

Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)
Governing Board Meeting
July 13, 2022, 1:00 P.M.
Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Barbara Short CareerSources SWFL
Jennifer Nelson City of Cape Coral
Joseph Rea Center Stone
Kim Hustad Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Linda Hafner United Way
Lue Richardson Veterans Affairs
Marcia Davis Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers
Maria Auguste Lee Health
Matt Visaggio Visaggio and Co.
Robert Tabor Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Stacy Parker Providence Family Life Center
Stefanie Ink Edwards Community Cooperative
Therese Everly Lee County Homeless Coalition

Others Present:

Amber Hentz Behavioral Health Provider
Daleen O'Dell
Jodi Cohen Jewish Family Services
PJ Brooks Community Assisted & Supported Living (CASL)

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

Bradley Sissons
Jeannie Sutton
Jolene Adams
Mark Tesoro
Tim Gillmore

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I. Call to Order

Mark Tesoro

- Welcome and Board Roll Call
 - Mark Tesoro reviewed the list of attendees. He stated there was enough for a quorum.
- Members Absent with/without Excuse
 - Carolyn Johnson Goodwill Industries SWFL absent with an excuse
 - Carl Baxter BCW Consulting absent without an excuse
 - Dr. Tom Felke Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) absent without an excuse
 - Eduardo Gloria Catholic Charities absent without an excuse
 - Mary Grubbs Empowerment Center absent without an excuse
 - Sheryl Soukup Residential Options of Florida (ROOF) absent without an excuse
 - Terryn Streets The Salvation Army absent without an excuse

Public Comment- None

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes*(May)

Mark Tesoro

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

III. Introduce New Board Members* –

Mark Tesoro

- Arlene Goldberg (Visuality, Inc.)

ACTION: Joseph Rea made the motion to approve Arlene Goldberg to the board. Kim Hustad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Homeless Outreach and Treatment (HOT) Update

Mark Tesoro

Homeless Outreach and Treatment (HOT) teams are a collaboration of Law Enforcement, Outreach and Behavior Health, that go out daily to work with their clients and address community issues.

Severe Weather Outreach is Hurricane Season or Cold Weather Outreach in the winter season. They rely on the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to help trigger the severe weather emergency events. They will go out and try to provide assistance and transportation to shelters. They ask their partner agencies to help them work with clients. They asked the Empowerment Center to stretch itself if they are at capacity for individuals that may be needing some severe weather shelter. They send their teams out to various locations, usually transportation hubs at the bus centers. They would get passes or transportation available to transport individuals to the shelters if necessary. Sometimes they have

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buses with cooling stations. They have the availability to push out text messages to their clients, to make them aware where those stations are, and the times those services will be offered.

They receive phone calls about pieces of property potentially being developed. They try to go out and assess the property before bulldozers and trespassing notices go up. They try and touch base with individuals there to provide them resources and options before any kind of heavy equipment goes in and clears the land.

There is a piece of property they are paying close attention to next to the Cape Coral Veteran Affairs (VA) offices. There is 100 plus acres of land next to Veteran Affairs (VA), where they received word in April, that the property was going to be sold and be developed. They received word that there were potentially 50 to 200 individuals living on the land. They went out in May and made direct contact with 8 to 10 individuals. They identified 40 active camp sites. They went back out in June and made contact with 13 individuals and noticed 20 active camp sites. The Cape Coral Police Department (CCPD) is constantly going out there saying “here is a shelter opportunity, here is an opportunity to change your life around, here’s some rapid rehousing that might be able to assist you in finding a unit”. They are going back out this month before the trespassing notices go up, to try to make sure individuals are given every opportunity before they are trespassed.

V. CoC Funding Competition

Tim Gilmore

July 11th Human and Veteran Services released a request for applications for the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) funding. The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) just issued a supplemental funding to address Unsheltered Homelessness.

To determine whether they get the funding, all applications will be assessed on a 100-point scale.

- 4 points- based on project capacity
- Up to 8 points -Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordination and engagement
- Up to 18 points- System Performance
- Up to 70 points - Continuum of Care (CoC) plan to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs.

In order for them to have a chance, they have to demonstrate they are leveraging housing resources. Meaning, the programs they have are going to leverage funding sources that aren’t Continuum of Care (CoC) or Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds.

They must demonstrate:

- Their current new landlord improvement policies
- How they will use data to improve landlord recruitment.
- How they are leveraging Health Care Resources.

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They are going to cover their strategy to identify shelter and house individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness including:

- Outreach strategy
- Shelter and housing strategy
- Use data to update their strategies about shelter, housing, and outreach.
- Show they are prioritizing individuals that have history of unsheltered homelessness.
- Show how they are involving individuals with lived experience
- Show they are working on equity doing things fairly.

