

KEYS TO HOME

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

CoC General Membership

March 21, 2025 10:30AM-12:00PM

Location: Hybrid-CDS Behavioral Health and via TEAMS

Attendees

Sheri Godwin, LSF	Phil Mann, City of Gainesville
Lori Slaven, Lee Conlee House	John Thomas, GRACE Marketplace
Lauri Schiffbauer, St. Francis House	Shari Jones, Family Promise
Leon Upshaw, Taskforce	Kimber Tough, Southern Legal Council
Charnice Johnson, VOA SSVF	Lisa Hudson, Another Way
Sarai Cabrera, Alachua Co. Division of Social Services	Cindy Roberts, Elder Options
Rachael Ryan, Family Promise	Pat Langford, Another Way
Angela McCarty, Another Way	Richard Hatch, Three Rivers Legal Services
Brett Buell, Gainesville Opportunity Center	Major Ernie Hull, Salvation Army
Mark Watson, GRACE	Jodie Benware, Alachua County Fire Rescue
Paul Tarnowski, LSF	Mobile Integrated Health
Kaitlin Arters, Another Way	Denise Fanning, Catholic Charities Gainesville
Stella Eckles, TOSS Palatka	Claudia Tuck, Alachua Co. CSS
Litasha White, Taskforce	Matt Sparling, DCF Regional Collaboration
B. Amber Moats, Taskforce	Coordinator
Michelle Sherfield, ASO	Crystal Sorrow, Peaceful Paths
Bea Awoniyi, Santa Fe College	Malcolm Kiner, Gainesville Housing Authority
Sabrina Miller, Catholic Charities Gainesville	Georgia Mitchell, Putnam County Caring
Eric Davis, Block By Block	Coalition
Keanna Johnson, Taskforce	Andre Parchment, NHDC
Rena McCann, Taskforce	Demetra Dasher, Meridian Healthcare
	John Wisker, DCF

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I. Welcome and Call to Order (Claudia Tuck)

The meeting was called to order 10:30 AM.

a. January Meeting Minutes (Claudia Tuck)

A motion was made by Lori S. to accept the January minutes. Michelle S. seconded. Unanimous vote to approve January meeting minutes.

II. Collaborative Applicant Report

a. CoC March Financials (Rena McCann)

As of the end of January, there is a 42% remaining balance of funds for all DCF grants. Rena is keeping track of spending and reaching out to providers who are not on target with spending utilization.

- 32% of ESG funds remaining. For the month of January, 223 individuals served in emergency shelter, 15 in homeless prevention, and 30 served in rapid-rehousing.
- 29% of TANF funds remaining. For the month of January, 11 individuals in 3 household served with financial assistance, and 19 individuals in 5 households served with case management.
- 42% of Challenge funds remaining. For the month of January, 85 individuals served with housing needs, 278 served with program needs, and 68 were served with service needs.
- Challenge Unsheltered is the newest grant. Utilization rates are a little behind, but the team has reached out to providers to encourage them to maximize spending of the entire grant. For the month of January, there were 27 clients served.
- ESG RUSH is a new grant that will be added next month, increasing our DCF grants from 4 to 5.

b. CoC Staff Update (Keanna Johnson)

Litasha White will be the new CoC Program Specialist. Barbara (Amber) Moats will be the new Coordinated Entry Manager.

c. Annual Training Calendar (Keanna Johnson)

The CoC is still without any HUD technical assistance at this time. CoC staff are still waiting to hear back when TA may be available again. If TA is available again in the future, training calendar will be updated and reposted. The CoC team is meeting with the subcontractors and is following up on any training needs they may have outside of what is provided by HUD TA. Claudia suggested that we look into internal CoC partners, and possibly put together our own local CoC training calendar.

d. FY 25-26 Funding Update (Keanna Johnson)

CoC Lead Agency has received the award notice for the HUD planning, HMIS, and Coordinated Entry grants. At this time, however, there have been no contracts issued. CoC Lead Agency is still awaiting on DCF to issue grant agreements and amounts. DCF staff are working on drafting language for the contracts. They have informed that CoCs will not have to submit an RFP for funding as DCF has received an exemption from the State in regards to that process. Claudia inquired if the DCF agreement will be for the new 7 county catchment area. Keanna informed that DCF staff have noted that the new contract will be based on 7 counties, and once the new contract is drafted CoC will review and make sure that is for all 7 counties.

