



COC General Membership Meeting
May 16, 2025, 10:30AM-12:00PM via HYBRID

Attendees

- | | |
|--|---|
| Keanna Johnson, Taskforce | Lisa Hudson, Another Way, Inc |
| Rena McCann, Taskforce | Lauri Schiffbauer-Black, SF House |
| Leon Upshaw, Taskforce | Tanaka Gates, Merdian |
| B. Amber Moats, Taskforce | Lori Slaven, Lee Conlee House |
| Andre Parchment, NHDC | Demetra Dash, Merdian |
| Phillip Mann, City of Gainesville | Paul Tarnowski, Lutheran Services of Florida |
| Pam Worsham, Alachua County Public School | Litasha White, Taskforce |
| Phil Kabler, CDS | Diana Phillips, Catholic Charities Putnam |
| Jeanna White, Peaceful Paths | Bea Awoniyi, Santa Fe College |
| Claudia Tuck, Alachua County BOCC | John Whisker, DCF |
| Jenna White, Peaceful Paths | Matt Sparling, DCF |
| Tori Robinson, Coordinated Entry VA | Marlon Gayle, BOCC |
| Charnice Johnson, VOAF SSVF | Michelle Sherfield, ACSO |
| Sabrina Miller, Catholic Charities Gainesville | Cindy Roberts, office of access and eligibility |
| Jodie Benware, Alachua County Fire Rescue | Athena Ross, VOA SSVF GNV |
| Rachael Ryan, Family Promise | Kristi Gillis, DCF |
| Sarai Cabrera, Alachua County Social Services | Sherry Goodwin, LSF health Systems |
| Tara Franks, Catholic Charities Putnam | Denise Fanning, Catholic Charities Gainesville |

I. Welcome and Call to Order (Claudia Tuck)

The meeting was called to order at 10:33am.

a. March Meeting Minutes

Lori made a motion to approve March meeting minutes. Kristi seconded. Unanimous vote to approve minutes.

II. Member Spotlight- Neighborhood Housing and Development Corporation (Andre Parchment)

Neighborhood Housing Development Corporation (NHDC) is a 40-year-old organization based in Alachua County, serving a nine-county region stretching from Marion to Clay County. NHDC focuses on five core pillars: new construction, rehabilitation, NHDC Cares (social services), financial education, and participation in the SHIP program. In the area of new construction, NHDC builds affordable homes typically priced below market rate, targeting households at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The organization is one of three agencies in Alachua County that administer the SHIP program, which provides funding for critical home repairs such as roof replacement and structural improvements for eligible residents.

NHDC Cares, the social services arm of the organization, plays an active role in the Continuum of Care (CoC) and currently manages the Challenge Grant in both Alachua and Marion Counties. A significant strength of NHDC lies in its commitment to financial education. With three HUD-certified housing counselors on staff, the organization provides credible and

KEYS TO HOME

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

impactful one-on-one counseling, including homebuyer readiness and long-term financial planning. NHDC sees financial literacy as a key area for collaboration with wraparound service partners and believes this focus can drive long-term community stability and success.

III. Collaborative Application Report

a. March Financials (Rena McCann)

As of now, 25% of the fiscal year remains, with all grants set to end on June 30th. The CoC is actively monitoring each agency's spending and has reached out to those that have not yet met the 25% utilization threshold. In the ESG and Emergency Shelter categories, deliverables are being exceeded. A total of 224 individuals have been served, 19 through prevention and 43 through rapid rehousing. TANF grant performance is strong, with both participating agencies meeting their required utilization levels. Deliverables for TANF include 14 individuals and 4 households receiving financial assistance, and 22 individuals and 6 households receiving case management services. The Challenge Grant is also being closely tracked. Agencies falling below the 25% spending threshold have been contacted. Deliverables under this grant are being exceeded as well, with 76 individuals housed, 280 served through the program, and 62 receiving services. Agencies supporting unsheltered populations are actively utilizing funds, and any that are underutilizing have also been addressed. Grace remains at 100% utilization and has confirmed that they will spend the remainder of their grant by the end of May. Regarding ESG Rush funds, Family Promise reported spending approximately \$16,000 in April.

b. CoC Leadership Council Update (Keanna Johnson)

The CoC Leadership Council has two new members. Donna Creamer was appointed by the Gilchrist BOCC. Marlon Gayle was appointed by the Levy BOCC.

c. CoC Committees Updates (Keanna Johnson)

The Housing Action Committee, chaired by Michelle Sherfield, will meet every other month on the second Wednesday, with the next meeting scheduled for July 9, 2025, at 10:00AM. The Performance Committee, now chaired by Charlie Whisk meets monthly on the second Friday; the next meeting is set for June 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM. Lastly, the Outreach Point-in-Time Committee, chaired by Dr. Bea Awoniyi, is working to re-establish regular meetings as outreach efforts continue throughout the year. This committee meets every other month on the second Thursday, with the next meeting scheduled for July 10, 2025, at 9:00AM. If you would like to join any of these committees, please reach out via email to the keystohome email.

d. Point-in-Time Presentation (Leon Upshaw)

2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count – Summary Overview

Counties Covered: Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Putnam, and Union counties.

Five-Year Comparison – Unsheltered Count (2021–2025)

- **Trend:** Increase from 2021 to 2023, dip in 2024, followed by another increase in 2025.
- **Observation:** 2025 reflects a noticeable increase, likely due to more comprehensive survey efforts and expanded outreach to all areas.

KEYS TO HOME

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Five-Year Comparison – Sheltered Count (2021–2025)

- **Trend:** 2022 and 2023 remained consistent; sharp increase noted in 2025.
- **Observation:** Mirrors unsheltered trends, suggesting an overall rise in need or improved count methodology.

