

ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

BCC LIASON: Commissioner Krista Joseph – District 4
Sarah Taylor – Assistant County Administrator

VISITORS: In Person – Shane Lockwood
Via Zoom – Anita Daniel; Dawn Bell; Judi Dembowski; Patti Greenough; Michelle Collee; Michael Hartman; Debi Redding; Emma Hayes; Fred Baker; Brian Robinson; Chynequa King; Kelly Franklin; Sandi Jackson; Nancy Russo

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Quorum was present.

MINUTES – March, 2023: Chip Cover **motioned** to approve the March, 2023, general meeting minutes with one correction to spelling. Shannon Nazworth seconded the motion; minutes with correction **approved unanimously** by the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER JOSEPH: Commissioner Krista Joseph talked about her visit to Epic-Cure and she shared photos taken that day. Commissioner Joseph shared Epic-Cure's mission to eliminate food waste and hunger through food rescue and distribution and she commended executive and managing directors Sunny and Ken Mulford, and all volunteers involved with the operation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Continuum of Care (CoC) Update:** Anita Daniel reported the HUD CoC program funding came through with an increase. Ms. Daniel said they are currently working on new grant opportunities, such as ESG CV3 and ESG Rush, with funding of approximately \$143,000 and \$168,000, respectively. Ms. Daniel also stated the ESG and ESG-CV3 RFP will be released soon at an RFI meeting. Ms. Daniel said the proposal will be reviewed at that meeting and there will be a question and answer session. Finally, Ms. Daniel gave a reminder that the annual CoC meeting will take place on April 12th at the HHS of SJC building.
- b) **Update from San Marcos Heights & Victoria Crossing Multi-Family Developments:** Michael Hartman, Turnstone Development, reported the Victoria Crossing project is 86% complete but he said they are still running into issues with obtaining electronic switching gear. Mr. Hartman said they expect to

have building one completed within the next two weeks but they are waiting for water and sewer hook-ups at this point. With this delay, Mr. Hartman said he anticipates the first 48 units being ready for occupancy by June 1st, with blocks of remaining units ready at steady intervals through the rest of June and July. Mr. Hartman said the office in the community clubhouse that has been designated for Health & Human Services is expected to be ready for occupancy on May 31st, with furniture arriving the first week in May. Staff with SPM, the property management company for San Marcos Heights, were unavailable for this meeting but did report the property is 83% occupied.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **New Member Welcome:** Chair Tara Haley welcomed new member, Leslie Barstow, and also returning member Shannon Nazworth, who will be serving an additional term.

- b) **BRAVE Program (Be Resilient and Voice Emotions):** Jennifer Wills gave a brief history on the program and explained that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act requires that the referral of a youth to time of intake must be within 15 days and services must begin within 30 days of referral. Ms. Wills said the school will contact the family and a BRAVE navigator with regard to the identified youth's behavioral health concerns and the navigator will contact the family within 48 hours. Ms. Wills stated the navigator breaks down all barriers to care by working with the family throughout the process of being referred to a behavioral health care provider that accepts BRAVE's referrals. Ms. Wills said this same navigator continues to connect with the family weekly through 12 appointments for care. Ms. Wills stated that during the assessment, the navigator will address eligibility, insurance, and funding. Ms. Wills said that the program's regional managers meet bi-monthly with all providers in order to keep abreast of waitlists and current capacity. Ms. Wills stated the level of engagement went from 30% to 90% in BRAVE's first year of existence in the county. Ms. Wills said there has been a 157% increase in the number of students engaging with a behavioral health provider, a 208% increase in the number of students referred for services, and a 106% increase in appointments attended since the advent of BRAVE in 2019. Ms. Wills stated that with expanded funding from HB 3517, the BRAVE program is looking to move into eleven other Florida counties.

