

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
October 20, 2022

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Shannon Nazworth; (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 Sarah Arnold – Sent regrets  
Sarah Taylor – Assistant County Administrator – Via Zoom

**VISITORS:** In Person – Shane Lockwood, Health Officer & Administrator, Department of Health  
Via Zoom – Dawn Bell; Brian Robinson; Patti Greenough; Judi Dembowski; Michelle Colee; Emma Hayes;

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Quorum was present.

**MINUTES – August, 2022 (no September meeting):** Tara Haley **motioned** to approve the August, 2022, general meeting minutes. Kathleen Patneau seconded the motion; minutes **approved unanimously** by the Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER ARNOLD:** Commissioner Sarah Arnold sent regrets and Sarah Taylor gave a report in her absence. Ms. Taylor shared the news of Commissioner Waldron's untimely passing on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Taylor also stated the County has had three firefighter deaths recently and she stated senior County staff members had just come from one of those funerals. Tara Haley took a moment to express her appreciation for Commissioner Arnold's presence in the community in the wake of hurricane Ian and also for her support of mental health services for first responders.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) **Continuum of Care (CoC) Update:** Lindsey Rodea reported that Anita Daniel has been hired as the new CoC lead and she will begin her new position in early November. Ms. Rodea went on to say the CoC's focus most recently has been on two grant opportunities totaling \$300,000. Ms. Rodea said they will now turn their attention to the Point in Time Count, which will occur over the last 10 days of January, 2023.
- b) **Update from San Marcos Heights & Victoria Crossing Multi-Family Developments:** Michael Hartman, Turnstone Development, reported Victoria Crossing had minimal damage from hurricane Ian and he said the 3 days they lost on construction time will be made up. Mr. Hartman said they expect to have a Certificate of Occupancy on the clubhouse in January. Mr. Hartman stated buildings one and two are expected to be completed in February and buildings three and four in March. Mr. Hartman said pre-leasing has begun and as of

October 15<sup>th</sup>, there have been 491 registered applications submitted for 96 available units. Michael Henzy, Smith & Henzy Affordable Group, reported they have received Temporary Certificates of Occupancy (TCO) for the San Marcos Heights clubhouse and for the first two completed buildings, and they hope to have the TCO for the remaining two buildings at the end of October. Mr. Henzy said the first building's 24 units are 100% leased and the second building is 50% leased. Mr. Henzy said they expect to have a ribbon cutting ceremony in the first quarter of 2023.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Meeting Dates:** The matter of switching the executive meeting date and the general meeting date was revisited. Charles Daly stated this would mean the general meeting would take place on the first Thursday of each month, at 4pm, and the executive meeting would occur on the third Thursday of each month, at 3:30pm. There was brief discussion and all Council members present were amenable to this change. Tara Haley **motioned** to approve moving general meetings to the first Thursday of each month and executive meetings to the third Thursday of each month. Chip Cover seconded the motion; meeting date changes **approved unanimously** by the Council. As the next general meeting would occur on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, just two weeks after this meeting, the decision was made to cancel November's general meeting. The next meeting would be the executive or agenda setting meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- b) **Officer Elections:** There was brief discussion regarding the two officer positions. Charles Daly motioned to nominate Tara Haley to serve as Chair; there were no other nominations and no other Council members expressed interest in serving as an officer at this time. Chip Cover seconded the motion; nomination of Tara Haley to serve as Chair **approved unanimously** by the Council. Tara Haley motioned to nominate Charles Daly to serve as Vice Chair; there were no other nominations and no other Council members expressed interest in serving as an officer at this time. Chip Cover seconded the motion; nomination of Charles Daly to serve as Vice Chair **approved unanimously** by the Council.
- c) **Vacancies: Application Review and Discussion:** All applications were sent to Council members in advance of this meeting. Mr. Daly explained there is one vacancy for an "at large" member and one vacancy for a "human service professional". Mr. Daly went on to say that very few applications were received in total from this posting and the decision was made at the October 6<sup>th</sup> executive meeting to post the vacancy for an additional 30 days. Ms. Garcia stated that applications would be available in plenty of time to be reviewed for the December 1<sup>st</sup> general meeting and she said she would forward those to all Council members once the additional vacancy posting expires in early November.

