



## MEETING MINUTES

COC Leadership Council

**Date:** November 7, 2024 **Time:** 3:30pm-5:00pm

**Location:** Microsoft TEAMS

### **Attendees:**

Claudia Tuck, ACCSS, Chair  
Bea Awoniyi, Santa Fe College, Co Chair  
Michelle Sherfield, Alachua Sheriff, Treasurer  
Lori Slaven, Lee Conlee House-Councilmember  
Jonathan Sanabria, VAMC - Councilmember  
Mark Brisbane, CIL - Councilmember  
Phil Mann, City of Gainesville - Councilmember  
Amanda Nazaro, ACHA - Councilmember  
Jacob Torner, TaskForce  
Keanna Johnson, TaskForce  
Marsha Latham, TaskForce  
Valeria Segui-Gonzalez, TaskForce  
Rena McCann, TaskForce  
Nicole Hague, Broward County CoC – Guest  
Chief Joesph Hillhouse, Gainesville Fire - Guest

### **Welcome and Call to Order** (Claudia Tuck)

Council Meeting Minutes dated October 3, 2024, Council was asked if the minutes from October 3, 2024, are correct. If so, is there a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Bea moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Slaven 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor “I”, those oppose like sign, “no response”, minutes approved unanimous.

### **Committee Reports**

**Coordinated Entry (Keanna Johnson)** Coordinated Entry (CE) committee met last Friday (11-1).

CE manual was approved. We are in the process of developing an implementation plan. We are



going to be evaluating our CE system. Spoke with Jennifer Lee in Lake City CoC and she has agreed to conduct our CE Evaluation and in return we will conduct theirs. We are in the process of gathering information on what the CE evaluation consists of (i.e. data, points to monitor). We will gather that information for our next CE meeting. Continue to work on homeless prevention getting set up. Will be pushing timelines back due to not have the turnout from the providers attended. BNL numbers 249 single adults, 9 transition youth ages 18-24, and 21 c families consisting of 32 adults 50 children for a total of 340. Are we posting all of this information on the website? The answer is yes. No other Questions.

**Data, Performance and HMIS (Val Segui-Gonzalez)** Chart was presented showing the data quality report card for the funded providers excluding DV services. Our top scoring providers are Family Promise @ 89%, Catholic Charities-Putnam @85%, and Grace @ 84%. Newest provider NHDC 32% partly due to low data volume & rigorous screening system. People need training in the areas that they are struggling in per Dr. Bea, and offered to use this to be your base data to start just a suggestion. After that we can look at where people need the most help, training, and move from that forward. Ms. Tuck wants to know if we are doing more training for the Entry/Exit data because we are not coming out of the seventies? This will be addressed with all funded providers. Data quality for the entry/exit assessments has also been improving over time. However, one section of the assessment needs improvement across the COC, as this section is heavily weighted in scoring. Data quality for additional data elements (income,benefits,insurance, DV) has improved greatly.

**Point-in-Time & Outreach (Dr. Bea Awoniyi, Keanna Johnson, Marsha**

**Latham**) Had a great turnout on the last call. Focusing on Hotspots. Dates are January



28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>. The night we are focusing on is the night of January 27<sup>th</sup>. Putnam and Bradford County will be the 29<sup>th</sup> Levy and Gilchrist the 30<sup>th</sup>. The Leadership Council was sent an email with the flyer announcing volunteers needed. Flyer announcing the Count and Virtual training was also sent out to the group. Volunteer registration link is up and running please register. Lori Slaven stated that Putnam County is so excited about the PIT count this year not sure what the ladies did from the COC but they are excited to participate. Dr. Bea stated everybody is committed to the cause. Many students want to participate because they have not register for January class.

**Nominations (Dr. Bea Awoniyi)** We have 2 nominations applications that have been sent to the Council and we recommend the 2 applications be accepted, additionally Michelle Sherfield was selected to be approved as Council Treasurer. Kimber Tough for the legal category. Paul Tarnowski for Behavioral health. Phil Mann introduced himself as a newly appointed member. Chair recommend to do introductions. Appointee Rachel Ryan appointed role of Lived Experience for 1 of the 2 seats but could not be present. Lori Slaven motions to move applicants as a slate. Dr. Bea seconds, Chair moves to accept and no opposes. Ms. Tuck explained we are a fully formed board now.and expressed thanks for your hard work and thank you to Michelle for volunteering to be the treasurer.

