

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
August 3, 2023

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Joseph Cone, Assistant Director, Health & Human Services; Katrina Tanner, Contract Coordinator, Social Services;

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

**VISITORS:** Via Zoom – Emma Hayes; Anita Daniel; Patti Greenough; Kelly Franklin;; Michael Hartman; Brian Robinson; Julie Wesley, Tracy McFeeney, Debi Redding

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Quorum was present.

**MINUTES – April, 2023:** Shannon Nazworth **motioned** to approve the June, 2023, general meeting minutes (no July general meeting). Chip Cover seconded the motion; minutes **approved unanimously** by the Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER JOSEPH:** Commissioner Joseph said she is working with Marty Robinson, who is setting up a non-profit, on developing a running track in West Augustine. Commissioner Joseph said she has also been talking to Shawna Novak with regard to allocating some of the SHIP funds for down-payment assistance for home-buying.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) **Continuum of Care (CoC) Update:** Anita Daniel provided an accounting of recipients and the corresponding funding awarded for ESG and CV3 projects, such as street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and rapid rehousing. Ms. Daniel also reported the NOFO that was released on August 5<sup>th</sup> has a deadline of August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- b) **Update from Victoria Crossing Multi-Family Development:** Michael Hartman stated they are in the process of moving residents in to building 1 & 2 (a total of 48 units). Mr. Hartman said he expects the remaining two buildings to be ready for occupancy by August 11<sup>th</sup>, and he said the clubhouse furniture has been delivered and will be assembled in a week's time. Mr. Hartman said the clubhouse will be ready for occupancy by staff from the County's Social Services Department by the end of August.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **St. Augustine Youth Services – Coaches Program:** Mr. Baker did not attend the meeting due to an emergency.

**REPORT FROM SARAH TAYLOR, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:** Sarah Taylor stated she did not have anything to report at the time.

## **FUNDED AGENCY UPDATES:**

**Early Learning Coalition (ELC):** Tracy McFeeney reported that the Help Me Grow program, which provides free support to families who have children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities, will expand from Putnam County into St. Johns.

**Council on Aging (COA):** Brian Robinson said they have been very busy preparing for their 20th annual fundraising gala, An Evening on the Matanzas at River House, and companion event, the Island Doctors Champions for Elders Golf Tournament.

**Epic Behavioral Healthcare:** Patti Greenough reported they have expanded their offices in the northwest part of the County in order to offer more prevention services, as well as outpatient mental health and substance use treatment. Ms. Greenough introduced Theresa Andrews, Epic's new director of development, and Ms. Andrews said that as a part of their suicide prevention initiative they will host a showing of the movie "My Ascension", on August 5<sup>th</sup>, which focuses on an attempted suicide and includes firsthand experiences of families, friends, school officials, and suicide prevention experts.

**Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic:** Julie Wesley reported they are seeing an increase in their patient load as people are losing their Medicaid benefits. Ms. Wesley said their biggest struggle at this time is meeting the demand for dental services and she said they really need more dental providers in order to keep up.

**St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS):** Emma Hayes reported they completed 487 assessments in the last fiscal year and she said they continue to meet their 82% Baker Act division rate. Ms. Hayes said the expansion of staff in the last fiscal year has enabled them to send two people out on crisis calls and she stated the hiring of a peer support specialist has been extremely helpful during assessments and even more significantly with after-care.

**Betty Griffin Center (BGC):** Kelly Franklin reported they are preparing the children in shelter for the next school year.

**Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHC):** Debi Redding said that when they were awarded \$175,000 for renovations from TD Bank they were also invited to apply for an additional \$10,000 from Credit Builder Alliance in order to do rent reporting, which can boost the credit scores of tenants by reporting their on-time rental payments.

**St. Francis House (SFH):** Judi Dembowski sent her regrets.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

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

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

**Department of Health:** Shane Lockwood sent regrets.

**Flagler Health +:** No representative in attendance.

**Health & Human Services Department (HHS):** Joe Cone stated the County received \$2.5 million in federal ERA funds and he said those funds can be used for rental assistance, foreclosure prevention, employment gaps, and rental deposits. Mr. Cone said County staff is seeking an endorsement from the HHSAC as the request to accept this funding will go before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in September. Shannon Nazworth **motioned** to provide a letter of endorsement to be presented to the BCC recommending the County's acceptance of federal ERA funding. Chip Cover seconded the motion; endorsement **approved unanimously** by the Council

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

**Public Safety:** Sgt. Manning sent regrets.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Executive Meeting:** Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 p.m., in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

**Regular Meeting:** Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm, in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and by Zoom

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.