

ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Howard Hitzel, Vice Chair; Charles Daly; Kathleen Patneau; Leslie Barstow; Tara Haley – via Zoom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shannon Nazworth; Chip Cover

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

BCC LIASON: Commissioner Sarah Arnold, District 2 – via Zoom

VISITORS: Via Zoom – Teresa Matheny; Patti Greenough; Judi Dembowski; Brian Robinson; Nancy Russo; Olivia King; Nancy Pulsfus; Anita Daniel; Schuyler Siefker
In-person – Sara Rutan; Shane Lockwood; Lana Sample; Susan Jackson; Steve Dekorte; Betty Rehrer

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

MINUTES – January, 2024: Kathleen Patneau **motioned** to approve the January, 2024, general meeting minutes. Leslie Barstow seconded the motion; minutes **approved unanimously** by the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Commissioner Arnold apologized for not attending in person but said she is very happy to be appointed as liaison to the Advisory Council again.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Continuum of Care (CoC) and Point in Time (PIT) Count Update:** Anita Daniel reported the Challenge PLUS amendment is very close to full endorsement, and that will open up \$100,000 in Rapid Re-Housing funding through the hospital. Ms. Daniel also reported that February 1st was the last post-count day for the Point in Time Count and results will be shared at the CoC Annual Meeting on April 10th, and then with the Advisory Council on the May 2nd general meeting. Ms. Daniel also reported that Patriot Place, a new housing option for at-risk veterans, is now at full capacity.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Independent Agency Funding RFP - Draft of Timeline Discussion:** Shawna Novak reviewed the draft timeline, stating the final version, as well as the application, will be approved at the March 21, 2024, executive meeting of the Advisory Council. Ms. Novak went on to say that on April 4th approval from the Council will be requested for the Notice of Funding to drop on April 22nd. The blackout period will begin on April 22nd and will continue until contracts are executed in October. Ms. Novak said the deadline for Funding Application questions will be May 17th, with all applications due in the eCivis portal on May 31st. Ms. Novak went on to say scoring of applications will be completed by June 21st, with preliminary scores announced on August 1st at the Council's general meeting. Funding recommendations will be presented for a vote by the Council on August 15th at their executive meeting, and agencies will be notified of awards, pending Board of County Commission (BCC) approval, on August 16th. Finally, Ms. Novak explained, a letter with proposed funding recommendations and the contract templates will be put before the BCC at their October 1st meeting. Ms. Barstow asked how many applications were received and how many were approved during the last RFP process and Ms. Novak stated there were 19 submitted and 15 funded. There was discussion with regard to all Council members being encouraged to attend the March 21st executive meeting, either by Zoom or in person, as there will be discussion at that meeting regarding the application and final timeline. Ms. Novak explained it is a public meeting so all members and the public are welcome to attend.

b) **Recommendations for Two Vacancies** - Mary Garcia explained that terms served by Tara Haley and William Cover are coming to an end in February, and both of these positions must be filled by "human service professionals". All applications were provided to Council members in advance of this meeting and after general discussion, Leslie Barstow **motioned** to recommend Tara Haley to serve another term; there were no other nominations. Kathleen Patneau seconded the motion; recommendation **approved unanimously** by the Council.

Kathleen Patneau then **motioned** to recommend William Cover to serve another term; there were no other nominations. Leslie Barstow seconded the motion; recommendation **approved unanimously** by the Council.

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATION: Shawna Novak reported that she and her Assistant Director, Joe Cone, were invited to attend a kick-off meeting for the County's first strategic plan. Ms. Novak said a consultant has been hired to work with all departments in the planning, and Health & Human Services leadership will attend a workshop in early May, where they will be tasked with coming up with performance measures. Ms. Novak said it is Joy Andrews' plan to have a public-facing dashboard that allows residents to access data based on countywide goals for all County departments.

FUNDED AGENCY UPDATES:

Early Learning Coalition (ELC): Teresa Matheny reported that last month there were 238 referral calls, and 2,533 VPK students and 802 school readiness clients served.

Council on Aging (COA): Brian Robinson reported that since mid-2022 they have seen tremendous growth at their River House location with course enrollment going from 180 seniors to 420. Mr. Robinson also reported they are celebrating their 50th anniversary during the month of February and

he concluded by thanking the County and the Council, stating their independent agency funding has allowed COA to assist 148 seniors last year with services that enabled them to stay in their homes.

Epic Behavioral Healthcare: Sara Rutan reported that Patti Greenough officially retired in January and Nangela (Nangy) Pulsfus has taken over as Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Rutan said their Adult Drug Court program has been recognized on a federal level for using funding to expand the program and she thanked the Council for funding their Peer Support Specialist position, which has been a pivotal role.

Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic: Olivia King reported they have added audiology services at the clinic and plan to offer services soon. Ms. King thanked Fire House Subs for their donation of two AED units to be used at the clinic and on the mobile bus.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS): Schuyler Siefker reported they've just finished their accreditation and out of 1600 standards there were very few recommendations. Ms. Siefker also said they have plans for six apartments for transitional youth to be completed over the next two years.

Betty Griffin Center (BGC): No representative in attendance.

Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHG): Betty Rehrer said they are finishing up the last home renovation with funding from the Delores Barr Weaver foundation and they will be gearing up for the next group of renovations on nine homes funded with a grant from TD Bank.

St. Francis House (SFH): Judi Dembowski said they are seeing a surge in the elderly population at the shelter but she said there has been an even greater increase in elderly clients seen by street outreach. Ms. Dembowski said they continue to add providers, such as Megan Wall, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, who will be on-site at Port in the Storm every Thursday to assist with legal needs. Ms. Dembowski went on to say there is progress on the planning for the family shelter, with an RFP to be put out by the City within the next couple of weeks or so. Ms. Dembowski thanked the Council for the funding provided and stated it makes up 9% of the St. Francis House budget, 7% of Port in the Storm's budget, and 16% of the Street Outreach Team's budget.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

SMA Healthcare: Nancy Russo was in attendance but had nothing new to report.

Department of Health: Shane Lockwood said they held the Community Health Assessment (CHA) kick-off meeting yesterday and he said a link to the survey will be sent out shortly. Mr. Lockwood said the first half of the year will be devoted to the CHA, and the latter half of the year to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Flagler Health +: No representative was in attendance.

Health & Human Services Department (HHS): Shawna Novak reported that along with the Social Services and Housing Managers, she met with the owners of a recently renovated property on SR16, now called Stayable Suites. Ms. Novak said the owners are amenable to working with housing providers to accommodate overnight stays and longer term stays with leases. Ms. Novak said all rooms have kitchenettes with microwave and air-fryer, and rent at \$1300 per month, including Wi-Fi and all utilities. Ms. Novak said that while this is not a long term solution, it could be a good option for those in crisis, such as domestic violence victims and families involved with DCF. Ms. Novak also reported the renovation of the north wing of the HHS building is complete and CBC staff are getting ready to move in. Ms. Novak said Covid related federal funding was used for the renovation, and this will provide the approximately 45 staff members who have been in cubicles with individual offices. Ms.

Novak stated that April is Child Abuse Prevention month and CBC staff will be working with SAYS on related events.

Faith Based Community: No representative in attendance.

Public Safety: Sgt. Manning was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report through Ms. Garcia, stating they are still deep into the Co-Responder program and have made great strides with its development. Sgt. Manning also said they are making contacts with frequent utilizers and they are having success with diversions. Sgt. Manning said the program is already proving successful, even in its infant stages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2024, 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.