



Continuum of Care

General Members Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Via [Zoom](#)

Kevin Stiff, CoC Leadership Council Chair

Chris Johnson, Chief Executive Officer Suncoast Partnership

- I. **Welcome**
- II. **Introductions**
 - Please fill out the digital sign-in sheet
- III. **Approval of October 21, 2020 Minutes**
- IV. **Agency Spotlight**

Jewish Family and Childrens Service - Arthur Lerman and Richard McDaniel
- V. **Resource Spotlight**
 - a. Prodigal Daughters – Denise Gattuso
- VI. **Funding Updates** – All Present
- VII. **Discussion Regarding Dr. Marbut’s Visit to the Suncoast** – All Present
- VIII. **Unsheltered PIT Count Update** – CEO, Suncoast Partnership
- IX. **Five Minutes For Forward Focus** – CEO, Suncoast Partnership
- X. **General Announcements and Public Comments**
- XI. **Adjourn**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CoC Leadership Council Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2020 (3:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

TBD

Continuum of Care Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2020 (9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

TBD

Go to www.suncoastpartnership.org for meeting schedules



Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021

Hosted via: Zoom teleconference

Attendees: Phil Gorelick, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness; Brittany Elkins, Centerstone; Nikki Secord, Manatee County Government; Lee Washington, Manatee County Veterans Services; Rachel Brown Hackney, Sarasota News Leader; Antonia Quiros, Goodwill Manasota; Arthur Lerman, JFCS of the Suncoast; Andrew Brady, The Salvation Army, Sarasota Area Command; Myra Fiory, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network; Dwight English, Sarasota Vet Center - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Renese Remy, Manatee County Government; Andy Guyre, Turning Points; Sara Olesen, Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County; Brittney Roumou, MCR Health; Dawn Sakes, More Too Life; Arthur Levin, Advocate; Marcella Levin, Advocate; Kevin Stiff, City of Sarasota; Jennifer Johnston, Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Misty Servia, Manatee County Government; Reggie Bellamy, Manatee County Government; Angela Murray, Safe Children's Coalition; Aretha Gibson, Sarasota County Government; Megan Howell, Second Heart Homes; Kathleen Cramer, Turning Points; Maria Gnos-Rodriguez, Turning Points; Myra Fiory, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network; Charlene Altman, Glasser-Shoenbaum Human Services Center; Martin Poretsky, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness

Suncoast Partnership Staff: Amiee Barth, Brandon Bellows, Tara Booker, Lauren Davis, Chris Johnson, Devon Jarrett, Taylor Neighbors, Amanda Erickson, Shellie Hummel

I. Welcome

II. Introductions

A quorum was certified at 9:10 a.m.

III. Approval of October 21, 2020 Minutes

Meeting minutes were sent out electronically via email. Sara Olsen provided a motion to approve the minutes, Andrew Brady provided a second, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Agency Spotlight

Arthur Lerman of Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) presented information regarding projects operating at JFCS. JFCS provides services through a variety of funding sources throughout Sarasota and Manatee County. JFCS works with youth on diversion from the criminal justice system, school-based tutoring and mentoring, and has Camp Mariposa which offers children whose families are experiencing substance abuse a chance to meet other children with similar situations.

The Building Strong Families program offers Homeless Prevention services through case management and financial assistance. JFCS provided almost a half million dollars serving well over 400 families in the community with mortgage and rental assistance.

Their Operations Military Assistance Program and Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) program offers rapid resolution, homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing services for eligible Veterans at-risk or experiencing homelessness.



For aging services, JFCS provides case management and caregiver support. As well as their senior outreach services which provides peer support and groups to reduce the social isolation this population may experience.

JFCS encouraged other service providers to connect with them to establish a collaboration on a variety of activities to continue to provide wraparound services for individuals and families in our community.

For more information on these projects visit jfcs-cares.org

V. Funding Updates

Dawn Sakes from More Too Life gave an update on the OVCDOT Grant for youth that will focus on employment and stability.

There were no other funding updates provided by fellow CoC members.

VI. Discussion regarding Dr. Marbut's visit to the Suncoast

Commissioner Arroyo of the City of Sarasota invited USICH Director, Dr. Robert Marbut to review Sarasota's homeless system.

Judge Erika Quartermaine offered an Opinion in the Sarasota Herald Tribune which indicated Dr. Marbut's visit was conducted by a drive-by review of the City's homeless population and did not meet with service providers, funders, or stakeholder directly to get a comprehensive picture of the homelessness in the City of Sarasota.

Jennifer Johnston encouraged us to remain optimistic of the successes of our system of care, as opposed to the judgements from an observer. The community dashboard and local data will only continue to display the improved efforts on the homeless crisis response system in our community. Kevin Stiff agreed stating the real solution is to continue to build the path of homelessness that ends with housing. Kevin encouraged any criticisms to point out gaps in our system so we can improve upon them.

Marcella Levin expressed her belief that Dr. Marbut was disappointed in our region not accepting the proposal for a come-as-you-are shelter, and she believes the Housing First principles and the PIT Count shows the continuous progress in our community on ending homelessness. Marcella expressed it was wrong for him to be invited without including a conversation with service providers at the table.

Paul Sutton added our community has moved past the philosophies of Dr. Marbut because we have and continue to end homelessness for many families and individuals in the community.

VII. Unsheltered PIT Count Update

Chris Johnson informed the CoC we will be changing the methodology behind the unsheltered PIT count and that our community will be submitting an exemption to HUD to not conduct an unsheltered PIT count. There are safety concerns for both clients and volunteers if the unsheltered count were to happen this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a sheltered PIT count conducted through CSIS.



Marcella and Arthur Levin asked if there was anything being done to increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations for our homeless clients; Chris stated we can simply advocate for them, but there isn't anything out just yet regarding these first rounds of vaccinations.

Maureen Mack asked what the timing is for the PIT count; Chris stated the reports to support the count will be run during the last week of January. Brandon stated we are required to do the PIT in the last 10 days of January, so we will be pulling data out of CSIS for the night of January 25, 2021.

VIII. Five Minutes for Forward Focus

Chris Johnson announced there will be a Coordinated Entry Community Review at the end of January to discuss ideas, perspectives, and inputs on how Access Points are operating and an informal review of our Coordinated Entry System.

Additionally, Chris recommended a quarterly call on various activities and providers within the CoC to discuss challenges and goals for each component.

More details will follow regarding these meetings/calls.

IX. General Announcements and Public Comments

Marcella Levin asked if anyone had any comments on a recent article about Affordable Housing Regulation; Jennifer Johnston stated she had not read the article, but to keep in mind the author works for the Argos Foundation who has a strong record of supporting large-scale development and advocating for business interests.

Brandon Bellows reminded service providers who operate Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Rapid Rehousing to make corrections in the system by the end of 2020 so we can remain on the timeline for HUD.

Megan Howell from Second Heart Advocacy thanked Arthur Lerman for offering volunteers from their agency.

X. Adjourn

CoC Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.