



CoC Leadership Council Meeting

January 13, 2022, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

via Zoom

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| I. | Welcome and Introductions | Jon Thaxton |
| II. | Public Comment | Jon Thaxton |
| III. | Approval of Minutes – November 4, 2021 | Jon Thaxton |
| IV. | Discussion / Action Items | All Present |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Leadership Seat – RRH Provider • ARPA Funding Update • COVID Issues – Contingency Planning • Family Sheltering • PIT and HIC • State Contract Renewals | |
| V. | Strategic Plan Review and Action Items | Jon Thaxton |
| VI. | General Announcements/Meeting Schedules | Jon Thaxton |
| VII. | Adjourn | |

Agenda is subject to change without prior notice.



Leadership Council 2022 Meeting Schedule		
Date	Time	Location
Thursday, March 10 th	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	TBD
Thursday, May 12 th	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	TBD
Thursday, July 14 th	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	TBD
Annual CoC Meeting August 10 th	9:00AM – 10:30AM	TBD
Thursday, September 8 th	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	TBD
Thursday, November 10 th	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	TBD



Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2022

Hosted Via: Virtual viz Zoom

Attendees:

NAME	REPRESENTING
Cliatt, Tarnisha	Chamber of Commerce
Faggenbaum, Jennifer	Lived Homeless Experience
Megan Howell	At Large
Hays, Jessica	State Certified Domestic Violence
Minor, Erin	Permanent Supportive Housing
Richardson, Lue	Veterans / SSVF
Smith, Athyna	Rapid Re-Housing
Roseboro, Jane	State-certified Behavioral Health
Showers, Julia	At Large
Jones, DeDe	Sarasota Law Enforcement
Downing, Brenda	Emergency Shelter
Sakes, Dawn	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (16-24)
Taylor, Kayden	LGBTQ+ services community representative
Erin McLeod	Seniors' services community representative
Jim Doyle	Business Community- Sarasota County
Rob Tabor	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Johnson, Chris	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Cuttsinger, Ron	Sarasota County
Sanders, Bill	City of Bradenton

Staff Present: Lauren Davis, Taylor Neighbors, Marisol Violette

Public Present: Andrew Brady, Gina Puglisi, Karen Pupo

I. Welcome and Introduction

Welcomes and introductions were made. A quorum was certified at 3:35 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

III. Approval of Minutes- November 4, 2021

Meeting minutes from November 4, 2021 were sent out electronically prior to the meeting. A motion to approve was provided by Lue Richardson, Jane Roseboro providing a second on



the motion, and with no opposition to the motion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

Open Leadership Council Seat – Rapid Rehousing Provider

With the departure of Richard McDaniel from Jewish Family and Children’s service, there is an open seat for a Rapid Rehousing (RRH) provider. Chris Johnson stated the following agencies would be eligible to hold the seat: Turning Points, Jewish Family Children’s Services, Catholic Charities, Community Assisted Supportive Living (CASL), St. Vincent de Paul CARES, and Turning Points.

Erin Minor asked if anyone from those agencies is present and interested in the Rapid Rehousing seat, to which Athyna Smith of JFCS stated she was present. Erin Minor requested discussion from the members of the Leadership Council. With no discussion, Erin asked for a motion to approve Athyna Smith as the representative to fill the Rapid Rehousing seat on the Leadership Council. Jessica Hayes provided a motion to approve Athyna Smith as the Rapid Rehousing representative on the Leadership Council, Tarnisha Cliatt provided a second on the motion, and with a unanimous vote the motion passed.

ARPA Funding Update

Commissioner Cutsinger provided an ARPA funding update for Sarasota County. Commissioner Cutsinger stated he appreciated the community showing up to advocate on behalf of the affordable housing line item. The initial budget allocated \$5 million to affordable housing, and with advocacy that amount was increased to \$25 million. Commissioner Cutsinger added that being able to get an idea for the type of projects that will be proposed was very important for the county commission. Creative projects and the best way to leverage these dollars to create the most affordable housing with this funding is a top priority for the commission. All funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. Commissioner Cutsinger added we need to work collaboratively with partnering agencies to develop something that will impact our community. Commissioner Cutsinger thanked everyone again for their advocacy work on behalf of the affordable housing priority.

Chris Johnson asked if there is any consideration for maintaining affordability for a certain number of years with these projects, to which Commissioner Cutsinger stated he wants to see that included in any affordable housing proposal put forward and we need to look at ways to continue these projects be affordable over time.

Commissioner Bellamy was not present to provide updates on the ARPA funds for Manatee County.

COVID Issues- Contingency Planning

Chris Johnson explained recently a shelter had to close due to a COVID outbreak. Chris added he will be reviewing the emergency contingency planning for times in which something like this happens again. Erin agreed this type of planning should take place, and Harvest House would be interested in attending these meetings. Chris Johnson stated he will send out an invite for this contingency planning for Sarasota County.



Family Sheltering

With the onslaught of families needing shelters, and only 8 total shelter spots in Sarasota County, the idea of prioritizing families in shelter is becoming necessary. Chris Johnson shared the Risk Assessment Screening Tool that is being proposed to use to prioritize the family beds. Specifically in Sarasota, we have an onslaught of families entering homelessness and seeking emergency shelter, and those currently in emergency shelter have no where to go in the community because of the lack of affordable housing. In November and December of the calls Suncoast Partnership's Family Diversion Specialist took, 79% and 76% of the calls were families who were brand new to the homeless crisis response system.

Chris explained the need of our system to establish a prioritization process for families experiencing homelessness and seeking emergency shelter. Chris shared the Risk Factor Screening with the Leadership Council. This tool is a list of questions to determine the severity of need of families seeking shelter. Chris sought thoughts from the Leadership Council.

Erin McLeod asked where the intake person is able to indicate whether the client is over 65 years old, to which Taylor Neighbors added this specific assessment is for families. Erin Minor stated there are times where Harvest House's shelter sees older grandparents as guardians of their grandchildren. Chris added we can identify the persons age by their date of birth, but this wouldn't be a factor in the prioritization.

Erin Minor stated we should get into more detail once we meet with the shelter providers. Tarnisha Cliatt asked for explanation on the necessity of asking a client is a felon, to which Chris Johnson stated a client's criminal history increases their vulnerability. Tarnisha asked if this assessment was in the new software, to which Lauren Davis answered it is not and we are still working in the ServicePoint system while we integrate data into Bitfocus/Clarity. Tarnisha asked if we outcomes of this tool could be presented to Leadership Council, to which Lauren stated this information would be client focused and contained in a sub assessment of clients' records, which is historically difficult to pull. Tarnisha Cliatt stated the eviction process is ramping up and the mortgage industries putting in foreclosures, we will only continue to see an increase of all types of households entering homelessness for the first time and we need to work together as a community to make and effective change on what is going to happen to our community.

Brenda Downing asked if we are verifying literal homelessness and if this will be considered in the prioritization process, to which Chris stated this is explored diligently by the Family Diversion Specialist.

Athyna Smith added in Lee County, when a family is evicted from somewhere they become lower on the prioritization because they have a family member willing to take the children in, thus separating the family unit. Athyna stated that family should still be prioritized as a family because they will be housed as a family. Erin agreed, but stated we are seeking to prioritize Emergency Shelter. Marcella Levin added the risk factors include this concern in the family composition, to which Taylor added historically if families are separated in this manner, the family is connected to a Master Case Manager to begin working with the family as a unit.



Athyna asked if this process would be similar to the Oneby1 Coordinated Entry System, or how the specialist would be able to utilize the information needed, to which Lauren stated it would likely be manual review of the clients needing shelter and held on a spreadsheet similar to the Community By-Name List.

DeDe Jones added with law enforcement families are brought to shelter if in need of an immediate response, to which Erin Minor stated Harvest House would continue to work with law enforcement in this manner.

Tarnisha Cliatt asked if there were two families with the same risk score, and only one shelter bed available, how would Suncoast decide which family would get the bed. Chris stated we would refer back to the family's approximate date homelessness started, total number of times homeless, and other factors to determine who is most in need.

Lauren Davis asked if we are only prioritizing for Sarasota County family emergency shelter, to which Chris stated because Wendy can only work with Sarasota County families, we are focusing on Sarasota County.

Tarnisha Cliatt provided a motion to utilize the Risk Factor Screening Tool for the prioritization of Family Emergency Shelter in Sarasota County, Brenda Downing provided a second on the motion, and with no opposition the motion passed unanimously.

Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)

In lieu of Brandon Bellows absence, Chris Johnson announced we will be doing an unsheltered Point-in-Time (PIT) Count starting at noon January 24, 2022 and culminating at noon January 25, 2022.

State Contract Renewals

Chris Johnson shared the State Unified Grant was set to an automatic renewal, as the initial 3-year term of the grant was coming to an end June 30, 2022. Chris stated we will continue to have the funds allocated under the current line items for Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing. Chris asked if the Leadership Council would like us to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the providers in the community, or if we should do one-year automatic renewal for our current contract holders.

Jim Doyle asked if there were providers who are not performing at a level we would approve of, to which Chris Johnson stated he does not have those concerns at this moment.

Athyna Smith asked if there were any organizations that may have been denied during a previous RFP, that could be eligible for these funds. Taylor Neighbors stated we had put Challenge Grant funding out for RFP.

Tarnisha Cliatt put a motion forward to renew the State contracts from one year with current contract holders, Athyna Smith provided a second on this motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

ESG CV Funds

Chris Johnson explained to the Leadership Council there are ongoing difficulties for providers being able to utilize the Rapid Rehousing dollars due to the current housing market. In addition, the typical prioritization process for Rapid Rehousing funding is to refer



the hardest to serve to these projects, but because of the limited time frame in which these funds are available, Chris is seeking approval to adjust the current prioritization process.

Highest acuity clients are typically without income or will require more than the nine months of rental assistance that is left available in these funds. Chris went on to state it would be a disadvantage to the highest acuity clients to be referred to CV funded projects because the projects can't provide them the funding and supportive services the clients likely require.

Additionally, the waivers HUD has instituted for ESG funds, as it relates to Fair Market Rent requirements, will be expiring on March 31, 2022. One available option is to utilize the landlord incentives offered by ESG CV funds to buy down the lease amounts.

Chris stated another way to spend these funds is to reallocate Rapid Rehousing into Emergency Shelter and utilize funds for non-congregate shelter, or hotel/motel beds.

Erin Minor asked if it was possible to do a little bit of both, meaning utilize a more sustainable group of clients and utilize non-congregate shelter. Chris stated we can do this easily with the State funded CV dollars, but the Sarasota County funds may be more difficult to amend.

Tarnisha Cliatt asked what the likelihood of Manatee County is to allocate funds to Suncoast Partnership or are we able to ensure that the clients that need the funds to get them before they go back to the government. Chris added, even if we were to move funds to non-congregate shelter, we still need to look at the acuity of clients that are being referred to those projects.

Erin asked where we go from here, to which Chris stated he will reach out to all recipients to see how we can reallocate these funds to spend them down, but he needs approval from the Council to adjust the prioritization process for the ESG CV funds.

Athyna Smith made a motion to adjust the prioritization process for the ESG CV funds, Tarnisha Cliatt provided a second on the motion. Chris stated with Athyna Smith as a recipient of the funds she and any other recipients would have to be recused from the vote.

Tarnisha Cliatt made the motion to adjust the prioritization process for the ESG CV funds, Kayden Taylor seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously among those allowed to vote.

V. Strategic Plan Review and Action Items

This item was not discussed at this meeting.

VI. General Announcements and Meeting Schedules

Erin Minor asked for an update on the CoC's new software system, Bitfocus/Clarity. Lauren Davis shared with the group Suncoast Partnership staff are working diligently to get the system up and running, with many staff hours dedicated to the manual creation of programs, providers, projects, and services in the new system. Suncoast Partnership has had a System Administrator position for over six months and have had an extremely difficult time finding someone to fill the role. Suncoast works with a three-person team, Amiee and Brandon take on the majority of the work implementing this transition.



This sets the launch date for this software back from the proposed aggressive launch date of March 1, 2022. Additionally, the export provided from our current software was not compatible with the new system, so Brandon had to spend a couple weeks adjusting these components.

Lauren Davis encouraged any providers to share the job description with interested parties. Tarnisha Cliatt asked if the job was remote and recommended bonuses for the team working on this project. Lauren stated it is full-time remote and Taylor Neighbors shared the other jobs available at Suncoast Partnership.

PJ Brooks asked if we could share the positions, to which Lauren stated we would get those shared.

Erin Minor announced the next meeting of the Leadership Council is Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.