

Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC)

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Virtual Meeting

November 20, 2024

Members Present: Carolyn Johnson – Goodwill Industries SWFL
Joseph Rea – Centerstone
Terryn Bach-Acheamfour – Salvation Army
Luella Richardson – Veteran Affairs
Caitlyn Roberts – Human and Veteran Services
Jessica Turner – The Collaboratory
Therese Everly – CASL
Barbara Short – CareerSource
Marcia Davis – City of Fort Myers Housing Authority
Keila Santiago – United Way

Human and Veteran Services (HVS) Staff Present: Jami Browder
Joan Hoxter
Kayla Towle
Julie Boudreaux

Others Present: PJ Brooks, CASL

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I. Call to Order

Kayla Towle, HVS and Jessica Turner, Chair

a. Welcome and Board Role Call

- Kayla Towle called the meeting to order.
- Kayla Towle reviewed the list of attendees and stated there weren't enough members present for a quorum.

b. Members Absent With/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.
- Michael Overway (Lee County Homeless Coalition) absent with an excuse
- Alex Olivares (Catholic Charities) absent with an excuse
- Arlene Goldberg (Visuality Florida Inc) absent without an excuse
- Daniel Kruse (Providence Family Life Center) absent without an excuse
- Tom Felke (FGCU) absent without an excuse
- Amber Hentz (Park Royal Hospital) absent without an excuse

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes*(September)

Jessica Turner, Chair

- September meeting minutes will be voted on at a later date, as there is no quorum present.

III. HVS, CE and Outreach Activities

Jami Browder and Kayla Towle, HVS

- Jami Browder stated the COC consolidated application was submitted by due date. Grant agreements for current years contracts have been routed.
- Kayla Towle stated Coordinated Entry received 800 calls in October. In November so far, 550 calls have been taken.
- In October, four individuals were diverted from experiencing homelessness.

IV. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update

Michael Overway

- No new updates

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V. Committee Updates

Michael Overway

Kayla Towle will present Committee Updates in Michael Overway's Absence.

a. Legislative Advocacy Committee

- No new updates

b. Data Committee

- Juan Albino will present tomorrow at General COC Meeting. He was unable to make meeting today. He will discuss the timeframe from Coordinated Entry into Housing.

c. Events Committee (Point in Time Count, Stand Down)

- December 21st is the candlelight vigil. The vigil will be held on the courthouse steps downtown at 6pm. Homeless Coalition will make a flyer to be given out.
- HVS Outreach and HOT Team alongside the Homeless Coalition are organizing what location the Point in Time Count will be. The assignments that will take place are also being decided on. The information will be sent out soon, along with signups and locations.
- The Stand Down Event will be held at Next Level Church. 90% of vendors have been confirmed.

VI. New Business

a. CoC Application- PERC Ranking Committee (Joan Hoxter)

- COC Application was submitted before deadline.

b. Shared Housing

- Carolyn Johnson would like the Board to research home sharing for our community. There is information from other counties showing it to be successful. Shared housing meaning introducing people who cannot afford their rent on their own someone who would benefit from roommates.
- Discussion was had on clients receiving assistance through Rapid Rehousing having to be on their own lease.
- Jessica Turner knows of a similar program. She is going to reach out and see what kind of information can be found on how to start shared housing.

c. Palm Beach County – House Bill 1365 Public Camping Bill Community Response Plan

- Palm Beach County has a flyer made showing a response plan for the new Bill. Jessica Turner expressed the need for public awareness and increased housing. Especially affordable housing for the low-income community.
- Julie Boudreaux mentioned forming a collaboration to make a similar community response plan for Lee County, at least possibly making a Public Awareness Campaign. The CoC Governing Board agreed to develop a response plan.
- Discussion was had on more homeless shelters. Julie stated the county does not plan to operate a homeless shelter or an encampment.
- HVS put out a request for proposals, which included funding for a homeless shelter, and no responses were received. Julie has had many discussions with providers, but none

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have expressed a concrete interest in developing emergency shelter beds. The CoC Governing Board agreed to assist in working with community partners around an emergency shelter.

- More discussion is going to be had privately to brainstorm the possibilities.

d. Governance Charter- Last Updated 3/9/22

- Jessica Turner reported that the Governance Charter is due to be updated. It will be sent out via email to the Board for review. Any recommended changes need to be returned by December 20th. Next meeting, the changes will be reviewed.

VII. Old Business

a. House Bill 1365

- Julie Boudreaux reported that HVS received ESG Rush funding of 1.8 million dollars. It must be used by June 2026. It will be dispersed to community providers who provide Rapid Rehousing, as well as to the HVS Rapid Rehousing program; Board agreed.
- Julie Boudreaux reported that HVS received around \$360k from DCF, regarding the bill. It must be spent by June 2025. It must be approved by BOCC. The intent will be to mitigate unsheltered homelessness by providing support to homeless individuals through mental health and substance abuse treatment at shelters, support for emergency and transitional shelters, support for non-congregate shelters and for sanctioned camping sites. Julie mentioned nonprofits already providing such services will receive the funding; Board agreed.

VIII. Public Comment:

- No public comment

IX. Adjourn - Next CoC Governing Board Meeting is January 8, 2025

Jessica Turner, Chair

- Meeting adjourned.

***Item Needing Action**

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