



CoC Leadership Council Meeting

November 4, 2021, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

via [Zoom](#)

- | | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| I. | Welcome and Introductions | Jon Thaxton |
| II. | Public Comment | Jon Thaxton |
| III. | Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2021 | Jon Thaxton |
| IV. | Discussion / Action Items | All Present |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Open Seat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Committee At-Large Seat • COVID Issues • CoC Funding Streams Document Discussion | |
| V. | Strategic Plan Review and Action Items | Jon Thaxton |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition to Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diversion / Early Intervention – “Maintain current funding and increase future funding for D/EI services” | Jon Thaxton |
| VI. | General Announcements/Meeting Schedules | |
| VII. | Adjourn | |

Agenda is subject to change without prior notice.



2022 Leadership Council Schedule		
Date	Time	Location
Thursday, January 13, 2022	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Hybrid
Thursday, March 10, 2022	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Hybrid
Thursday, May 12, 2022	3:30 PM- 5:00 PM	Hybrid
Thursday, July 14, 2022	3:30 PM- 5:00 PM	Hybrid
Annual CoC Meeting August 10, 2022	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM	To be determined
Thursday, September 8, 2022	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Hybrid
Thursday, November 10, 2022	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Hybrid



Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 4, 2021

Hosted via: Zoom

Attendees:

NAME	REPRESENTING
Faggenbaum, Jennifer	Lived Homeless Experience
Megan Howell	At Large
Hays, Jessica	State Certified Domestic Violence
Minor, Erin	Permanent Supportive Housing
Richardson, Lue	Veterans / SSVF
McDaniel, Richard	Rapid Re-Housing
Roseboro, Jane	State-certified Behavioral Health
Showers, Julia	At Large
Jones, DeDe	Sarasota Law Enforcement
Downing, Brenda	Emergency Shelter
Sprinkle, Roy	Sarasota County Public Schools
Taylor, Kayden	LGBTQ+ 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

Staff: Brandon Bellows, Lauren Davis, Marisol Violette

Public: Andrew Brady

I. Welcome and Introductions

Erin Minor filled in as Chairperson of the meeting a quorum was certified at 3:35 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments made.

III. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2021

The minutes from September 9, 2021 were sent out electronically prior to the meeting, Julia Showers provided a motion to approve the minutes and Dede Jones provided a second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Strategic Plan Review and Action Items

Addition to Strategic Plan- Diversion / Early Intervention – “Maintain current funding and increase future funding for D/EI services”

Chris Johnson presented the FY22-24 Strategic Plan to the Leadership Council. To align with the CoC’s goal to divert clients from the homeless crisis response system, the Strategic Plan must include language to fund this activity. Chris proposed the addition of the action step of,



“Maintain current funding and increase future funding for Diversion and Early Intervention services” to the FY22-24 Strategic Plan. Jennifer Faggenbaum provided a motion to approve the action step and Jane Rosenboro provided a second on the motion. With no additional discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

V. Discussion / Action Items

Open Seats: Executive Committee: At-Large seat &: Leadership Council seat- Emergency Shelter

The At-Large seat on the Executive Committee is also open. Jane Rosenboro volunteered to fill the At-Large seat. With no other volunteers, a motion to approve Jane as the At-Large seat was provided by Julia Showers, and DeDe Jones provided a second. With no opposition, Jane Roseboro with hold the open At-Large seat for the Executive Committee of the Leadership Council.

The Leadership Council Seat for the Emergency Shelter representative is open as elected seat holder is no longer at the agency. Erin Minor opened the floor to nominations. Andrew Brady spoke on behalf of Brenda Downing, Operations Director of The Salvation Army Sarasota, requesting she be elected to the position. Erin thanked Brenda for her volunteerism and requested a motion and a second on Brenda Downing filling the Emergency Shelter representative seat. Kayden Taylor provided a motion to approve with Jessica Hays providing a second on the motion, with no opposition, Brenda Downing was elected to the Emergency Shelter representative seat on the Leadership Council.

