

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
June 1, 2023

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Shannon Nazworth

**STAFF PRESENT:** Shawna Novak, Director, Health & Human Services & CEO of Family Integrity Program; Katrina Tanner, Contract Coordinator, Social Services; Mary Garcia, Administrative Coordinator, Social Services

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

**VISITORS:** In Person – Debi Redding, Donna Walsh, Shane Lockwood  
Via Zoom – Amanda Callahan; Anita Daniel; Dawn Bell; Judi Dembowski; Patti Greenough; Kelly Franklin; Chynequa King; Michael Hartman; Fred Baker; Brian Robinson; Paige Stanton

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

**MINUTES – April, 2023:** Chip Cover **motioned** to approve the May, 2023, general meeting minutes. Howard Hitzel seconded the motion; minutes **approved unanimously** by the Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER JOSEPH:** Commissioner Joseph spoke about budget workshops which occurred the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup> and she said she enjoyed being part of them for the first time. Commissioner Joseph said the budget remains fairly flat this year with the exception of some new full time positions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) **Continuum of Care (CoC) Update:** Anita Daniel reported she is not yet able to report on the awardees for the RFPs for ESG and ESG-CV3 funds but she said she hopes to be able to do so at the July meeting.
- b) **Update from Victoria Crossing Multi-Family Development:** Michael Hartman reported the project is 96% complete, with all paving finished, perimeter fencing up, and security gates installed. Mr. Hartman said that though they are still having issues with electrical supplies, building one is completed and energized. Mr. Hartman said electrical switching gear has just been received for building two and electric meters have been installed. Mr. Hartman said they are in the process of energizing all of those units and once complete, carpet installation will follow. Mr. Hartman said residents will be moved in to these buildings just as soon as they have water and sewer approval from the County and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which they hope to have by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hartman went on to say they are still waiting for electrical switching gear,

which was ordered in February, 2022, for buildings three and four. Mr. Hartman said there are currently 45 applications being processed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Emergency Services Homeless Coalition – Debi Redding:** Ms. Redding thanked the Advisory Council and the County for their support and funding for permanent housing. Ms. Redding said that due to the loss of funding from HUD for transitional housing, they have moved more to permanent housing with supportive services, and she said when they move families into permanent housing with a signed lease, most are able to sustain the household. Ms. Redding said that families are required to get utilities put in their names within the first 30 days of signing the lease and this helps with building their credit scores. Ms. Redding said they are working on expansion and she said Gulfstream Design is drafting a master site plan for the 1.6 acres of buildable property at 3 Nesbit Avenue. Ms. Redding said they are still working on raising the capital for the expansion but she said rezoning of that property has been approved by the City. Ms. Redding said plans will include new office space, a children’s education center, a maintenance shed, and playground/basketball court. Finally, Ms. Redding thanked the Council and the County for providing a license to eCivis, as ESHC was recently awarded a \$175,000 grant from TD bank and they were made aware of that opportunity through the eCivis platform. Ms. Redding stated this grant will allow them to do badly needed renovations on nine century-old homes. Ms. Redding was asked if they encourage their families to seek home ownership with Habitat for Humanity and she said that they do and they also work with Operation Lifeline. Ms. Redding said that this really makes the most sense as rental rates are unstable and continue to skyrocket.
- b) **July 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Tara Haley asked for thoughts from the Council regarding the July meeting, as it is scheduled to occur during the holiday week and there would be little new business. Brief discussion ensued. **Motion** by Chip Cover to cancel the July 6, 2023, meeting. Howard Hitzel seconded the motion; cancellation of July meeting **approved unanimously**.

**REPORT FROM SARAH TAYLOR, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:** Sarah Taylor reviewed the budget approval timeline and she said the County will be receiving funding from the State in a variety of areas, provided the Governor signs off on the budget.