**Lived Experience (Keanna Johnson)** Rachel Ryan will be the chair of the lived experience and more details to come in future months.

### **Collaborative Applicant Report**

**Finance Report (Rena McCann)** Chart shared with group for Sept 1, 2024-Sept. 30, 2024. No discussion raised.



**COC Staff updates (Jacob Torner)** Our COC director is no longer employed by the Taskforce as of Oct 11, 2024. There were a number of things that led to this however we did go through the executive committee for guidance, leadership, and support. Keanna Johnson has been working as the interim COC director, and we have reached a point where we are prepared to recommend that she become the COC Director at this time. We do understand we have an MOU with the council that ensures we consult with them and engage them in this process. Also wanted to add that Marsha Latham has joined us as the COC program specialist and comes with a wealth of information regarding Veterans and homelessness and coordinated entry. Question asked do we need to make a motion on this? Amanda, motion that accept Keanna Johnson become the COC Director, Dr. Bea second the motion, and no one opposed. Motion to accept Keanna Johnson as the COC Director, approved unanimous. The Chair shared Congratulations to Keanna Johnson as COC Director. Dr. Bea had words of encouragement and statement that the Taskforce is operating from a place of respect and shared her value for that. We now have an opening for our Coordinated Entry Specialist or Manager. We will be sharing with the public, please send any candidates recommendations to Keanna. Question asked, "do you have a job description that you can share.?" Answered yes by Jacob, we will follow up with that.

**NOFO Disaster Extensions (Jacob Torner)** Received 2 hurricane threats amongst many other challenges within a short period of time. HUD approved disaster extensions for the CoC NOFO and CoCBUILDS. The NOFO is an individual approval with us as the COC making a request in writing for the traditional HUD COC NOFA and HUD was very responsive and we are allowed to submit application on or before Dec 11, 2024. We are confident in our application that we have completed and have sent the Council our second to final draft for approval. We hope you have had the opportunity to review that final draft as well as the priority listing. The CoCBUILDS



competition which is up to 5 million dollars to develop permanent supportive housing in our community. Extension was granted for any area that was in a federally declared disaster area, we met that criteria to submit by Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2025. However, we see no reason to delay our submission, the staff has done a great job, and the project partner we have who is phenomenal, the submission date for the Build is November 21<sup>st</sup>. When do you want the feedback? We are going to ask for authorization during new business. We want to submit the COC NOFA by the 14<sup>th</sup> to avoid delays in receiving funding next year. The build is due November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Built for Zero (Jacob Torner)** COC has reengaged with Community Solutions, which is a nationwide organization that leads community efforts to effectively reduce homeless population and subpopulations communities in their goal to end homelessness. Three of our staff members will be in an intense learning institute, regarding solutions using data, people we in our community to measure what it would take to effectively work on / or reducing homelessness in the community we serve. Our COC has been joined with Community Solutions for some time. In 2021 funding of \$50,000.00 was provide for a housing navigator position and flex funds for move in cost for Veterans. United Way COC spent some funding that was for the COC housing navigator and there is about \$21,000.00 left for the position and about \$10,000.00 left in the flex funds never used. In working with United Way has been a long process, persistence, to get the funds in a subcontract, hoping to get the \$31,000.00 from them soon and will be distributing the funding to our VA and SSVF partner vendors for move in costs, birth certificates, etc.

**Strategy and Needs (Keanna Johnson)** FHC and Gaps analysis report. Amanda Wander has completed the draft Gap report. COC is working on review and submitting any corrections to send back to her. It is the plan to have Amanda speak to the Council at the next meeting and she will review the report be available for questions. What stood out was engagement of the COC,



training for the governance board, incorporate feedback from providers and lived experience. Planned to get out to Council by next week for review. NAEH Analysis updates there was a presentation at County Board meeting. Met with NAEH, there is 4 hours of TA we have met for 1 hour. One area was the PIT count we have been doing that and another was compensation for lived experience. Coming back to Alachua Board of County Commissioner spring 2025 to present an action plan and results from public town halls.

