



Continuum of Care Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Location: Harvest House – Life Enrichment Campus

Attendees Present:

Name	Organization
John Harney	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness Board
Meredith Mitchell	Children First
Michelle Ship	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Leah Hudson	Manatee County
Kimberly Kuteh	Sarasota County
Nicke Hartsock	SPARCC
Glen Gibellina	
Danielle Barringer	The Salvation Army Sarasota
Layla McCarty	Sarasota County OFM
Megan Howell	Second Heart Homes
Sonia Shurt	Manatee County EMS
Neil Keith	Career Source Suncoast
Jean Marie Huffman	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Diane De Costa	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Avery Burke	Centerstone
Dawn Stahl	Harvest House
Jordan Mayer	Harvest House
Pam Fields	Legal Aid
Milli Stepanek	Safe Children Coalition - Schoolhouse Link
Tina Juillerat	
Aura Nicasio	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Teal Kellman	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Christian Hunt	SPARCC
Dawn Pomije	County HOT
Paul Sutton	Salvation Army Sarasota
Roman Erlikh	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Kimberly Coleman	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Donna Love	Mothers Helping Mothers
Bridgette Pryor	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
David Conley	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Rita Smith	Coldwell Banker
Brittany Taylor	St. Vincent de Paul CARES
Ivis Triana	Lutheran Services Florida
Kim Gonzalez	Career Source Suncoast
Janice Houchins	First 1000 Days
Sharon Marchese	Sarasota County
Lakisha Zanders	HOPE Family Services
Ellen McLaughlin	Safe Children Coalition - Schoolhouse Link
Devin Beede	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Roman Croussett	Helping Up Mission
Nicole Howard	Catholic Charities
Alexander Potten	Centerstone
Chris Johnson	United Way South Sarasota County
Elizabeth Abdelwahed	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists, Inc.
Jasmine Waltz	North Port Police Department
Cassandra Smith	Mothers Helping Mothers, Lived Experience
Hailee Catalano	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
David Setchel	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Taylor Neighbors	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Tara Booker	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Tori Brown	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Devon Jarrett	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Beatriz Cordoba	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Megan Kulick	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Erin Minor	Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Shawney Robey	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness Board



I. Call to Order

The meeting began at 9:06 a.m. Shawney Robey, Chair of the Suncoast Partnership Board, welcomed all attendees and expressed her appreciation for their presence. She emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration in the effort to prevent and end homelessness. Gratitude was also extended to Dan Minor, CEO of Harvest House, for generously providing the meeting space.

II. Icebreaker

Erin Minor, from Gulf Coast Community Foundation, then facilitated the icebreaker activity. Participants were asked to introduce themselves to the person seated to their left, sharing their name, organization, job title, and current personal obsession. The microphone was passed around the room, allowing each attendee to introduce their partner to the group.

III. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve by: Tina Juillerat
- Second by: Avery Burke
- Vote outcome: Minutes from CoC meeting on June 18, 2025, were approved.

IV. State of Affairs

Taylor Neighbors, CEO of the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, opened the segment by expressing gratitude to attendees for their continued commitment to serving the community. She reflected on the significant challenges the Sarasota region has faced in recent years, including uncertainty, limited funding, the COVID-19 pandemic, a shortage of affordable housing, staffing shortages, leadership transitions, CSIS changes, and personal hardships.

Taylor acknowledged that these obstacles may have left some feeling discouraged or ready to give up, and that's okay. However, she emphasized the importance of resilience: when life knocks us down, we must get back up and keep moving forward. In this field, patience, flexibility, and adaptability are essential. She shared a motivating reminder: "A race is won when you keep running." No matter how long the journey may seem, if we persist, we can win this race alongside our clients. Taylor encouraged everyone to celebrate all victories, both big and small, and to remain united in the fight against homelessness. Showing up as our best selves is vital, especially for those who cannot.

V. Community Roundtable Discussions

Tara Booker proceeded to pass out a question to each table, while Erin Minor instructed to take 15 minutes to converse with their table and to take notes on all the ideas that were discussed. Each table had one of the following three questions that they shared with the rest of the group.

1. How do you feel about the State having one HMIS system? Pros? Cons?

Some pros that were discussed about possibly having one HMIS system would be that it is easier to capture and assess the client's whole picture, especially since some move from county to county. It may also provide more efficient training within the systems. However, several challenges were noted. Some worried that the system might become overloaded with data, which could lead to confusion or duplication, especially when dealing with clients who have common names. Privacy was another major concern, as broader access to sensitive client information might make individuals uncomfortable.