Ms. Wills went on to talk about the BRAVE summit, held at the amphitheater in March, which she said was a tremendous success, with approximately 1,000 attendees. Ms. Wills said there was also a parent, caregiver, and guardian event held at the same time and it was hosted by the Elks Lodge right next door to the amphitheater, making it convenient to attend after dropping children off at the summit.

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): Dawn Bell said they continue to focus on using ARPA funding to staff childcare centers which continue to be short-staffed.

Council on Aging (COA): Brian Robinson said the County has provided new plumbing at the Al Wilkie Senior Center in Hastings and this has improved the water quality a great deal. Mr. Robinson also stated they will be holding two lunches in May to celebrate anyone who is 95 or older; one luncheon will be held at Riverhouse on May 4th, and the other on May 18th at their Ponte Vedra location.

Epic Behavioral Healthcare: Patti Greenough reported that as part of the federal grant they've received to expand portions of the drug court program, they've hired a new staff member to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Ms. Greenough said this individual will work with those in the jail that are experiencing addiction issues in order to encourage them to join the drug court program. Ms. Greenough said Epic has partnered with the State Attorney's office on a program that targets individuals that continue to reoffend with minor misdemeanors. Ms. Greenough said the program will offer treatment rather than jail time. Finally, Ms. Greenough said that at the suggestion of the Public Safety Coordinating Council, Epic has submitted a one year planning grant for a mental health court. Ms. Greenough said the proposal was submitted last week.

Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic: Chynequa King said they are positioning themselves for a grant opportunity for a point-of-care lab that would offer real time results and treatment for patients. Ms. King said there have been issues with patients being referred out and not keeping those appointments after their initial visit and this would help to alleviate that problem.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS): Emma Hayes reported SAYS held their annual "Party for Prevention" and she thanked all community partners that collaborated on the event. Ms. Hayes stated their MRT Team did 45 screenings last month with a 91% Baker Act diversion rate.

Betty Griffin Center (BGC): Kelly Franklin reported BGC took part in the BRAVE summit in March. Ms. Franklin said she and her staff were also present for the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners on April 4th.

Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHC): Debi Redding reported five of their 100 year old homes have been renovated, with three left to be completed, and she said they are getting a lot of assistance from the Northeast Florida Builder's Association on those renovations. Ms. Redding stated that at this time, there are 50 people living in their 13 permanent housing homes and she said there are five families working with realtors right now to qualify to purchase homes.

St. Francis House (SFH): Judi Dembowski reported they have had 31 youth come to Port in the Storm in the last quarter and she said several have recently found employment and one joined the military. Ms. Dembowski also said they have expanded their street outreach team and added a veteran peer support specialist, as well as a youth street outreach team member. Ms. Dembowski said they have been focusing on downtown and the chronically homeless and she said one of their greatest challenges is those with addiction issues.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Homeless Advocacy Council: No representative in attendance.

SMA Healthcare: Sandi Jackson did not have anything to report at this time.

Department of Health: Shane Lockwood said they have tripled the number of participants in their WIC Program, which has been their prime focus recently.

Flagler Health +: Anita Daniel did not have anything to report at this time.

Health & Human Services Department (HHS): Shawna Novak reported there was a very large turnout for the Child Abuse Prevention month proclamation at the County Commission meeting on

April 4th. Ms. Novak stated May is Foster Parent Appreciation month and there will be a proclamation for that, as well. Ms. Novak went on to say the County's budget workshops will be held May 22 – May 24 and HHS is scheduled for the 23rd from 1pm-2pm. Ms. Novak said independent agency funding will remain flat this year. Ms. Novak reported that Senate Bill 102 has been signed by the governor and she said it is the largest housing appropriation ever, with a 39 page bill analysis. Ms. Novak said the County is reviewing to see how it will apply locally and which departments will be responsible for the different elements. Ms. Novak said the Growth Management Department will have an item related to the Bill on the next County Commission meeting agenda.

Faith Based Community: No representative in attendance.

Public Safety: Sgt. Manning sent his regrets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, April 20th, at 3:30 p.m., in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.