COVID Issues

Chris asked the Council what issues service providers are currently seeing due to the COVID pandemic. Erin Minor stated at Harvest House, they are witnessing a bottle neck of people not being able to exit the system. Chris asked if people are getting bottle necked, are they timing out of services or getting stuck in shelters, and what are other solutions they are seeing.

Jennifer Faggenbaum stated they have a family that has been in the project for six months, when their limit is typically 90 days at most. There are also two other families who are stuck in shelter with no exit, so their shelter is completely full. Erin Minor echoed this sentiment.

Chris asked if agencies are seeing clients unable to access prevention funds, to which there was no response. Megan Howell stated her agency Second Heart Homes runs into eligibility issues because many grants require one-year renewable leases, and their leases are limited to six months.

Chris asked if service providers are finding clients stuck in using hotels as emergency shelter or bridge housing for clients experiencing homelessness, to which DeDe Jones has found with chronically homeless clients these hotel vouchers are specific to veterans. Chris asked about the availability of this funding, to which Richard McDaniel stated JFCS SSVF funds are still available for veterans.

Chris added any clients in emergency shelters need to have an Access Point so they can be identified as needing housing intervention services. Without an Access Point, clients cannot be identified to be referred to housing projects.

Chris asked the Council if they are seeing an uptick in encampments, to which DeDe Jones added they have not seen any new developments and encampments are limited.



Chris asked if there were any other issues related to COVID outside of manufacturing affordable housing, what is needed in the community to mitigate the problem. Erin Minor stated Harvest House is implementing incentivizing clients to participate in certificate programs to increase their incomes.

Chris asked if agencies are seeing an influx of new clients, to which Lue Richardson continues to see veterans being evicted and they are unable to receive assistance because of high incomes. Most of these evictions are coming from landlords selling properties, increasing rents beyond the income of their tenants, or not renewing leases. Richard McDaniel added JFCS is direct cash assistance to clients so they can provide it to landlords and remain housed.

Chris asked if agencies are understaffed and how that is affecting clients, Lue stated this is getting better but still an issue. DeDe Jones stated clients of the HOT team will be assigned to a case manager, but due to turnover, clients' case managers fluctuate. Chris stated we as a CoC need to look at how to retain case managers as this directly affects our CoC's system performance measures and funding coming into the community.

Chris asked if anyone had any recommendations or additional concerns, to which DeDe Jones added the community needs housing for vouchers. Many clients have been assigned to vouchers, but there is no housing for the vouchers. Megan Howell stated the vouchers have become an invisible carrot for clients and preventing clients from moving into their beds.

Julia Showers added the issues the Salvation Army Manatee emergency shelter is seeing is clients' case managers for the voucher or Rapid Rehousing (RRH) projects are simply calling the clients, rather than going to the shelter to meet with them. Julia stated the shelter rarely sees case managers come to the shelter to explain the voucher or RRH projects to clients. The shelter has taken on the responsibility of educating the clients about the projects, but then case managers disappear or don't reengage with clients for weeks.

Chris asked if case managers are hesitant to meet clients face-to-face due to COVID or is this an operations issue. Lue added it is probably a combination of both. Lauren Davis added Suncoast Partnership's contracts with providers have specific requirements for staff to meet clients where they are to engage and explain projects to clients. She encouraged shelter providers to inform Suncoast of any compliance issues, so service providers are accountable to contractual mandated requirements. For clients to have an efficient referral process, RRH providers must be accountable to this obligation of the project.

Kevin Stiff stated he frequently has conversations with clients who have been sitting in shelter waiting for their case managers to meet with them at the shelter. Julia asked who has RRH projects through Suncoast Partnership, to which Lauren stated Suncoast Partnership has RRH contracts with St. Vincent de Paul, Jewish Family and Children's Services, and Catholic Charities.