Discussion Points:

- PIT counts typically underrepresent the homeless population; 2025 efforts emphasized broader coverage and survey volume.
- Comparison with System Performance Measure 3.2:
 - FY2024: 1,600 unduplicated individuals in shelter.
 - FY2025 (so far): 1,000 individuals, aligning more closely with PIT count – suggesting more accurate representation this year.

2025 PIT Results: Individuals and Families

- **Total:** 721 individuals and 95 families counted.
- **Undetermined:** 71 respondents (mostly unsheltered) withheld household info. This is being reviewed with DCF to determine if these will be categorized or excluded.

Survey Efforts:

- **Total Surveys:** 649
 - **Completed Surveys:** 332
 - **Duplicates Removed:** 192 (via manual review and Counting US app deduplication)
 - **Observations (non-interview counts):** 119
 - **Reunification Surveys:** 6 (indicating low need, possibly met throughout the year)

2025 PIT by County – Sheltered & Unsheltered

- **Alachua:** 353 unsheltered | 393 sheltered
- **Bradford:** 17 unsheltered
- **Dixie:** 2 unsheltered (no shelter data collected)
- **Gilchrist:** 0
- **Levy:** 16 unsheltered | 22 sheltered
- **Putnam:** 63 unsheltered | 13 sheltered

2025 Subpopulations – Part 1

- **Chronically Homeless:** 210
- **Veterans:** 128 (comparison to prior years pending)

KEYS TO HOME

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

- **HIV/AIDS:** 5
- **Domestic Violence Survivors:** 43
- **Substance Use Disorders:** 122
- **Severe Mental Illness:** 157

IV. Committee Reports

a. Coordinated Entry (B. Amber Moats)

We are continuing progress toward completing the Coordinated Entry evaluation, which remains on track for June. Efforts are also ongoing to strengthen collaboration with jails, hospitals, and local school boards. As a reminder, the Homeless Prevention Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 10:00 AM. Additionally, the current By-Name List includes 385 single adults, 15 transition-age youth, and 12 families, which consist of 20 adults and 33 children.

b. Data, Performance and HMIS (Leon Upshaw)

Catholic Charities Gainesville achieved a strong performance with 99.4% in HUD Universal Data Elements and 74.9% in assessments. Catholic Charities Putnam excelled with 100% in data elements, 98.9% in assessments, and 99.6% in verification, resulting in an impressive overall score of 99.5%. GRACE also performed well, scoring 100% in data elements, 93.5% in assessments, and 92.4% in verification for a total score of 95.3%. Family Promise reported 96.3% in data elements, 89.6% in assessments, and 92.2% in verification, achieving an overall score of 92.7%. NHDC reached the 97% benchmark with 100% in data elements, 91.9% in assessments, and 99.2% in verification. St. Francis earned a 95% overall score, with perfect data elements, 90.8% in assessments, and 94.2% in verification. Overall, providers are doing an excellent job improving scores and addressing data errors, with a continued focus on reaching the 97% goal and resolving system-wide data quality issues for the fiscal year.

i. HMIS Vendor Transition

The team is currently exploring alternative HMIS providers, specifically looking into Bitfocus and Ecovia, to compare features and costs against the current system, WellSky. This consideration stems largely from user feedback, particularly regarding usability issues raised during the recent lunch and Learn session. WellSky's user interface is outdated and limits the ability to resolve issues efficiently, often requiring a time-consuming support chain. In contrast, Bitfocus and Ecovia offer more modern, user-friendly interfaces and empower both system admins and agencies to resolve many issues independently. These systems also require complete data entry before progressing (e.g., for entry/exits), helping prevent incomplete records. Additionally, both alternatives include built-in tools for ROI management and coordinated entry with referral rankings, streamlining processes and reducing reliance on paper documentation. A comparative feature and cost chart is currently in development and will be shared at the next Council meeting. Questions and feedback on the potential transition are welcomed.

c. Lived Experience (Rachel Ryan)

Rachel and Keanna met with Albert Townsend from the National Alliance to End Homelessness to discuss the formation of a new committee. During the conversation, Mr. Townsend emphasized that building the committee involves more than just identifying interested members. As a result, a stabilization assessment was completed with his guidance; however, the report has not yet been received. Efforts are ongoing to have Mr. Townsend attend a future Leadership Council meeting. An initial meeting with interested committee members has taken place, and a follow-up meeting is scheduled

KEYS TO HOME

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

for June. Collaboration with Mr. Townsend will continue to ensure the committee is developed effectively and in alignment with best practices.

d. Outreach (Bea Awoniyi)

The committee recently met to discuss outreach processes and procedures, with a focus on ensuring the safety of those conducting outreach. Work is underway to develop a comprehensive policy and procedure manual. These materials are currently being reviewed and compiled, and proposed recommendations will be presented at the next committee meeting. Additionally, a co-chair is being sought by the committee. Anyone interested in serving in this role is encouraged to reach out.

V. Member Comment (Claudia Tuck)

The next General Membership meeting will be held on July 18th at the Goodwill Career Center in Palatka, FL, as part of an effort to engage more directly with Putnam County. Members are encouraged to attend in person, if possible, though the meeting will still be accessible via Teams for those unable to travel. The meeting will feature a spotlight from two funded agencies highlighting the work they are doing in Putnam County. The calendar invite will be updated accordingly. Alachua County has purchased three motels in recent years, two of which are currently under renovation to be converted into permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing units. Both properties are now under contract and actively undergoing construction. Community members can observe the progress along SW 13th Street, where visible renovation work is underway.

VI. Adjournment (Claudia Tuck)

The meeting adjourned at 11:20a.