

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

Lee County Human and Veteran Services  
Virtual Meeting  
May 8, 2024

**Members Present:** Barbara Short – CareerSource SWFL  
Michael Overway – Lee County Homeless Coalition  
Luella Richardson – Veteran Affairs  
Tom Felke – FGCU  
Carolyn Johnson - Goodwell Industries SWFL  
Alex Olivares - Catholic Charities  
Terryn Bach-Acheamfour – Salvation Army

## **Human and Veterans**

**Services Staff Present:** Jami Browder  
Kathryn Beattie  
Catilyn Roberts  
Bradley Sissons

**Others Present:** Therese Everly

## **I. Call to Order**

*Jami Browder, HVS and Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

- a. Welcome and Board Roll Call
  - Carolyn Johnson called the meeting to order.
  - Jami Browder reviewed the list of attendees.
- b. Members Absent with/without Excuse.
  - Marcia Davis (City of Fort Myers Housing Authority) absent without an excuse.
  - Erin DallaCosta (Lee County School District) absent without an excuse.
  - Arlene Goldberg (Visuality) absent without an excuse.
  - Carl Baxter (BCW Consulting) absent without an excuse.
  - Daniel Kruse (Providence Family Life Center) absent without an excuse.
  - Jennifer Nelson (City of Cape Coral) absent without an excuse.
  - Sheryl Soukup (Residential Options of Florida ROOF) absent without an excuse.
  - Amber Hentz (CEO) absent without an excuse.
  - Jessica Cosden (City of Cape Coral) absent without an excuse.
  - Mary Grubbs (Center for Progress and Excellence) absent without an excuse.
  - Joseph Rea (Centerstone ) absent with an excused.
  - Linda Hafner (United Way) absent without an excused.

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

*Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

**ACTION:** Michael Overway made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Tom Felke seconded the motion. Motion approved.

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**III. HVS, CE and Outreach Activities/HIC/PIT update**

*Jami Browder, HVS*

- Jami Browder discussed the HVS Reach app. The app sends out notifications about severe weather and cooling stations.
- Carolyn Johnson suggested partnering with United Way for cooling stations.
- Point in time count will be ready next meeting.

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

*Michael Overway*

- There has been seven new members added to the CoC this year. Last year there were twenty-two members added.
- Registration has begun for The Florida Coalition and Homelessness Conference on October 14-17<sup>th</sup> at Disney springs in Orlando at the Hilton Resort.
- The Homeless Coalition received an unrestricted donation that allowed them to sign up members for the conference.
- In May, Luella Richardson and Rodney Van ness are doing a presentation on Veterans benefits.
- In May, the Homeless Coalition is putting on a housing forum. They are partnering with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.
- The Homeless Coalition will provide training for NOFA through The Florida Homeless Coalition for all the CoC members.
- A grant has been received to be able to expand staff. New positions are case management, outreach, data, and a grants administrator.

**V. Policy Discussion/Schedule**

*a. Membership Fees decision to keep or change.*

- Discussion was had on removing membership fees. Different organizations don't have the funds to pay for the fees. To enable more people to become part of the CoC it was agreed to remove the fee.

**ACTION:** Alex Olivares motioned to removed membership fees. Barbara Short seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**July - Coordinated Entry, ESG Written Standards to include CV, RUSH, and VAWA policy and call for interested parties to be on board or chairpersons.**

- Jami reminded everyone what needs to be addressed in the July meeting so there are enough members present for a quorum.

**August is the time for board nominations and review of current board members.**

- Carolyn Johnson stated you must be part of the general membership to be on the Board.

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**II. Updates on the establishment of a Legislative Advocacy Committee**

- Michael Overway suggested adding Jessica Turner from the Collaboratory as the Chair and add her as a member of the CoC. Jessica Turner will submit application to the governance board.

**III. Motion to add Therese Everly to the Governing Board**

**ACTION:** Carolyn Johnson motioned to add Therese Everly of CASL to the Governing Board. Michael Overway seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**IV. Public Comment:**

- Michael Overway suggested establishing a housing committee. Alex Olivares, Therese Everly, and Michael Overway will make a list of duties for the committee and a written charter will be made.
- Alex Olivares expressed concern on funding ending for Rapid Re-Housing programs. Discussion was had on finding new grants; not only from local/federal grants but also, private foundation funding.
- Therese Everly discussed getting a member from the City of Fort Myers Housing Authority added to the Governing Board.
- Luella Richardson discussed wanting to be part of the housing committee especially since they have permanent supportive housing vouchers at Veteran Affairs.
- Discussion was had on adding more organizations to the CoC. Organizations like the Area Agency on Aging, City of Fort Myers Housing Authority and Lee County Housing Authority.
- Discussion was had on finding other resources for seniors because seniors' income is not going as far as it used to.

**V. Adjourn - Next CoC Governing Board Meeting**

*Carolyn Johnson, Chair*

- Next meeting will be July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**ACTION:** Jami Browder motioned to adjourn the meeting. Therese Everly seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

**\*Item Needing Action**

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For translation services or additional information, please contact: Katie Beattie, Lee County Human and Veteran Services at 239-533-7900.

**Meeting minutes and agenda are posted on our website: <https://www.leegov.com/dhs/partner>**