Once the process gets to a certain point, agencies can apply. Those applications will be ranked by the Performance Evaluation Ranking Committee (PERC). One of the strongest is how well does the project fit into the plan to serve the individuals with the most severe needs. Then the application goes to The Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- Annual CoC Funding Competition

Annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is money that comes on a regular basis. They can be reasonably sure that amount of money will come into the community, and distributed on various projects. It's for permanent housing, permanent supporting housing projects, rapid rehousing projects, joint transitional and rapid rehousing housing combination projects.

- CoC Supplemental NOFO

The Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is a special round of funding made up of funds that The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) previously committed to other projects but reclaimed. Whether or not they get \$3.4 million over the course of three years is going to be dependent on a competitive process. Communities that have over 1,000 unsheltered homeless individuals reported on their 2019 Point In Time (PIT) count will receive bonus points. Their number was in the 400's in 2019. No more than 10 Continuum of Care (CoC) in the State will be selected for that funding. They can apply for Point In Time (PIT) services only. The same rapid rehousing, joint housing projects and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project. The Supplemental has new terms that are unique and will be scored in a unique way. Some of the things that are required may not be explicitly required in the Annual.

VI. Lived Experience Advisory Committee

Mark Tesoro/Therese Everly

They are working together making sure they have enough individuals participating with lived experiences. Those individuals have hands on experience, who have been homeless and worked through the process. Those individuals have different incites than somebody who is working for an agency, and develops policy and procedures when they have not gone through the system. They do have individuals on the board who do have lived experience. They are working on setting up an Advisory Committee of individuals with lived experience to help speak to the board and provide recommendations. They have selected individuals who have agreed to participate. Their first meeting is set for July 19th and will report back to the board how it goes.

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VII. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update

Therese Everly

On July 14th they are setting up a Pop-Up Homeless Service Day at Grace Church. They partnered with Better Together for a second chance Job Fair.

Agencies that will be onsite:

- Florida license on wheels, for those that need to get an ID or Driver's License reinstated.
- The Clerk of Courts, to talk about what the barriers are to get a Driver's Licenses reinstated and set up a payment plan for anyone with fines.
- The Tax collector
- The Public Defender's Office
- Veteran Affairs (VA) for anyone that is a veteran to make sure they are linked to services.
- Human and Veteran Services, Coordinated Entry
- Lee County Sheriff's Office, Jail Reentry Task Force

On July 21st Centerstone will be hosting the General Coalitions annual meeting in person from 8:30a.m. to 10:00a.m. Provider Member surveys will be provided. Its also time to renew everyone's membership.

The Coalition Meeting met in June. They went over the Point In Time (PIT) counts and The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). These are two requirements that The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires. The Coalition Convenes does the logistics for the Point In Time (PIT) counts and the Annual Census done in January. The County has the survey tool which is a phone application. The highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness was reported in 2022 was around 3,400 individuals. That was a significant increase over previous years. Due to limited capacity in the shelters during the pandemic, it contributed to lower numbers of sheltered individuals. They are seeing extended stays in shelters due to the decrease in app flow into the homelessness response system, due to high rents in the market. Their chronically homeless numbers decreased significantly. The number of Hispanic individuals and households with children experiencing homelessness increased.

The Communication Committee is continually focusing on Diversion programing. They would like to provide Diversion to the Continuum of Care (CoC) members throughout the year.

The Data Committee continues to work alongside the Performance Evaluation Ranking Committee (PERC) to ensure the Governing Board is receiving strong accurate data to help make decisions.

They awarded \$20,000 in Community Grants.

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VIII. Lee County School District/Lee County HVS MOU for CoC

Mark Tesoro

They have been working with the School District in an informal way. They communicate on a regular basis regarding clients. Their databases do not mesh. The school district and the Florida Department of Education actual definition of homelessness is different than their definition of homelessness. They felt their populations overlap especially with parents that reach out to them for services because they are afraid their children may get taken away. They wanted to formalize their partnership with the school district. They put out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lee County School District to better speak to and formalize their relationship. They will have access to their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). They will be able to communicate more freely between each other about clients and be able to hopefully have a better coordination of effort in services to a lot of parents and children that they think they both are seeing. It has been going back and forth between their lawyers for some time. They just signed off on their end. The School District is presenting it to their board at the end of July.

IX. Increasing Interagency Communication

Mark Tesoro

○ *Regular Shelter Meeting*

They started having a regular shelter meeting last week, that will meet biweekly. They scheduled the meeting with the Empowerment Center, Center of Hope, The Salvation Army, and they invited the Rescue Mission to participate. They wanted to make sure their Outreach Team is coordinating well with what is going on at the shelters.

○ *Regular Discharge Meeting*

The Regular Discharge Meeting started last week. Individuals that are experiencing homelessness or an individual with a disability, having a discharge challenge from the hospital. They are too well to stay as an inpatient that needs to be discharged, but still too ill to be cared for at the Empowerment Center.

X. Adjourn - Next CoC Board Meeting September 14th at 1 p.m.

Mark Tesoro

ACTION: Jennifer Nelson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Tabor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimity

***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>