

ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Daly, Chair; Tara Haley, Vice Chair; Chip Cover; Kathleen Patneau; Howard Hitzel; Shannon Nazworth

MEMBERS ABSENT: None (one vacancy)

STAFF PRESENT: Shawna Novak, Director, Health & Human Services; Tracy Dillon, Manager, Social Services; Katrina Tanner, Contract Coordinator, Social Services; Mary Garcia, Administrative Coordinator, Social Services

BCC LIASON: Commissioner Krista Joseph – Sent regrets
Sarah Taylor – Assistant County Administrator – Via Zoom

VISITORS: In Person – Casey Bridges; Anita Daniel
Via Zoom – Austin Burns; Mike Henzy; Michael Hartman; Emma Hayes; Debi Redding; Jacob Manning; Judi Dembowski; Kelly Franklin; Paige Stanton; Patti Greenough; Teresa Matheny; Fred Baker; Sandi Jackson

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Quorum was present.

MINUTES – October, 2022 (no November or December meetings): Chip Cover **motioned** to approve the October, 2022, general meeting minutes. Howard Hitzel seconded the motion; minutes **approved unanimously** by the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER JOSEPH: Commissioner Krista Joseph was unable to attend and sent her regrets.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Continuum of Care (CoC) Update:** Austin Burns stated they are busy preparing for the Point in Time Count, which will take place on January 26th and he said the result of the count will be shared at the April 12th annual meeting. Mr. Burns went on to say the CoC is also in its reporting cycle, with the Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) and system performance measures due to HUD this month.
- b) **Update from San Marcos Heights & Victoria Crossing Multi-Family Developments:** Mike Henzy reported a ribbon cutting was held at San Marcos Heights in early December and SPM, the property management company, is continuing to lease units as the buildings become available. Michael Hartman reported Victoria Crossing is 75% complete but they have run into an electrical supply issue that has caused a delay in getting air conditioners running. Mr. Hartman stated their property management company is currently contacting the 500 individuals on the waiting list to see if they still need housing and they will be actively signing up qualified residents beginning in February. Mr. Hartman went

on to say the first building will be ready in May, buildings two and three in June, and the last building will be complete in July.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Presentation: Gaps Analysis – Austin Burns, CareConnect:** Mr. Burns explained the St. Johns County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts an annual gaps analysis/needs assessment of homeless needs and services available within the geographic area. Mr. Burns stated the goals are to identify any gaps and areas of growth within services and the system running within the CoC, and to provide actionable take-aways for members of the lead agency, the board, and the community about the gaps in the system and services within the CoC. Mr. Burns stated the information will be used to set performance standards and goals with the intention that homelessness is rare, brief and one time in St. Johns County. Mr. Burns reviewed the methodology for the report, the demographic information of those served by the CoC between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022, and the findings. There was discussion regarding permanent supportive housing, as well as homeless sheltering. A copy of this presentation is available in the meeting folder.
- b) **Vacancies Discussion:** Tara Haley stated few applications have been received to date that satisfy the “human service professional” vacancy and she said that this position and the “at large” position have been reposted. Ms. Garcia stated the reposting will close in time for application review and recommendations at the February general meeting.
- c) **2023 Meeting Dates:** A list of all meeting dates, executive and general, was distributed to board members. Shannon Nazworth **motioned** to approve the dates as presented. Chip Cover seconded the motion; minutes **approved unanimously** by the Council.

REPORT FROM SARAH TAYLOR, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Sarah Taylor did not have anything to report on behalf of County Administration at this time.

FUNDED AGENCY UPDATES:

Early Learning Coalition (ELC): Teresa Matheny reported there is currently no waiting list and she stated parents are typically receiving a response in a week to 10 days after applying online. Ms. Matheny said child care providers are being granted ARPA funding in order to assist with current staffing issues.

Council on Aging (COA): No representative in attendance.

Epic Behavioral Healthcare: Patti Greenough reported Epic has received state funding for a mobile response unit for adults aged 26 and older, and she stated they are working with St. Augustine Youth Services, which provides this service to youth and young adult persons up to the age of 25. Ms. Greenough said they are in the process of hiring staff for this new service. Ms. Greenough went on to say Epic has also received ARPA funds that will be dedicated to expanding staff for outpatient mental health treatment.

Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic: No representative in attendance.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS): Emma Hayes reported the Mobile Response Team is in their 9th fiscal year and she said 491 children/families were served in the last fiscal year. Ms. Hayes reported SAYS continues to divert 80% of Baker Acts.

Betty Griffin Center (BGC): Kelly Franklin reported 76 families, both those in shelter and through outreach, were “adopted out” in December so they were able to enjoy gifts for the holiday thanks to generous donors.

Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHC): Debi Redding said their families enjoyed the holidays as they were all “adopted out” thanks to donors. Ms. Redding reported they were granted \$200,000 to renovate nine of their 100 year old homes and five are complete at this time. Ms. Redding said they expect to be done with renovations by the end of 2023, leaving them a total of 20 permanent houses and 3 transitional houses. Ms. Redding also shared details of an upcoming oyster roast fundraiser, which will be held in late February.

St. Francis House (SFH): Judi Dembowski said this is the first year all three of their programs have been funded through the County’s independent agency funding cycle and she expressed her appreciation. Ms. Dembowski said they’ve also received a grant to refurbish one of their family shelter buildings which will increase the number of beds from 16 to 39. Ms. Dembowski said they will also be adding 8-10 adult male beds as she stated that is where the need is greatest. Finally, Ms. Dembowski stated they’ve received funding from several sources to add additional street outreach workers and also to add a veterans-specific outreach coordinator, stating these additions will bring the street outreach team from five staff members to nine.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Homeless Advocacy Council: No representative in attendance.

SMA Healthcare: Sandi Jackson stated there has been an uptick in the number of applications they are receiving and she said she hopes it’s indicative of an improvement in the staffing issues they have been experiencing.

Department of Health: No representative in attendance.

Flagler Health ±: Paige Stanton reported the Care Center hopes to begin providing services 24 hours per day in the late spring. Ms. Stanton also reported they continue to work on statewide expansion of the BRAVE program, thanks to funding received in June. Ms. Stanton stated the BRAVE program connected over 2,000 students to behavioral health services in 2022.

Health & Human Services Department (HHS): Shawna Novak reported the Housing Department has been working on gathering information requested by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) regarding the formation of a public housing authority. Ms. Novak said this information will be presented to the BoCC on January 17th. Ms. Novak stated Health & Human Services worked with Growth Management on an amendment to the Land Development Code that would enable deferment of impact fees for affordable housing and she stated this was approved and finalized at the beginning of December. Ms. Novak also reported the Northeast Florida Regional Council awarded St. Johns County with an award for the San Marcos Heights and Victoria Crossing affordable multi-family developments. Ms. Novak said she just received a report as it relates to the Community Based Care (CBC) division of Health & Human Services and she explained a baseline report is due to the legislature on February 1, 2023, regarding the new funding received by the CBC July 1st. Ms. Novak stated St. John’s CBC ranks first in the state in four of the seven measures, second in another, and mid-range in the other two measures.

Faith Based Community: No representative in attendance.

Public Safety: No representative in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, January 19th, at 3:30 p.m., via conference line 904-209-6136.

Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 2nd, at 4pm, in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and by Zoom

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.