**REPORT FROM SARAH TAYLOR, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:** Sarah Taylor was in attendance but gave her report in conjunction with her report for Commissioner Arnold.

### **FUNDED AGENCY UPDATES:**

**Early Learning Coalition (ELC):** Dawn Bell said she had nothing new to report but that they continue to face challenges with hiring teachers. Ms. Bell said some of their centers are operating at 50% capacity and that is solely due to staffing issues.

**Council on Aging (COA):** Brian Robinson reported their centers are open and their programs in operation and he said all is going well.

**Epic Behavioral Healthcare:** Patti Greenough reported Epic won a \$2 million, five year grant to expand the drug court program. Ms. Greenough stated this will allow the addition of an intensive outpatient program, the hiring of peer recovery specialists and a psychiatric services nurse practitioner.

**Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic:** No representative in attendance.

**St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS):** Emma Hayes said their staff were busy during hurricane Ian as they were checking on families pre-storm, staffing the shelter during the storm, and then assisting with post storm clean up.

**Betty Griffin Center (BGC):** Kelly Franklin reported October is Domestic Violence month and she said they have been very busy with outreach. Ms. Franklin stated they are almost fully staffed.

**Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHC):** Debi Redding reported they have been renovating nine of their older homes and those will become permanent housing when complete. 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 said they have also been granted approval by the PZA to change zoning on 1.6 acres of land that they would like to use to build twenty additional homes and this matter will go before the City for approval in the near future.

**St. Francis House (SFH):** Judi Dembowski sent four staff members to the shelter during hurricane Ian and she said there was some damage downtown at their facility. Ms. Dembowski said they have had to reduce day services as they are still working on drying out the carpeting and replacing some flooring and sheetrock.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

**Homeless Advocacy Council:** No representative in attendance.

**SMA Healthcare:** No representative in attendance.

**Department of Health:** Shane Lockwood introduced himself as Health Officer and Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County. Shawna Novak asked Mr. Lockwood about the status of the Community Health Assessment and Mr. Lockwood said he would provide an update at the next meeting.

**Flagler Health +:** Paige Stanton spoke about the new CARE Center (Crisis Assessment Intervention and Referral). Ms. Stanton stated it is an outpatient mental health drop-in service center imbedded in the hospital. Ms. Stanton went on to say Flagler Health + will hold a job fair at the hospital campus on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Stanton also reported Donna Wagner has been named new chief clinical officer.

**Health & Human Services Department (HHS):** Shawna Novak expressed great appreciation for the agencies that staffed the shelter during hurricane Ian and she said she heard great praise with regard to how smoothly things went from both the school and the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Novak stated the independent agency funding contracts went before the Board of County Commissioners on October 4<sup>th</sup> and were then sent out to the respective agencies for signature. Ms. Novak went on to say that DCF has identified St. Johns County as a tier II affected community in the wake of hurricane Ian. As such, Ms. Novak stated, there will be a disaster SNAP program initiated. Ms. Novak said DCF has opened pre-registration for those that were impacted by the storm with power loss or through

disruption of their employment. Ms. Novak said there will be an on-site event in St. Johns County that will include Flagler County residents but the location has not yet been announced. Ms. Novak reviewed upcoming events to honor November as Adoption month and she spoke about a resolution at the November 1<sup>st</sup> County Commission meeting and an adoption event for families that will be held at Solomon Calhoun Center on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Finally, Ms. Novak stated she and Joe Cone have been working on finding a way to assist Ability Housing with impact fees for a new affordable housing project in West Augustine. Ms. Novak stated Ability Housing was awarded funding by Florida Housing Finance Corporation but since the time of their proposal, building and lending costs have risen significantly. Ms. Novak stated she and Mr. Cone are working with Growth Management on an amendment to the Land Development Code that would enable deferment of impact fees for Ability Housing and this matter will go before the PZA on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and then to the Board of County Commissioners on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Novak stated this project would bring an additional 92 affordable units to the community and she said all units are for tenants at 60% of the Area Median Income or lower.

**Faith Based Community:** No representative in attendance.

**Public Safety:** No representative in attendance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Executive Meeting:** Thursday, November 17th, at 3:30 p.m., via conference line 904-209-6136.

**Regular Meeting:** Thursday, December 1st, at 4pm, in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and by Zoom

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.