### **FUNDED AGENCY UPDATES:**

**Early Learning Coalition (ELC):** Dawn Bell stated all is going well and she had no new updates.

**Council on Aging (COA):** Brian Robinson reported summer is a quieter time for some of their programs as “snow birds” are out of state and he said all is going well.

**Epic Behavioral Healthcare:** Patti Greenough said they’ve been awarded a one-year planning grant for a mental health court, which will explore the connection between substance use, mental health, and the criminal justice system. Ms. Greenough said several judges have been advocating for a mental health court, as the county has a veterans court and a drug treatment court. Ms. Greenough said Epic will also be doing another Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) process for the county in June, in conjunction with the University of South Florida, and she said all community stakeholders will be invited. Ms. Greenough said this is a way of looking at specific needs in the county, as well as identifying cross systems and gaps in services, and collaborations. Ms. Greenough said this is the

intercept between the criminal justice system, substance use, and mental health needs, and when a SIM was done five years ago, the number one priority was a mental health court. Results will be shared with the Council in the early fall.

**Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic:** Chynequa King reported they have added new specialty providers thanks to the ARPA grant they received and she said they have been working on clearing out their denture wait list. Ms. King said their clients receiving dentures have been providing very positive feedback, stating renewed confidence and subsequent success in their professions.

**St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS):** Amanda Callahan reported they received quite a few referrals at the end of the school year and she said they have been working through their waitlist and conducting summer activities. Fred Baker reported the Coaches program is fully staffed, with full caseloads. Mr. Baker also reported there have been no Baker Acts and no referrals to a higher level of care over the last month. Mr. Baker stated the Peer Support Specialists went to Tallahassee last month and are well on their way to becoming certified.

**Betty Griffin Center (BGC):** Kelly Franklin reported the enhancement of their Economic Justice program and she said they are currently waiting on Rapid Rehousing funding. Ms. Franklin also reported two families moved on successfully from their transitional housing program last week.

**Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHK):** Debi Redding provided the presentation at this meeting – nothing further to report.

**St. Francis House (SFH):** Judi Dembowski reported they are at or over capacity nearly all of the time in their youth program. Ms. Dembowski stated the street outreach team has seen 178 people since the beginning of the year and she said 24% of those people living unsheltered are 62 years of age or older. Ms. Haley commented this is alarming and only validates the results of the Point in Time count, which reflected this trend.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

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

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

**Department of Health:** Shane Lockwood reported they are in the process of hiring an assistant director and they hope to have that individual on board by August. Mr. Lockwood also stated they have hired an additional health educator and the team will be doing more outreach events. Mr. Lockwood reported they have hired a new director for their WIC program and they hope to see those program participant numbers continue to rise.

**Flagler Health +:** Paige Stanton reported the due diligence period with UF Health is now over and the acquisition is moving forward. Ms. Stanton said Flagler Health hopes to have a signed agreement in September. Ms. Stanton also reported the Care Center is now open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week as they approach their one year anniversary. Ms. Stanton went on to thank community partners that have participated in the Community Health Assessment, which Flagler Health continues to work on and will lead to the Community Health Improvement Plan. Finally, Ms. Stanton stated the Plus Bus Mobile Health Clinic is fully staffed with the recent hiring of two nurses and she said there will be more programming and scheduled clinics in the future.

**Health & Human Services Department (HHS):** Shawna Novak reported the County funding match and ARPA allocation for Ability Housing's 96 unit affordable project in West Augustine goes before the Board of County Commissioners on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Novak also reported the Community Based Care division is holding its annual Foster Parent Appreciation dinner on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Finally, Ms. Novak stated

San Marcos Heights is 100% occupied. Ms. Haley said that in this case, the monthly report from the developer, Smith Henzy, should be removed from the agenda going forward.

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

**Public Safety:** Sgt. Manning was unable to attend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**There will be no July General Meeting.**

**Executive Meeting:** Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 p.m., in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

**Regular Meeting:** Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 4pm, in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and by Zoom

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

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