

Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County, Inc.

Continuum of Care (COC) Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

DATE OF MEETING: FEBRUARY 22, 2024

LOCATION: HARVESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH 2432 COLLIER PKWY, LAND O' LAKES, FLORIDA 34639

TIME STARTED: 10:07A.M. **TIME ENDED:** 11:15AM.

ATTENDANCE			
JENNIFER WATTS	ROSANNE SMITHWICK	GEOFF HARLAN	BEN ORTBERG
DAVID MILLER	ELIZABETH RHODES	FRANK SIEDL	CHRISTINE LONG
MELISSA GILES	MARCY ESBJERG	ERIC MUNROE	JESSIE LEAL
AMANDA WANDER	JEFF SKLET	ALICE DELGARDO	MARK EBEL
TIFFANY ADAMS	CHRISTA LONGO	LNIDA GRAHAM	LEESA FRYER
SAM PICCARD	PASTOR TROY PEDERSON	STU CAVENDER	
THOMAS O'CONNOR BRUNO	DR ERIN NEWBERRY	NICOLE CINEAS	
AGENDA	ACTIONS		
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at 10:08AM by Rosanne Smithwick.		
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Approval of January 2024 Leadership Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by: Sam Piccard Motion seconded by: Christine Long No Opposition		
OLD BUSINESS	<p>Times Building</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: There is still a negotiation that will need to occur with the pension board. At this time, no offer has been made by the county to move forward.</p> <p>Shelter Meeting:</p> <p>Jennifer Watts: Meeting with county leadership, Cathy Pearson, and Paula Baracaldo, to discuss sheltering and for them to express views regarding surveys done by the homeless population concerning needs. Very positive meeting. Thomas O'Connor Bruno presented the survey information. Will meet again on Monday, April 1, 2024.</p> <p>Rosanne Smithwick: Emphasized this is a collaborative effort. There are over sixty agencies that are part of the COC, and each brings their own expertise. There needs to be respect and trust as there seems to be a lot of skepticism amongst agencies.</p> <p>Committees/Workgroups</p> <p>Rosanne Smithwick: Each committee was reviewed with members on committees. What they do and the times they meet. Urged members to sign up for any committee if interested.</p> <p>Leadership Council Bios</p>		

	<p>Jennifer Watts: Bios for COC website. Will send emails to Leadership council members to get information on what each member does and will upload them on website when data compiled.</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>NOFO Thomas O’Connor Bruno: Provided detailed data of 2023 NOFO results. Result data was provided to members at the time of meeting invite and presented on visual screen.</p> <p>FHC Rosanne Smithwick: Introduction of Amanda Wander and Tiffany Adams for the Florida Housing Coalition.</p> <p>Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping/Encampment Breakdown</p> <p>Amand Wander: FHC followed county outreach team with The Sword and Spoon. FHC noticed one difference in this county as opposed with others and that is the use of drugs, making it difficult for case management to occur.</p> <p>Discussion of new bill in Florida legislature regarding public camping. If bill goes through it will make it illegal to camp specifically on county or government properties leaving no alternative but to arrest people found on those properties. This bill does not include any funding attachment. Many municipalities are not in favor of this bill. Since an emergency shelter could not be completed by the October 1st, 2024, date, an immediate option may be to consider hotel or motel vouchers to help alleviate the amount of people on the street and focus on housing along with that. Another option would be master leasing, using units for emergency shelter and transitional housing. Having enough units could be the answer, however the scale of this need would still not happen by the October 1,2024 date. The cost to set up a type of “tent city,” based on 2023 unsheltered numbers (421) would be approximately 10 million dollars.</p> <p>There is a federal court case happening in April to determine if it is illegal or not if there is not shelter provided. This could change a lot of things. Surprised that this bill regarding public camping moved forward before this April case has been heard.</p> <p>Christine Long: What would the ten million dollars cover? Amanda Wander: Tangible items such as tents, but no services</p> <p>Amanda Wander: How does county handle surplus land? Marcy Esbjerg: The County will auction off the land as it becomes available to agencies.</p> <p>Geoff Harlan: Is the county addressing zoning or planning? Marcy Esbjerg: Every county has an emergency plan for hurricanes. Counties and cities have identified tracts of land for this purpose and are trying to connect that under that “emergency.”</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: Community Development will fund a master leasing program, but an agency will have to step up to be a master leaser. Amanda Wander: Crowd source funding can be helpful for master leasing.</p> <p>COC Coordinator Position Jennifer Watts: To bring someone on board specifically for COC work. A position description will be sent out, there will be a deadline, and hopefully post by next COC meeting. COC Coordinator will be an employee of the CHPC.</p>

PUBLIC COMMENT	None
AJOURN	The meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM.....Next meeting, Leadership Council Meeting March 28, 2024, at 10AM-Virtual Meeting