

# Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC) Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Lee County Human and Veteran Services  
Virtual Meeting  
September 11, 2024

**Members Present:** Michael Overway – Lee County Homeless Coalition  
Carolyn Johnson – Goodwill Industries SWFL  
Joseph Rea – Centerstone  
Terryn Bach-Acheamfour – Salvation Army  
Alex Olivares – Catholic Charities  
Luella Richardson – Veteran Affairs  
Tom Felke – FGCU  
Caitlyn Roberts – Human and Veteran Services  
Jessica Turner – The Collaboratory  
Arlene Goldberg – Visuality Florida Inc.  
Daniel Kruse – Providence Family Life Center  
Therese Everly – CASL  
Barbara Short – CareerSource  
Amber Hentz – Park Royal Hospital

## Human and Veterans

**Services Staff Present:** Jami Browder  
Joan Hoxter  
Kayla Towle  
Bradley Sissons  
Juan Albino

**Others Present:**

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## I. Call to Order

*Jami Browder, HVS and Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

### a. Welcome and Board Role Call

- Carolyn Johnson called the meeting to order.
- Kayla Towle reviewed the list of attendees and stated there were enough members present for a quorum.

### b. Members Absent With/Without Excuse.

- Marcia Davis (Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers) absent without excuse.
- Linda Hafner (United Way) absent without excuse.
- Jessica Cosden (City of Cape Coral) absent without excuse.
- Carl Baxter (BCW Enterprise and Consulting) absent without excuse.
- Erin Dalla Costa (Lee County School District) absent without excuse.
- Mary Grubbs (JFCS) absent without excuse.

## II. Approval of Meeting Minutes\*(July)

*Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

**ACTION:** Joseph Rea made motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Alex Olivares seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## III. HVS, CE and Outreach Activities

*Jami Browder and Kayla Towle, HVS*

- Jami Browder discussed two RFA's out. RFA for COC domestic violence bonus project due September 18<sup>th</sup> by 5PM. RFA out for CDBG Community public service and non-profit capitol due September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5PM.
- Kayla Towle announced Coordinated Entry handled 964 calls in August. So far in September, Coordinated Entry handled 232 calls.
- The HVS HOT Team in partnership with other organizations, diverted 8 individuals from homelessness in August and 4 individuals in September.
- HMIS report showed our community housed 14 individuals who are experiencing homelessness in August and two individuals in September.
- There were two Outreach events in the month of August. HVS partnered with Centerstone, LCSO, FMPD, LeeTran, JSCS, VA, and Kimmies Recovery Zone. Multiple people were connected to resources.

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## IV. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update

Michael Overway

- In August the coalition housed 3 – 4 people and helped several seniors get into housing.
- The Coalition was rewarded a \$100,000 grant that is targeting homeless youth. The grant is to help with housing or college dorms. Youth between 15 and 22 years of age are eligible.
- There is an upcoming presentation with PJ Brooks from CASL. He's going to be presenting on healthcare. PJ will also be at the Florida coalition and homelessness conference. The conference has about 450 participants.

## V. Policy Discussion/Schedule

Carolyn Johnson

- Update on email Vote for language in Written Standards on page 18 in the section - Emergency After Hours Services.*
  - Carolyn Johnson presented new verbiage on page 18 of written standards which was voted on by email previously.
- Nominations for Chairperson/Vice Chairperson and review of current board members.*
  - Committee chairperson is only allowed a 2-year term. Carolyn Johnson asked for nominations due to her already being chair for 2 years.

**ACTION:** Therese Everly made a motion to nominate Jessica Turner as chair of the COC Governing Board. Alex Olivares seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**ACTION:** Michael Overway made a motion to nominate Therese Everly as Vice chair. Tom Felke seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## VI. Updates on the Legislative Advocacy Committee

Dr. Antoinette Kruse

- Jessica Turner stated the Advocacy Committee compiled a list of legislative/political representatives across the country. The committee is planning on hosting meetings to discuss how different municipalities are going to handle new law HB 1365.

## VII. Updates on the Housing Committee to the CoC

Jessica Turner

- The Housing Committee is going to host a workshop at the Collaboratory on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. HVS and the Homeless Coalition are going to assist. 55 COC members have registered for the workshop.

## VIII. Motion to add Keila Santiago to the Governing Board

Michael Overway

**ACTION:** Therese Everly motioned to add Kiela Santiago from the United Way to the Governing Board. Jessica Turner seconded the motion. Motion approved.

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## IX. **Public Comment:**

- No public comment

## X. **Adjourn - Next CoC Governing Board Meeting is November 13, 2024**

*Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

**ACTION:** Michael Overway motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tom Felke seconded the motion.  
Meeting adjourned.

### **\*Item Needing Action**

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**<https://www.leegov.com/dhs/partner>**