

Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)

Governing Board Meeting

April 28, 2021, 1:00 P.M.

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Virtual Meeting

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/517946645>

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
Janet Bartos Lee County Homeless Coalition
Jerod Murphy Advocate
Jennifer Nelson City of Cape Coral
Kim Anderson Lee Health
Kim Hustad Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Linda Hafner United Way
Lue Richardson Veterans Affairs
Sharon Rozier City of Fort Myers Community Development Department

Other Present:

Alex Olivares Catholic Charities
Dave Conley St. Vincent De Paul
Kristy Santana Catholic Charities
Lee Fox Centerstone
Matt Visaggio Visaggio & Co.

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

Ana Villacis
Carolina Alcantara
Emille Sharp
Isabella Alcantara
Jeannie Sutton
Jessica Lynch
London Brown
Mark Tesoro
Nazma Niles
Roger Mercado
Sylvia Ruff
Tim Gillmore

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I. Call to Order 1:02pm

Jennifer Nelson, 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 and without excuse:

Eduardo Glorinda absent without an excuse

Heidi Shoriak Lee Health absent without an excuse

Joe Paterno Career Sources SWFL absent without an excuse

Lisa Vogt Wells Advocate absent without an excuse

Myra Fiory Central Florida Behavioral Health Network absent with an excuse

Sheryl Soukup ROOF absent without an excuse

Tom Felke FGCU absent without an excuse

Travis Couch Housing Authority of City of Fort Myers absent without an excuse

Public Comment -None

II. Approval of March Meeting Minutes*

Jennifer Nelson, Chair

ACTION: Alex Olivares made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for March. Janet Bartos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Nominations for Board Vice-Chair*

Jennifer Nelson, Chair

ACTION: Janet Bartos made a motion to nominate Carolyn Johnson for Vice Chair. Jennifer Nelson took it to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Update: Rapid Transition Collaborative (RTC) and Family Transition Collaborative (FTC)

Roger Mercado

They started with 47 rooms occupied at the hotel as a result of this initiative. They started with some of the public spaces being occupied with tents with individuals spending the night. Since enforcement started at those public spaces, he has not heard anything from Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) or any other stakeholders that there's issues in any of those public spaces.

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They started with 47 rooms at one hotel. They actually added somebody in a different hotel as kind of a pilot project with this other hotel. The last count they are down to 23 rooms. He stated it hasn't been easy. It's been a lot of work by the rapid rehousing case workers and a lot of heavy lifting by Centerstone. Everyone's been doing a great job trying to identify some of the gaps preventing people from getting housed and helping to mitigate some of those issues. Some issues being:

- Identification Cards
- Birth Certificates
- Things anyone would need to apply for an apartment.

The last update they had the Salvation Army had a couple individuals scheduled to move out this week. They were hoping this would be done within 30 days. Some of the challenges some of the other individuals are having is based on their background checks, it's very difficult for property management companies and owners to rent to them. There has been some incentives discussed to hopefully help reduce some of those risks that landlords are willing to take on.

They had to ask one group to leave the hotel this week. Individuals had tampered with a smoke alarm in the hotel room when there's no smoking in the rooms. They asked them to vacate the hotel. There are program guidelines to follow and there are things you just can't do while you're in a hotel. Whether that's from the business standpoint or their standpoint. They asked individuals to abide by what they call very general rules and there are individuals not following them. Even though they are down to 23 rooms, a small number of those individuals have been removed as a result of their activity that has taken place onsite.

Individuals are still moving into units. He spoke to a gentleman last week that's very happy to move into his unit. This gentleman was literally living on a park bench off Second Street. They asked one of their partners Senior Friendship Centers to deliver some meals to him. They continued to deliver meals to this gentlemen. He said it was great to finally see him get into his own unit with furniture and linens provided to him. Good things are happening regardless of the pace, things are still moving in a positive direction.

- They went door to door to find out who at the time of eligibility wanted to get a vaccine.
- Offered transportation to individuals
- Worked with a bank for individuals to open up accounts
- Goodwill job link was onsite to help individuals with resumes, online applications and anything that would help get someone employed
- Better Together is doing one of their second change job fairs at a church in Lehigh and Bonita Springs
- Centerstone is offering transportation to individuals at the hotel who may want to seek out employment from one of these employers in their community.

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V. Update: PERC/NOFA Recommendation

Jeannie Sutton

When they sent out the Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) they received a number of responses back. Some of them were interested in what they put out there, but only pieces of what they were trying to accomplish. There was no one group that was comfortable with doing the entirety of the project as a whole. They went back a number of times with the Performance Evaluation Ranking Committee (PERC). After a number of go a round's they decided to have the funds be designed a certain way. \$941,808.00 is allocated.

They have three different groups that will be getting street outreach money. Fort Myers Police Department (FMPD), Lee County Sheriff Office (LCSO) and Cape Coral Police Department (CCPD).

Part of the project with the Family Transition Collaborative (FTC) was to have couples and single parent families placed in a hotel situation like they are doing with the Rapid Transition Collaborative (RTC). They are going to need case management. They have designated Providence Family Life Center \$180,000 for three SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) case managers.

Rapid rehousing continues with Catholic Charities. Centerstone will be doing case management with their mental health programs and supporting services at this temporary shelter location, until they can get permanent housing available for them.

