

KEYS TO HOME

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

CoC Leadership Council March 6, 2025, 3:30 PM-5:30 PM via TEAMS

Attendees

Claudia Tuck, Alachua County Community Support Services
Bea Awoniyi, Santa Fe College
Lori Slaven, Lee Conlee House
Mark Brisbane, Center for Independent Living
Amanda Nazaro, Alachua County Housing Authority

Jonathan Sanabria, VA
David Weeks, Bradford County Fire Rescue
Rachael Ryan, Family Promise
Paul Tarnowski, LSF Health Systems
Keanna Johnson, TaskForce
Rena McCann, TaskForce
Litasha White, TaskForce
Barbara Moats- TaskForce

I. **Welcome and Call to Order (Keanna Johnson)**

a. Introductions

Meeting called to order at 3:33pm. Introduction of new member CoC staff, Litasha White and Barbara (Amber) Moats. Introduction of newest Council member, David Weeks.

b. February Council Meeting Minutes

Amanda motioned to approved February minutes with the amendment “HP Committee will meet this month”. Bea seconded. Unanimous vote to approve February minutes.

II. **Committee Reports**

a. Coordinated Entry (Keanna Johnson)

Coordinated Entry Committee is working toward completing the Coordinated Entry System evaluation by June. Areas of evaluation will include referrals, income increases, successful housing placements, and rates of returns to homelessness. As part of the evaluation, we will also organize focus groups and gather feedback from individuals served through the Coordinated Entry System, as well as from Coordinated Entry access points and partners. Additionally, the Homeless Prevention Committee met in February and has approved the assessment pilot tool for homeless prevention providers. Keanna and Sarai will be working to host a training on the assessment tool with providers. The next HP committee meeting is scheduled for April.

b. Data, Performance and HMIS (Keanna Johnson)

Provider scores have improved, with Leon working closely with providers on a monthly basis to support score improvements. He addresses issues as they arise and has training sessions scheduled to further assist providers in enhancing their performance.

c. Lived Experience (Rachael Ryan)

There are no new updates this month. Committee looks to meet again in April.

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III. Collaborative Applicant Report

a. Finance Update (Rena McCann)

As of the end of January, DCF grants are 42% spent. CoC is monitoring sub-recipients' spending monthly as the grant year moves towards the end. ESG is on track to be spent down. TANF is on track to be spent down. Challenge is being monitored closely as, and some providers have already reached out for reallocations. Challenge Unsheltered spending is off to a slow start, however providers have informed CoC staff they will be able to spend down all funds.

b. Leadership Council Training and Strategy Workshop (Keanna Johnson)

Thank you to all who attended. The slide deck and materials Amanda provided will be sent out.

c. Federal and State Funding Update (Keanna Johnson)

CoC is still waiting to hear back from DCF regarding state funding. As of now the CoC hasn't received any updates regarding contracts. However, CoC has received contract for ESG Rush funds. Family Promise has been subcontracted for these funds and will be providing services to residents in Levy and Gilchrist counties, specifically to families impacted by Hurricane Helene. There is still no update on HUD awards at this time.

d. Rural County Council Appointments (Keanna Johnson)

David Weeks was appointed by the Bradford County Board of County Commission. This week, we were on the agenda for the Levy and Gilchrist County Board of County Commission meetings. We are currently waiting to hear back from them regarding their Council appointments. Leota Wilkinson is assisting us in filling the Putnam County appointment.

e. National Alliance to End Homelessness (Keanna Johnson)

Jacob and Keanna attended the conference last week in Los Angeles, CA. While there, Jacob had the opportunity to meet with the senator from Arizona. Additionally, Jacob met with representatives from Bit Focus, an HMIS vendor. We will be scheduling a follow-up meeting with them to explore the possibility of transitioning from WellSky to Bit Focus for our HMIS needs. Keanna was able to connect with a Lead Agency from San Antonio, TX and also attended a leadership workshop hosted by Iain De Jong.

f. Point-in-Time Count Update (Keanna Johnson)

Based on the report, we had a total of 441 individuals in shelters and 457 individuals unsheltered. Most of these individuals were located in Alachua, Putnam, and Bradford counties. At this time, we still don't have a confirmed date for submitting our data to HUD. We believe the PIT (Point-in-Time) reporting deadline may be pushed back as well. Typically, we are required to submit our data by the end of April, but we have not yet received any information on when the HDX system, the system used for reporting these numbers, will be open for submissions.

IV. Strategy and Needs (Keanna Johnson)

a. Vote to Approve Landlord Program Procedures

Landlord Mitigation Fund was funded in partnership with the County, the City of Gainesville, and the Gainesville Housing Authority. These funds are designed to help prevent families from entering homelessness due to damage that affects their ability to stay in their homes. Landlords can submit requests for funding to cover damages that may be putting tenants at risk of homelessness. Additionally, we have an incentive program through the Landlord Mitigation Fund aimed at encouraging landlords to accept high-risk clients. These clients may be on the by-name list and could have histories of evictions, criminal backgrounds, or other challenges. Council requests that CoC staff bring back a grievance process and determination process for the funds. Paul made a motion to accept the landlord program procedures. Mark seconded. Unanimous vote to approve landlord program procedures.

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b. Strategic Plan (Keanna Johnson)

CoC is looking to bring our strategic plan back to the board of County Commissioners when we meet with them in April. Council will need to meet to review and update the strategic plan. Keanna will send out a doodle poll to Council members to set the date for a planning meeting.

V. New/Old Business (Keanna Johnson)

a. Amended COC Policies and Documents

i. Coordinated Entry P&P

Eliminate Guiding Principle "b" on Page 10 and Attachment B.

ii. Gaps and Needs Analysis

Removal of the equity language on the BNL component and the section dedicated to Equity.

iii. Training Hub

Removal of Gender Based Violence Training and Equal Access Training.

VI. Member Comment (Keanna Johnson)

None at this time.

VII. Adjournment (Keanna Johnson)

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m. Next meeting will be held April 6, 2025.