**New/Old Business (Jacob Torner) Accept Challenge Unsheltered Funding**

**recommendations:** Provided a memo regarding background and funding recommendations. We have executed our DCF amendment, so those funds are secured. We are prepared to fund three of the five service providers that applied. Lori asked if she should drop off and the chair answered no, as this was a recommendation so no conflict exists so long as she abstains from influencing or voting on it. The fund will consist of funding for 40 new shelter beds. RFP Funding is not to be used to enhance current beds, or sustaining existing shelter beds, but for creating new inventory of shelter beds. We are requesting to fund, 20 new individual beds for Grace Market, 8 beds for Lee Conlee House expanding to provide these beds and an additional 12 new family beds through Family Promise. St. Francis was rejected the lowest and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance was low. One of the applications was rejected due to non-compliance with RFP, federal regulations and the COC's action plan, as well as failure to meet the minimum eligibility thresholds as prescribed by the RFP. Funding is good from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Allowing providers to go back to that date. Monitoring that these are new beds. Do not anticipate that these service providers will not want to continue. Need a motion to approve these recommendations. Phil had a question that brought about a lot of discussion as it related to Grace ACCCHH. Grace was awarded a grant by the city to fund \$700,000.00 for 20 new beds which was awarded in March 2024. The facility has



the capacity to add an additional 20 beds. Question, should this be for 40 beds?

Jacob and Phil will meet and look into what the funding represents from the City and if they are using existing beds for this Challenge funding. The Council will vote via email on the GRACE award. Unanimous approval of Lee Conlee House and Family Promise recommendations with an abstention from Lori Slaven due to conflict.

**Authorize NOFA Consolidation Application:** Phil motion to accept submission of application with the inclusion of the priority listing, Dr. Bea 2<sup>nd</sup> and no one opposed. Motion to accept approved unanimous.

**Accept COC Builds:** Chair recused herself from the process and passed to Dr. Bea. Dr. Bea led this portion. COC is requesting that Alachua County be the project partner which was applied for by them. Motion made by Lori to approve Alachua County for COC project partner, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup> and no one opposed. Motion carried out, approved unanimous. Claudia Tuck abstained from vote.

This was a tough application process. Approval of signature letter: Requesting removal of chair signature and replace with Jacob and will submit for Dr. Bea signature and submit with the submission project partners application. Phil motion for the acceptance of the change on the letter and Lori 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried out and no one opposed, approved unanimous.

**Authorize Delayed 2024 Council election:** Requesting that approval be given to delay elections which happen in May to November 2024 of the two new members. Amanda motioned to accept change Dr. Bea 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to carry out and no one opposed, approved unanimous.

**ESG-RUSH Funding Amendment (\$137,953.42):** Hurricane expanded services DCF and HUD loosens what fund can be used for that was federal declared disaster area. \$35,000.00+ remaining balance, DCF is drafting an amendment. Provide to the ESG providers equally. Chair reports Levy County had the biggest impact. Suggestion to allow Jacob to make decisions on what



affected areas needs are funding most. Will connect with United Way to ensure who best fit the needs.

**PATH funding Opportunity(\$185,733.75):** LSF solicited the COC to apply for this funding Clay County to provide direct service. Recommend we work with managing entity and PATH services. Can we sub-contract in areas like street outreach inquire about outreach to the four providing counties, Mental health street outreach. Jacob will investigate subcontracting.

**Alachua County BOCC Outreach and Public Engagement Actions:** October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss with the county and public last meeting in February 2025. Engagement with Rural Counties: Paleka police chief will become a member of the COC. Looking for expansion in this area.

**Member Comments:**

Ms. Tuck shared that the Sunrise Inn 35 units for permanent housing was purchased. Will be renovating and units would go through Coordinated Entry.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:15pm.**

**Next Meeting: Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm**