

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

Lee County Human and Veteran Services
Virtual Meeting
July 10, 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 Charites
Luella Richardson – Veteran Affairs
Tom Felke – FGCU
Erin DallaCosta – Lee County School District
Caitlyn Roberts – Human and Veteran Services

Human and Veterans

Services Staff Present: Jami Browder
Julie Boudreaux
Kayla Towle
Bradley Sissons
Juan Albino

Others Present: Jessica Turner – The Collaboratory

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I. Call to Order

Jami Browder, HVS and Carolyn Johnson, Chair

a. Welcome and Board Roll Call

- Carolyn Johnson called the meeting to order.
- Kayla Towle reviewed the list of attendees.

b. Members Absent with/without Excuse.

- Marcia Davis (City of Fort Myers Housing Authority) absent without an excuse.
- Sheryl Soukup (Residential Options of Florida ROOF) absent without an excuse.
- Arlene Goldberg (Visuality) absent without an excuse.
- Mary Grubbs (Center for Progress and Excellence) absent without an excuse.
- Daniel Kruse (Providence Family Life Center) absent without an excuse.
- Linda Hafner (United Way) absent without an excuse.
- Jessica Cosden (City of Cape Coral) absent without an excuse.
- Carl Baxter (BCW Consulting) absent without an excuse.
- Jennifer Nelson (City of Cape Coral) absent without an excuse.
- Barbara Short (CareerSource SWFL) absent without an excuse.
- Amber Hentz (CEO) absent without an excuse.
- Therese Everly (CASL) absent without an excuse.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes*(May)

Carolyn Johnson, Chair

ACTION: Joseph Rea made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 8th, 2024. Alex Olivares seconded the motion. Motion approved.

III. HVS, CE and Outreach Activities

Jami Browder and Kayla Towle, HVS

- In the last 3 weeks, HVS diverted 6 individuals from experiencing homelessness
- HVS is gearing up for cooling stations throughout the community
- Kayla Towle discussed the HVS Reach app. The app sends out notifications about severe weather and whereabouts of cooling stations.
- United way is collaborating with HVS

IV. Lee County Homeless Coalition – General CoC Membership Update

Michael Overway

- Since last board meeting, 4 new COC members have been added.
- On July 25th the Homeless Coalition is hosting an unauthorized camping legislation panel. It will be facilitated by Tom Felke from FGCU at the Fort Myers High School auditorium. They are inviting the COC and the community.
- They are looking at Funding opportunities to help grow some of the opportunities with the COC partners. They are applying for grants on behalf of COC partners.

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- The Florida Coalition and Homelessness Conference is October 14-17. So far, 8-9 Lee County Organizations have RSVP. The Homeless Coalition has sponsored a few agencies outside of the coalition and provided scholarships. Britney Hammond from Golisano Kids Mind Matter is placing a youth mental health workshop onsite. Multiple agencies are also doing workshops. Encourage everyone to register online at <https://fchonline.org/> for the conference.
- The Homeless Coalitions Annual event will be at the Luminary Hotel on January 17th, it will be Caribbean themed. There will be guest speakers who have lived experience with homelessness. The goal is having COC partners there and to invite donors to raise money.

V. Policy Discussion/Schedule

a. Written Standards and Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures

- Discussion was had on Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures. Specifically, Page 11 Section F, which is a duplicate.
- Jami Browder discussed the removal of the last paragraph on page 18 that states shelter is operated by the Salvation Army.
 - Committee appointed Terryn Bach and Kayla Towle to re-write that section and will be voted on by email.

ACTION: Alex Olivares made a motion to approve removal of duplicate section F on page 11. Also update section E, with new HVS Grants Analysts contact information. Tom Felke seconded the motion. Motion approved.

b. VAWA Policy – no new updates to discuss last changes were on March 15, 2022

- Annually, the Violence Against Women Act is reauthorized by Congress. The last time it was reenacted was in March of 2022. Carolyn Johnson appointed the legislative advocacy committee to note when the VAWA policy statues is reenacted.

c. ESG Written Standards to include CV, RUSH

- Alex Olivares explains what ESG, C.V, and Rush stand for.
 - E.S.G stands for Emergency Solutions Grant
 - C.V stands for Covid, represents anyone affected by Covid that leads to them having a financial crisis causing homelessness or on the verge of being homeless.
 - RUSH stands for Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing. Rush represents anyone affected by a natural disaster who ended up homeless because of a Natural Disaster.

VI. Updates on the Legislative Advocacy Committee-

Michael Overway

- 3-4 people are interested in working with the Committee. Michael will work on getting everyone connected.

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VII. Consideration of adding a Housing Committee to the CoC –

Michael Overway

- Michael Overway discussed using the committee Jessica Turner has established as the COC Committee.
- Jessica Turner discussed having a regional action team already, who has a quarterly meeting. She will work on making a project team that can work as a subcommittee for the CoC.

VIII. Motion to add Jessica Turner to the Governing Board

ACTION: Joseph Rea motioned to add Jessica Turner from The Collaboratory to the Governing Board. Tom Felke seconded the motion. Motion approved.

- Jessica Turner discussed upcoming projects with HVS, The Collaboratory, and the Continuum of Care. They are borrowing a model from another housing coalition called Housing Stability Continuum. While working together, they would like to map the system better to uncover gaps that may exist. Also to find what barriers there are for individuals. The Collaboratory is holding a stakeholder's engagement workshop on October 3rd and 4th for COC members. The goal for the workshop is to identify gaps, and to stop the homeless cycle.
- If the correct information and mapping is identified, HVS can use the information for grant making.

IX. Public Comment:

- Carolyn Johnson explained that August is when nominations can be made for Chair and Vice chair for the COC Governing Board. August is also when review of current board members are made. Nominations can be made by emailing Carolyn. She would like nominations to be in before next meeting on September 11th. You must be a member of the General COC to be eligible to be a Board Member.
- Jami Browder posted a link to the all-hazards guide with different organizations: <https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan/ahg>
- Goodwill Industries is hosting a resource fair at Next Level Church in Cape Coral on July 17th. There will be about 45 organizations and resources. Resources available are for homelessness, employment, and other assistance.

X. Adjourn - Next CoC Governing Board Meeting is September 11, 2024

Carolyn Johnson, Chair

- Next meeting will be September 11th, 2024.

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

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***Item Needing Action**

August – Nominations for Chairperson/Vice Chairperson and review of current board members.

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