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III. **Committee Reports**

a. Coordinated Entry (Keanna Johnson)

CE Committee is working on several projects currently such as the implementation of the homeless prevention services into the coordinated entry system and the CE evaluation. The Homeless Prevention Committee met last month and approved the HP assessment tool. Keanna and Sarai will be working on training schedules for those who will be using the tool. CE Committee reviewed questions for focus groups for individuals who have been served in the past year through the CE system and for those who are still unhoused. Additionally, the committee will also be looking into a questionnaire for providers who serve as access points.

- BNL reporting: 394 single individuals, 13 transition aged youth and 23 families consisting of 30 adults and 54 children.

Family numbers have increased this month due to Family Promise conducting outreach in some of the rural counties to spread the word about the ESG RUSH funds.

b. Data, Performance and HMIS (Leon Upshaw)

All the organizations have shown improvement in their overall data quality scores. The long-term goal is to make sure that all providers are at a 97%. Leon is working with providers for training to make sure everyone is set up for success. System Performance Measures are due April 11, and Leon has been emailing all providers to ensure that their data is corrected and updated for the final submission.

c. Lived Experience (Rachael Ryan)

Keanna and Rachael will be working to schedule a meeting next month. We're still recruiting members to join. We're also working to schedule a meeting with Albert Townsend from National Alliance to End Homelessness within the next week or two to help us with planning for the committee.

IV. **Council Member Updates (Keanna Johnson)**

The Bradford County Board of County Commission appointed Lieutenant David Weeks with Bradford County Fire Rescue to fill the Bradford County seat. We are working with Levy and Gilchrist County to get those appointed seats filled. Leota Wilkerson is also working to assist with filling the Putman County seat.

V. **Vote to Approve Governance Charter (Keanna Johnson)**

Changes to the charter: adding Leadership Council seats for healthcare and legal, and adding the two new counties that will be included in our upcoming DCF contract (Dixie and Union). Charter was sent out to the membership for review prior to this meeting. Amendment to the charter today included language around policies for Victim Service Providers that are included in the Coordinated Entry Manual. All CoC members in good standing were able to vote. Charter was approved with 15 members voting yes, and 8 members with no response.

VI. **Member Spotlight - Released Re-Entry (Leigh Scott)**

Presented by Leigh Scott, Community Outreach Director for Released Re-Entry. This is a non-profit that provides services to those who have been released back into the community from being incarcerated, and additionally provides supports to those who are also incarcerated. Since October, the program has served 180 total participants. 63 of those

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participants did not have housing at the time. Leigh states he currently has about 15 participants on his caseload that are currently housed at GRACE.

VII. Member Comment (Claudia Tuck)

- Bea A. informed about legislation that is providing an opportunity for those who are homeless or who are experiencing housing insecurity to be able to attend college without having to pay fees and tuition. She noted that she would be looking into that legislation and what other are doing across the country and bringing it back to see how we can support and serve those locally.
- J.T. noted that GRACE has launched a night-by-night shelter program. It is first come, first serve. There are 30 beds, and clients can sign up to obtain a bed. The operation hours are from 7pm to 7am.
- Brett Buell shared that Gainesville Opportunity Center is hosting its Annual Bike Day on April 5th at First Magnitude Brewing Company. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The ride will start at 9 a.m. Agency Partners are invited to attend and set up a table at no cost.
- Andre with NHDC announced that he has a three-bedroom rental unit available.

VIII. Adjournment (Claudia Tuck)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am by Claudia. The next meeting will be held May 16, 2025.