



# **Continuum of Care General Members Meeting**

Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Jon Thaxton, CoC Leadership Council Chair

Chris Johnson, Chief Executive Officer Suncoast Partnership

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- I. Welcome**
  - II. Introductions**
    - Please fill out the digital sign-in sheet
  - III. Approval of April 20, 2022 minutes**
  - IV. Trauma Informed Community Update**
  - V. Agency Spotlight**
    - a. Ashley Lombardi, Suicide Prevention Team, Veterans Administration
  - VI. Resource Spotlight**
    - a. Isis LaRose, Better Together
  - VII. Bitfocus Progress Update**
  - VIII. Suncoast Housing Collaborative Update**
  - IX. Funding Updates – All Present**
  - X. General Announcements and Public Comments**
  - XI. Adjourn**

Go to [suncoastpartnership.org](https://suncoastpartnership.org) for meeting schedules

Agenda is subject to change without prior notice



**Date:** June 15, 2022

**Hosted via:** Zoom

**Attendees:** Karen Pupo, CASL; Kayden Taylor, CAN Community Health; Andy Guyre, Turning Points; Ashley Lombardi, CWBY Veteran Hospital Administration; Ron Cutsinger, Sarasota Board of County Commissioners; Deanna Veremchuk, Family Resources; Cristy King, Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc.; Sandra Richendollar, Department of Health – Sarasota County; Ursula O. Fane, Turning Points; Mike Marzella, SVdP; Donna Love, Mothers Helping Mothers; Marjorie Rainey-Foster, NCMOA; Pam Fields, Legal Aid of Manasota; Lakisha Zanders, HOPE Family Services; Shellie Legarsky, JFCS; Lue Richardson, VA; Elizabeth Kemfort, Bay Pines VA; Nancy DeLoach, Sarasota County Government; Ginger Swanson, Career Source Suncoast; Glenn Bell, MCR Health; Kenneth R. Williams, MCR Health Southwest; Megan Rose, Better Together; Geoff Cordes, Manatee County; Sean Hammett, Venice Police Department; Paul Sutton, Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse; Megan Howell, Second Heart Homes; Athyna Smith, Second Heart Homes; Wendy Fitton, Selah Freedom; Kathleen Cramer, Turning Points; Nickie Hartsock, SPARCC; Jessica Hays, SPARCC; Lisa Richardson, MCR Health; Renese Remy, Manatee County Government; Katie Nicholson, Volunteers of America Florida; Millie Stepanek, Safe Children Coalition; Julia Showers, The Salvation Army Manatee; Jennifer Johnston, Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Tiffanie Glessner, LCSW, Bay Pines VA- Suicide Prevention Team; Dawn Bryant, HOPE Family Services, Inc.; Jon Thaxton, Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Laurel Lynch, HOPE Family Services, Inc.; Fernando Lugo, Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

**Suncoast Partnership Staff:** Chris Johnson, Taylor Neighbors, Brandon Bellows, Marisol Violette, Lauren Davis, Shawna Byrne, Lauren Bowen, Wendy McNaughton, Brian Wright, Devon Jarrett, Kimberly Harvey, Kenneth Hall, and Hilda Dutton

**I. Welcome**

Meeting stated at 9:02 A.M.

**II. Introductions**

Attendees were provided a digital sign-in sheet to sign-in for attendance purposes.

**III. Approval of April 20, 2022, minutes**

With no opposition to the minutes, they were approved unanimously.

**IV. Trauma Informed Community Update**

Jennifer Johnston, Gulf Coast Community Foundation

The goal of the Trauma Informed Community is to infuse more trauma informed approaches into our work to care for staff and care for those we serve. The steering committee is



comprised of the following people: Chris Johnson, Jennifer Johnston, Dr. Andy Blanch, Dr. Sydney Turner, and two people with lived experience who were at the May 20<sup>th</sup> training – Rebecca Gagnon and Joe Vosta.

The Steering Committee is reviewing the applications of agencies that have applied to be in the first cohort who are looking to be leaders in the community as trauma informed agencies.

**V. Agency Spotlight – VA Suicide Prevention Team**

Ashley Lombardi, Suicide Prevention Team, Veterans Administration

VA-SAVE training presentation - What are the signs?

Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized

Ask the most important question of all “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

Validate the Veteran’s experience

Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help.

*The Veterans Crisis Line (Veterans and civilians) 1-800-273-2855 Press 1  
VeteransCrisisLine.net or text 8382)*

Ashley stated her and her team can do virtual trainings for agencies – Jon Thaxton asked Ashley to send all information to Chris in an email to send out to the group.

**VI. Resource Spotlight- Better Together**

Megan Rose, CEO of Better Together

Better Together – Preventing the need to send children into foster care. Founded in 2015. Promoting work, protecting children through volunteer families that help to remove barriers. Weekend respite, job fairs/job coaches, second chance hiring, parent luncheons with guest speakers. For more information visit:  
<https://bettertogetherus.org/>

**VII. Bitfocus Progress Update**

Brandon Bellows, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness

Clarity through Bitfocus went live. First HUD Data Standards and Demographics/Some Services. All clients have been integrated into the system. Flow and usability are much cleaner.

The IT staff at Suncoast Partnership are focused on assisting all agencies with each member focusing as follows: Kenneth (KC) – Sarasota/Manatee, Amiee – Pasco County, Lauren-training, and Brandon-working on all remaining data that was not defined by HUD. All custom



data/one by one sent over to Clarity and imported into the system. No custom reporting until all data is in the Clarity system. Brandon suggested everyone check out the CAPERS, as well as canned reports to see which reports their agency can use.

Tech Support – Questions or assistance – Please use the Help Desk Links for Lauren, KC, and Amiee to streamline the process. Lauren Davis shared Calendly.com calendar sign up.

#### **VIII. Suncoast Housing Collaborative Update**

Lauren Bowen, Suncoast Partnership to End Homeless

Lauren spoke about the Suncoast Housing Collaborative meetings - Housing Locator Subcommittee to go over documents and overall process. Next week, financial subcommittee meeting. Lauren stated that a lot is moving – website design and marketing. They are looking for people who have a passion for marketing – getting the word out to the community. Lauren will send out results re: the Logo for the Suncoast Housing Collaborative.

#### **IX. Funding Updates / General Announcements and Public Comments *(combined)***

Geoffery B. Cordes (Manatee County) – Note: Job openings - Manatee County is expanding.

Kathleen Cramer (Turning Points) – Opportunity for housing seniors – 17 low-income units across from Motorworks Brewery.

Megan Howell (Second Heart Homes) – Announced that they have purchased their 9<sup>th</sup> home – located in Manatee County.

Nancy Deloach (Sarasota County) – Rental assistance funding is available for those in need of emergency rent or utility assistance. Job openings on County website.

#### **X. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 A.M.