Additionally, there was concern that the system could be used for purposes beyond housing, potentially straying from its intended focus.

2. If resources were not limited, wouldn't it be nice if...?

Participants shared that it would be nice if HUD housing vouchers were more flexible and available to those on fixed incomes, and if more affordable housing was available for those earning 30–50% of the area median income and for service industry workers. They expressed a desire for case management services to be available beyond housing placement, and for education-focused programs to be available to break generational cycles. It would also be beneficial if job training and supportive employment were available, and if mental health services were available. Participants hoped public awareness and stigma toward clients improved, and that churches used vacant land for housing and daycare. They suggested that an “adopt-a-home” model be created using extra land, and that communication systems across agencies improved. Additionally, they wished follow-up services were available, the 211-referral system improved, and trained social workers were hired to answer 211 calls.

3. What do you think we need to implement as a system to better coordinate providers and services throughout the CoC?

Participants suggested implementing a more universal database, noting that not everyone uses HMIS and that a shared system may help with quicker referral processes. They emphasized the need for a routine live system of resources, more in-person networking opportunities, and possibly resource fairs. There was interest in revisiting landlord requirements and bringing back the Suncoast Housing Collaborative. Suggestions also included creating more homeless shelters and hiring additional housing specialists, increasing transparency within the OnebyOne system, and maintaining a consistent and updated CoC contact list to ensure providers know who to contact for what. Participants also called for consistent reporting and the formation of an HMIS workgroup to improve accuracy and quality.

VI. Leadership Council Elections

David Setchel, Director of Community Engagement with Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, then moved the conversation to Leadership Council elections, and reminded that there are still many seats to fill and encouraged to apply for ones that still need to be filled. He then proceeded to have all applicants introduce themselves and why they should be elected for their seat. The outcomes are as follows:

- Sarasota Business Community: Rita Smith – Coldwell Banker (*Reelected*)
- Veteran Administration or SSVF: Blossom Kapper – Department of Veteran Affairs
- Sarasota Law Enforcement: Sgt. Benjamin Smith – Sarasota Police Department
- Chamber of Commerce: Marlon Brown – Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
 - Senior with Lived Experience: Glen Gibellina – The Crossings
 - Emergency Shelter: Danielle Barringer – The Salvation Army Sarasota
 - Lived Expertise: Cassandra Smith – Mothers Helping Mothers
 - At Large: Donna Love – Mothers Helping Mothers
 - At Large: Jordan Mayer – Harvest House
 - Permanent Supportive Housing – Lisa Moschin – CASL



VI. Data Quality

Jalynn Booker, CSIS Administrator at Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, opened by expressing heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their unwavering commitment to data quality and for the valuable feedback shared throughout the year. She emphasized that data tells the story of our community—and that every contribution matters.

It was proudly announced that four community partners achieved outstanding scores of 95% and above: Turning Points, CASL, Harvest House, and Second Heart Homes. In a fun twist, Second Heart Homes was randomly selected to receive the second-place data award cake.

The Venice Police Department earned a perfect score of 100%, and their celebratory cake will be delivered following the meeting.

Congratulations to all and thank you for your dedication and hard work!

VII. Public Comment and General Announcements

It was noted that funding allocated for hurricane season is being used efficiently, with a significant portion directed toward the development of multifamily housing for individuals earning 30–50% AMI. This initiative has recently received county approval and is expected to increase housing availability in the coming years, particularly considering recent changes in the county commission. There needs to be more of a push to advocate for more money now more than ever. We have been stuck waiting to find money once a disaster happens when we should use the money to be prepared for when it happens instead.

It has been made aware following previous conversations that there is an organization known as “Growing God’s Grass” which essentially takes land and builds for lower income families and those who are unsheltered.

Megan Howell announced that Second Heart Homes opened a new residence earlier this morning. While there is currently a waiting list, individuals can be screened to join it. Additionally, the organization has acquired a duplex that will soon house 12 women, ultimately providing shelter for 24 individuals.

Erin Minor shared that the Gulf Coast Community Foundation funded a study titled the Sarasota Housing Plan, which serves as a strategic roadmap for addressing homelessness in the region. She encouraged attendees to review the plan for further insight.

X. Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Time: 9:00-10:30 A.M.

Location: Goodwill Corporate Campus

XI. Adjourned

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:42 A.M.