

**Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)**

**Governing Board Meeting**

May 11, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:**

Carolyn Johnson Goodwill Industries SWFL  
Daniel Kruse Providence Family Life Center  
Dr. Tom Felke Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)  
Kim Hustad Lee County Human and Veteran Services  
Linda Hafner United Way  
Lue Richardson Veterans Affairs  
Matt Visaggio Visaggio and Co.  
Marcia Davis Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers  
Robert Tabor Central Florida Behavioral Health Network  
Stefanie Ink Edwards Community Cooperative  
Tara Martinson Centerstone of Florida  
Terry Streets The Salvation Army  
Therese Everly Lee County Homeless Coalition

**Others Present:**

Arlene Goldberg  
Christine Kim  
Gary Willoughby Gulf Coast Humane Society  
Joseph Rea Centerstone  
Lee Fox Centerstone  
Liz McCauley Cape Coral Animal Shelter  
Mary Grubbs Empowerment Center  
PJ Brooks Community Assisted Supported Living (CASL)  
Stephen Fiechter Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

**Lee County Human  
& Veteran Services**

**Staff Present:**

Bradley Sissons  
Jeannie Sutton  
Jolene Adams  
Juan Albino  
Mark Tesoro  
Roger Mercado  
Tim Gillmore

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**I. Call to Order**

*Carolyn Johnson, Co- Chair*

a. Welcome and Board Roll Call

- Mark Tesoro reviewed the list of attendees. He stated there was enough for a quorum.

b. Members Absent with/without Excuse

- Adina Bridges Park Royal Hospital absent without an excuse
- Barbara Short CareerSources SWFL absent without an excuse
- Carl Baxter BCW Consulting absent without an excuse
- Eduardo Gloria Catholic Charities absent without an excuse
- Jennifer Nelson City of Cape Coral absent without an excuse
- Jerod Murphy Advocate absent without an excuse
- Karen Hawes Advocate absent without an excuse
- Maria Auguste Lee Health 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*-None

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

*Carolyn Johnson, Co- Chair*

**ACTION:** Therese Everly motioned to approve March meeting minutes. Stefanie Ink Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Introduce New Board Members\* –**

*Mark Tesoro*

- a. Mary Grubbs (Program Manager – Empowerment Center/CPE)
- b. (Pending - Arlene Goldberg (Visuality, Inc.))

**ACTION:** Linda Hafner made the motion to approve Mary Grubbs to the board. Tara Martinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Presentation: “My Dog is My Home”**

*Christine Kim (Board of Directors)/Co-Shelter Provider*

Stephen Fiechter with Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) presented the board about homeless individuals with animals.

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**V. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update**

*Therese Everly*

Therese and the Executive Director of the Collier County Homeless and Hunger Coalition met with incoming Senate President Kathleen Passidomo about what the Continuum of Care (CoC) does.

They are working on ramping up their website to make it a value to the community and their members. They are working on developing educational opportunities, training, and resources.

Therese held a board meeting with different work committees they convene. They discussed about developing a Comprehensive Homeless Prevention Program. That program would roll out best practices training for diversion and have a strong focus on diversion gap funding and educational resources for their member agencies and partners to provide training for staff.

Their events committee has been working on an upcoming event. Their 17<sup>th</sup> annual benefit dinner and auction will take place October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza.

They had an event at the Red Sox community corner that led to a lot of advocacies, which lead them to apply for Diversion Grant Funding through one of the foundations that approached them.

Their Resource Committee is in the early stages of developing a Thrift Store Collaborative. The idea is when individuals or families go through their Rapid Rehousing Program the coalition would provide a gift card to newly housed individual or families to go shopping for themselves since there would be many items they would need.

May is mental health awareness month. Veterans Affairs (VA) is going to be hosting a live zoom on suicide crisis for Veterans.

**VI. 2021 Lee County CoC Collaborative Application Scores**

*Mark Tesoro/Jeannie Sutton/Tim Gillmore*

The Continuum of Care (CoC) provides the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to get a snapshot, of what their activities are, how their performance is, how they are engaging with clients. They waited to get their score back along with a variety of different scores back to see how they did. Some of their funding is based on that score. They waited months to get their score back. They did well on some things and a little worse on other things.

One of the grants they applied for was Special Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing programs, which they were not awarded. The thresholds for these programs were high. There is a maximum of 100 points. If you did not get at least 84.4 points you have no chance on getting the funding. They did not get to that threshold. The areas where they could score more points were Continuum of Care (CoC), based on the extent that the Continuum of Care (CoC) quantifies the need for the project in their portfolio. The extent of the need and how the project will fill that gap.

One of their dips in points available is under the Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS). They lost the most points in comparable database. One of the requirements for the Violence

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Against Women Act (VAWA) is that domestic violence providers cannot store data directly in the Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS). What they must do, if they are going to collaborate with them, under the terms of the act, is to have their own database that is comparable. They do not have this in place.

They did not get the bonus points for Coordination with Housing and Health Care. They would need to look for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Home Care providers to improve in that area.

The debriefing does not go into details about every single category on the application. When scrolling though you can look at the categories but does not go into detail about how they lost points. They are going to go through their own application and try to improve overall.

**VII. American Rescue Plan (ARP)/NOFA Update**

*Mark Tesoro*

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) is being award to the area. They put out a Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) for Behavioral Health Coordinated Entry system to put into place. They are in the process of being reviewed and will be moving forward soon, in terms of criteria and what their rankings are. Because there are conflicts with some applicants, they must have a select group of individuals who are not associated with Lee Health to be on that committee. Since Lee Health has a big presence in the community, it has been a challenge to find. They do have a good strong group of funded agencies and individuals to participate.

**VIII. Lee County PIT count data/press release**

*Mark Tesoro/Juan Albino*

**This year:**

- 439 total households counted in the Point In Time (PIT).
- 560 individuals made up those households.
- 341 males
- 219 females
- 24 veterans
- 47 chronic homeless

**Last Year:**

- 394 counted
- 39 veterans
- 57 chronic homeless

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**IX. Lee County CoC Activity Update**

*Mark Tesoro*

- MOU Lee County School District/Lee County CoC\*
- Non-Congregate Shelter Program (closed as of 4/8)
- Family Transition Collaborative – FTC 2.0
- Homeless Outreach and Treatment (HOT)
- EMS and Mobility Outreach Efforts
- Education sessions –
  - Tenant Education (Affordable Homeownership Foundation)
  - Motivational Interviewing (Human and Veteran Services)

\*Tabled until next meeting

**X. Adjourn - Next CoC Board Meeting July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.**

*Carolyn Johnson, Co- Chair*

**ACTION:** Lou Richardson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Linda Hafner 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/partner>