The Salvation Army will be extending their hours from 7:00am to 12:00am seven days a week. They thought it would be a great benefit to accomplish what they need to have happen. This initiative was bought down from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). They wanted to emphasize reaching out to families on the connect list and getting them housed as quickly as possible.

This is what they are looking at for the Performance Evaluation Ranking Committee (PERC) process on the Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) for their recommendation.

VI. Update: Connect List Meetings/Next 100 x 100 Surge

Mark Tesoro

The Connect List and 100 X 100 campaign is an effort to house 100 households in 100 days. They started this December 1, 2020. They finished up in March and actually exceeded their goal. They housed:

- 124 households
- 200 individuals
- 61 children

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They are still housing individuals and taking time to do some assessments, and understand what's needed to improve to make it a little smoother. They are ready to start again May 1, 2021.

They meet every week with their providers and others who are supportive of what they are doing. They have talked about cases that have significant barriers to housing and try to improve and facilitate them getting their housing.

They recently had the opportunity to work with Castle on a new facility they built called Cypress Village off Colonial and Winkler. Castle is giving them permanent supportive housing units with some priority before its open to the public. They have been working on making sure they have people coming off their Connect List, who are appropriate for mainstream vouchers, to get them over to those units. At their Connect List meetings they wanted to make sure their case managers and their outreach staff are identifying individuals who are most appropriate for those units. They will start getting individual's paperwork packets together for them to complete. They have 86 units available, they are trying to fill as best as they can. They don't want to miss the opportunity.

The landlord incentives will start at the same time they start the 100 X 100 campaign. Any leases that are executed May 1st through May 31st will probably extend it into June. They will approach that when the time comes.

There are two options for landlord incentives.

- A \$1,000 sign on bonus for landlords for any leases executed between those dates.
- They have the option of selecting a three time security deposit (a security deposit that is equal to three months' worth of rent).

Most of their landlords right now require double deposits. Prior to these guidelines that was the maximum they were allowed to provide to landlords. They are hoping two things will happen as a result of this.

- They will get to move people into housing faster because landlords will be more accepting of this appliance.
- They can get some of their harder to house clients excepted in housing.

They are having a difficult time with some of their clients that are remaining in the hotel because of their criminal backgrounds. It's causing major barriers for them finding an apartment that will accept their backgrounds. They are hoping these incentives will incentivize landlords to participate with them.

They are doing a couple things with the Castle project. Coordinated Entry staff sent out referrals for clients they identified on the list that may qualify for mainstream vouchers. Each of the case managers or outreach staff are working with those clients to try to get their packets ready. They are also providing an option for a group intake session on Monday May 3, 2021 and Tuesday May 4, 2021 at the Homeless Resource Day Center from 9:00am to 4:00pm. They will have case management staff from Castle, the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers and some of their rapid rehousing providers to be able to provide assistance to those clients they identified on the

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connect list to get their paperwork and complete the applications. The individuals will be meeting with Castle for their intake session starting the weekend of May 10, 2021.

VII. Update: HUD Communities of Practices Workshop

Heather Cross

Mark Tesoro, Heather Cross, PJ from Castle and an individual representative of the homeless community, are participating in this workshop they are doing for authentic stakeholder engagement. They wanted to make sure they are doing the following things for clients.

- Listening and acting on their client's needs
- Making sure their available to them
- Understand and hear what they have to tell them

Part of the prerequisite of the course was called Cultural Competency. They are in the process of getting to know each other, working towards seeing how they can best incorporate people, with lived experience into their efforts.

VIII. Review of CoC Strategic Plan

Mark Tesoro

They haven't updated their strategic plan in a while. He would like to go through:

- Goals
- Action items
- What activities are involved in each of the goals
- Some of the feedback they received on each

What they are looking for in this effort is:

- To see if a goal has been met
- If the goal needs to be changed or if the goal should continue
- They need feedback from the group regarding how they are doing with these goals and if they needed to be changed.

Jennifer Nelson suggested to do monthly updates or quarterly updates to the board:

- Letting them know where they are with their goals
- If they accomplished them, why or why not

Carolyn Johnson asked if there's a subcommittee that works on the Strategic Plan. Mark said the Strategic Plan is something they do internally and then present to the board typically, but it might be something they consider.

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Jennifer Nelson thinks if they have a committee meeting to go through it and send their thoughts into Mark by then end of day May 7, 2021. Then they can discuss it at the next board meeting.

- Carolyn Johnson
- Daniel Kruse
- Janet Bartos
- Matt Visaggio

Have volunteered to be part of that committee.

IX. Update: Funded Agencies

Service Providers

Carolina Alcantara Human and Veteran Services said they are taking on more cases from the Connect List meeting. They hope the landlord incentives will be able to help them.

Kristy Santana with Catholic Charities has been able to house 15 individuals and 27 households. They are experiencing the same difficulties with clients that have an extensive criminal background. Those are the ones remaining on their list. It's been tough to house them but they are working on it.

Carolyn Johnson with Goodwill was able to house two people and has 8 people on the list.

Kim Hustad with Human and Veteran Services has extended an offer to one rapid rehousing case manager and it was accepted. They are in the process of hiring a second one.

X. Adjourn 1:58pm - Next CoC Board Meeting May 26th

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/partner>