. Revisions are due by March 26, 2021. They also sent out a grant survey. They are giving out a small mini grant and needs the surveys back by March 25, 2021.

Jana Balicki with St. Vincent De Paul said they are taking enrollment and admissions for the new cares fund and the Continuum of Cares (CoC) funding.

X. Adjourn 1:50pm
Jennifer Nelson, Chair

***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/funding/coc>