

Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)
Governing Board Meeting
March 9, 2022, 1:00 P.M.
Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Antoinette Kruse- Providence Family
Barbara Short- CareerSources SWFL
Carl Baxter- BCW Consulting
Danyale Kinney- The New Beginnings of SWFL
Dr. Tom Felke -Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)
Kim Hustad- Lee County Human & Veteran Services
Linda Hafner- United Way
Lue Richardson- Veterans Affairs
Marcia Davis- Housing Authority of the City of Ft Myers
Maria Auguste- Lee Health
Matt Visaggio- Visaggio and Co.
Tara Martinson- Centerstone of Florida
Terry Streets- The Salvation Army
Therese Everly- Lee County Homeless Coalition

Others Present:

Hillary Lemaster- St. Matthews House
Lee Fox- Centerstone
PJ Brooks- Community Assisted & Supported Living (C.A.S.L)

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

Jeannie Sutton
Jolene Adams
Mark Tesoro
Roger Mercado

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I. Call to Order

Mark Tesoro

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.
- Eduardo Gloria- Catholic Charities absent without an excuse.
- Carolyn Johnson- Goodwill Industries SWFL 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.
- Rick Toney- Housing Authority City of Fort Myers absent without an excuse.
- Robert Tabor- Central Florida Behavioral Health Network 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.
- Stefanie Ink Edwards- Community Cooperative absent with an excuse.

Public Comment- None

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes*(January 12th)

Mark Tesoro

ACTION: Dr. Tom Falke made a motion to approve meeting minutes from January. Barbara Short seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Human and Veteran Services Update –

HVS Staff

a. **Severe Weather Outreach**

- January 29th and 30th temperatures were projected to drop below 40 degrees. They sent eight Outreach Teams to eight different locations. They engaged Lee Tran to bring one of their buses to serve as a warming station. Individuals or families that were leaning on the fence about going into shelter or waiting approval based on capacity, they had a warm bus that parked at the Fort Myers Library to sit in while they got out of the cold weather. As a result, they had the opportunity to work with and shelter 33 individuals of those there was a single mother with a couple of children. They saw a total of 43 individuals total for both evenings. There was a lot of activity and lots of engagement. A lot of individuals did decline shelter. Those that wanted shelter, The Salvation Army was able to provide warm beds with hot

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showers with the use of all their amenities. They had Commissioner Sandelli and Assistant County Manager Marc Mora join them to get a better idea about the flow and how it operates.

- Saturday night the 29th was the Standdown at City Gate where they were able to engage with individuals and hand out information where their Outreach Teams were going to be that night.

b. HVS Homeless Outreach Expansion

- Their Outreach department is expanding. They hired three additional Outreach staff. Two individuals have been hired and will be starting tomorrow March 10th. One has accepted their offer and are working to get her onboard as soon as possible. This will bring their Outreach team to a total of seven. Their Coordinated Entry Specialists staff is up to full capacity with four staff members. They generate the referrals over to the Outreach Team to verify homelessness. They are coordinating with Terryn at the Homeless Day Center to get their Coordinated Entry staff rotating over at the Homeless Day Center very soon.

c. HOT

- The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) is out in the field with Centerstone, Law Enforcement and Outreach engaging individuals daily. They received an email that a larger piece of property over by the VA Clinic in Cape Coral is going to be developed. They have a meeting scheduled with some of the individuals involved with the development to strategize an upcoming Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) event. There has been rumors that the property has anywhere from 40 to 150 individuals living on that property. They will be working with the Empowerment Center Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) once they can get a better idea what that property looks like.

d. NOFAs (1/19 - PERC)/ARP/BH NOFA

- The Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee (PERC) met on January 19th to review all their Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) they sent out. There was American Rescue Plan (ARP), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) funds that were distributed out at this meeting.
 - Catholic Charities received \$478,000 for Case Managers and Behavior Health Counseling.
 - American Housing Foundation received American Rescue Program (ARP) funding for \$163,000 for assistance with housing searches and placement for tenant education.
 - Community Assisted & Supported Living (CASL) received American Rescue Program (ARP) funding for \$357,000 for Case Management for clients in permanent supported housing. They received Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) \$1.6 million for 18 housing units that are going to be developed. They received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding \$986,000 for 16 assisted living units
 - Lutheran Services received Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) funds for \$800,000 for Oasis Youth Center to make improvements
 - They have two, to still be determined. Development for more housing units for Affordable Homeownership Foundation (AHF) and social

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wellness for medication service for individuals experiencing homelessness.