Andrew Brady stated the Salvation Army Sarasota sees a pattern with some agencies showing up to meet with clients daily and some agencies showing up far less often, either bi-weekly or monthly. He is unsure of whether it is COVID related, but he does know some form of communication should be formalized. Especially between the Salvation Army Manatee and Turning Points to connect with clients. Andy strongly recommends a formal policy so this communication between providers with housing projects and emergency shelter provider is clear.

Erin Minor asked if any RRH providers on the Leadership Council had any feedback regarding this issue. Andrew Brady stated the case managers for their projects have stated consistently



locating clients accessing services at partner agencies is the biggest issue. Dede Jones echoed Andy's sentiments, stating even when they reach out on behalf of the client, they are still left unacknowledged.

Lauren Davis made a recommendation to have RRH providers and Emergency Shelter providers meet to clear up expectations of connecting clients to the appropriate providers and begin to understand what the limitations are in efficiently connecting clients to housing intervention services. Chris Johnson agreed, stating the shelters are an integral part of the homeless crisis response system and we need to figure out how to make that communication for clients smooth.

Erin Minor asked about the viability of RRH in the state and does a client have to be able to prove sustainability for eligibility, to which Chris stated no. Chris stated there are no income limits for eligibility at entry to RRH, but at annual recertification clients must be under 30% Area Median Income (AMI). Chris stated agencies should be housing clients in they can eventually sustain, because RRH is limited to up 24 months of assistance.

Kevin Stiff reiterated the importance of case management involvement when explaining RRH projects to clients.

CoC Funding Streams Document Discussion

In a previous meeting it was discussed to begin a document which will explain the various funding streams throughout agencies in the CoC. Chris stated Manatee County agencies currently have a document they utilize at PATH meetings, and he wanted to gauge the Council's interest on developing this.

Julia Showers stated she thinks it is helpful to have this information and Richard McDaniel added this document is very helpful to case managers to know what is available in the community. Andrew Brady added during his time working in Manatee County he also found this document helpful.

VI. Strategic Plan and Action Items (continued)

Chris Johnson stated during a review of the Strategic Plan, it was requested to have the Plan refined and specific to priorities of the CoC. It was also recommended the document become an actionable and living document the Council focuses on at each meeting to gauge progress on the Plan. Chris asked if the Council wants to refine the Plan and speak about it at every meeting.

Erin Minor stated we should refine the document and focus on priorities. Jim Doyle stated he was one of the people who stated the Plan should be narrowed down in order to focus on specific action items. Jim stated it is possible to do 75% of the things on the Plan but still fail if the 4 or 5 most critical items are left undone.

Chris asked if narrowing down the Plan as the whole Council or if we should have a select few identify the priorities, to which Erin recommended Jim Doyle lead a group of members to narrow down the priorities for the CoC. Kayden Taylor and Dede Jones also offered to contribute to narrowing these priorities.

Lauren Davis recommended a representative from each component of the Homeless Crisis Response System (i.e. Street Outreach, Homeless Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, etc.).

Ron Cutsinger added he agrees with narrowing the priorities and prioritizing the items and review them at each meeting.



VII. General Announcements/Meeting Schedules

Chris stated he will be sending out an email requesting electronic vote of the CoC Collaborative Applicant submission as part of the HUD CoC Program NOFO. He requested everyone be on the lookout for that email as our submission to HUD for CoC Program funding is dependent on this electronic vote.

Julia Showers announced The Salvation Army Manatee is now operating Manatee County HOT beds at their shelter. Erin asked when these beds will be in operation and how many beds, to which Julia stated the following Wednesday and they will have 10 total beds for male or female clients.

Erin Minor shared Harvest House broke ground on their new Life Enrichment building which will house additional classroom, office, and therapy space for Harvest House.

The FY22 Meeting Schedule was sent out electronically. These meetings will be held in a hybrid fashion to accommodate those interested in attending in-person.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.