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds will be funding the Midwest Foodbank, Harry Chapin Food Bank and The Salvation Army for Food Security Programs. Also working with some of their existing Partnering for Results Agencies to provide them with additional funding to expand after school programs and tutoring programs to address educational disparities.

e. **Bob Janes Empowerment Center Update**

- There has been a shift in operations over the past few months. They have had conversations with The Salvation Army about some challenges they were seeing with individuals that present themselves with more severe behavior health issues. Park Royal provided funding to Centerstone to have a physician onsite to help navigate some of those challenges. Based on the complexity of individuals that have been presenting to the Empowerment Center a decision was made to shift operations from The Salvation Army to The Center of Progress and Excellence.

f. **Florida Coalition to End Homelessness Presentation**

- Mark Tesoro and Roger Mercado attended a conference in Orlando, Florida to End Homelessness. They had the opportunity to share what all the providers on this call have done over the past couple of years from the pandemic and prior with individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

IV. **Review/Update of the CoC Governing Board Charter***

ACTION: Therese Everly made the motion to approve the update of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Governing Board Charter. Carl Baxter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Therese Everly

- Advocacy update, they are in the final week of legislation. They had to extend their session to this Saturday March 12.
- The Sadowski fund is The Affordable Housing Trust that consists of State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and Statewide Assistance Infrastructure Loan (SAIL) funded through small taxes on real estate transactions that are collected and earmarked for affordable housing. There is never more money in the trust than what is needed. The higher the cost of housing the more subsidy needed to help Florida's work force and those living on fixed income.
- Hometown Hero's Program will be for individuals in Law Enforcement, Teachers, Military, Fire Fighters, Health Care Workers and people who do direct care services. They will be eligible up to 5% on a down payment on a home and a 30-year interest free mortgage.

Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)

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- They stood up in the coalition with the Rapid Rehousing Committee. The Coalition receives a significant amount of in-kind donations into the organization and has the ability to get items the rapid rehousing providers need. They were able to get beds for five individuals.
- Point In Time (PIT) homeless count took place January 26-29. They took 346 surveys. They had over 84 volunteers.
- Homeless Service Day and Veteran Standdown took place with 25 vendors with 150 individuals they served. They had a new primary care doctor Nadine Singh from Premier Mobile Health Services there seeing individuals.
- The first time ever they had their traffic court. They had Judge Gagliardi who saw individuals that pre-registered for forgiveness of the court. The idea is to get traffic fines, or any cases cleared so individuals could receive a drivers license. If you have a drivers license you have a better ability to get employment. There were 53 cases and disposed over \$12,000 in fines forgiven. Out of the 43 cases that were pre-registered 37 were in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system.
- They are having a fundraiser where they are auctioning Boston Red Sox Spring Training tickets.

VI. Lee County School District/HMIS Participation– MOU

Mark Tesoro

- They have received feed back that there maybe families in the community experiencing homelessness that may not be reaching out to them on their Coordinated Entry (CE) line, because they are fearful of loosing their children to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). They are interested in having discussions with the Lee County School District about their Project Access Program. It works with their homeless population by creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between their groups and organizations to have access to their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) information and to collaborate more with individuals that may not want to reach out to their Coordinated Entry (CE) line.

VII. Next CoC Board Meeting May 11th at 1 p.m. –

a. Next meeting –

i. Results of EMS and Mobility Outreach Efforts to date

VIII. Adjourn -

Mark Tesoro

ACTION: Barbara Short made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Therese Everly seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimity

***Item Needing Action**

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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>