

Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County, Inc.

Continuum of Care (COC) General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

LOCATION: HARVESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH 2432 COLLIER PKWY, LAND O'LAKES, FLORIDA 34639

TIME STARTED: 10:01A.M. **TIME ENDED:** 11:37AM.

ATTENDANCE			
JENNIFER WATTS	BRYANT CORNWELL	DAVID MILLER	PASTOR TROY PEDERSON
MINISTER AISHA TOWLES	ELIZABETH RHODES	MELISSA GILES	BILLY MAJOR
JEFF SKLET	CHRISTINE SANTANA	KRISTA MCINTOSH	GLENN TRAIGER
RUTH REILLY	LAURA NAUMAN	MARCY ESBJERG	DAVID MILLER
JOHNPOL COMAS	JULIA PAULS	LEESA FRYER	KATHY HUNT
PATRICIA STONE	JESSICA FANGIO	ANGEL AVILA	JASON THOMAS
KATHY VANEK	DAVID CONLEY	CONNIE BLADON	BARBARA KLEINSORGE
CRISTAL OLIVERA	JORDAN FRENCH	GREG ARMSTRONG	ETHAN WEILANT
ERIC MUNROE	PATTI TEMPLETON	CPL KAREN NORRIS	JENA BLAIR
THOMAS O'CONNOR BRUNO	JEANNE COULTER	JEN KEROUAC	JULIE HAYES

AGENDA	ACTIONS
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at 10:01AM by Greg Armstrong
INTENTION AND REVIEW OF MEETING ORDER	Jennifer Watts: Intention and Review of meeting order presented. Leadership Council members have white name placards to vote. General Membership members have green placards to vote. Voting is outlined on the agenda sheet and organizational chart provided to be followed.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Approval of July 2023 Leadership Council Meeting Minutes and August 2023 Executive Committee minutes: Motion to approve by: Pastor Troy Pederson (July 2023 minutes reflect this meeting to be at Springhill Suites, so noted that meeting was changed to Harvester Community Church). Motion seconded by: Jeff Sklet No Opposition
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP VOTING	Motion to approve Collaborative Applicant/Lead Agency and HMIS lead by: Jeff Sklet Motion seconded by: Marcy Esbjerg: No Opposition, No discussion Thomas O'Connor Bruno: Governance Charter presented on screen to review and vote on changes. Five changes were discussed in depth. Greg Armstrong: At the last Executive Committee meeting we agreed that Pasco Fire and Rescue should be added as a position to Leadership Council.

Jennifer Watts: Discussed the positions agreed upon at the July 2023 LC Meeting and the change for one position name from the Public Defender's office to the Local Judicial Administration.

Greg Armstrong: Take the five added items in the charter and vote separately.

Kathy Hunt: It is all one charter so one vote for the five should be done.

Marcy Esbjerg: Should go through all five items first.

Greg Armstrong: Second change to Charter, to allow appointed COC Leadership Council members to designate up to one alternate representative to participate if needed. Merely adding the language of this to the charter. No discussion. No questions.

Greg Armstrong: Third change to the Charter, to remove publication in local newspapers as one of the of public notice required by Florida Sunshine Law, as at some point the newspaper will not be printing. At the last Executive Committee meeting it was agreed on this change of public notice. Change made so COC has the ability to comply with requirements.

Marcy Esbjerg: Disagreed with the statement that this was discussed at last Executive Committee meeting. According to the minutes of the August 2023 Executive Committee meeting, which have already been approved, it was not discussed. There were three items discussed and this was not one of them. Discussed where to publish but not to change in charter.

Thomas O'Connor Bruno: These changes are recommendations, and we are here with the Leadership Council to discuss the changes to the Charter.

Greg Armstrong: With this knowledge then it would have to be added by the Leadership Council today. Discussions had.

Thomas O'Connor Bruno: According to the federal regulation 578.3 there is no means of public postings that are best practice. What we have been using online, in constant contact, our website postings and through meetings is public. Time to move away for the newspaper.

Marcy Esbjerg: The issue is not removing it, but the issue is that the Executive Committee, according to our Charter is that we and I am quoting "is empowered to act on behalf of the full COC Leadership Council between meetings of the full council," so we had agreed to changes in the Charter. For any of you here that run non-profit organizations you know that the charter is the official document of an organization and what troubles me is that items came in for change without being presented or having any discussion with the Executive Committee. Asked Greg if he was aware of any of these items other than the ones voted on at the Executive Committee meeting? No response. For point of order, actions of the Executive Committee may be overturned by two-thirds of the COC Leadership Council members present at the next COC Leadership Council meeting. If we are going to add these two items that we did not vote on or discuss it would take a two-thirds vote for today from the Leadership Council. Before the entire membership can vote to approve the changes to the Charter.

Greg Armstrong: Change four to the Charter- This also did not come from the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee did not pass this. We discussed it and the Executive Committee said no. Change to remove the restriction that in no case may the Chair or Vice Chair be affiliated with a nonprofit homeless or housing assistance organization or the COC/Collaborative Applicant. Discussions had.

Marcy Esbjerg: It is important to note that overall, the COC is an overarching organization that looks at the system wide delivery of homelessness services and housing. Should be very broad. Continued with an update of COC and the history that we have with the COC in our county. Many of the COC's are really strong in what they do, and their lead agency serves the direction

from them and takes that direction and implements it. When you have a Chair or Vice Chair that is from a specific homeless organization or are part of the collaborative applicant it could very well be very single-minded. It would be one thing if our COC was strong and knew who we are, but we are not. Our COC does not know who we are and is not yet strong enough, and this phrase in the Charter is there to protect us until we can see that we are organized. Even having these items come forward, apart from the Executive committee, proves that point, it went behind what is in the Charter and other ideas were presented so it is important to defend the Charter for these reasons.

Kathy Hunt: Chair of the CHPC board reminding everyone of the organizational chart. The Leadership Council is the governing body for the COC not the Executive Committee, so why does the Executive Committee feel they need to approve what goes in the Charter? It is important that everyone understands the significance of the Leadership Council and what that job is. The Executive Committee actions are subject to review by the full COC Leadership council at its next regular meeting. I do not believe that that is what has been happening, that items discussed by Executive Committee get presented to the Leadership Council.

Marcy Esbjerg: You are absolutely right that the leadership council is the governing body, but our charter says the executive committee can act.

Jennifer Watts: Charter states that the Executive Committee can act in cases of emergency or as directed by the COC Leadership Council.

Marcy Esbjerg: No. Secondly, it is a matter of communication. We have had issues with the lead agency and have asked for corrective action in the past. It is a matter of communication. Why was there not more communication? If a group of people sat and talked about the additions to the Charter, why was there not more communication? Nobody knew about these changes, period.

Thomas O'Connor Bruno: In terms of that one paragraph, that one statement about the affiliation, it is a weak paragraph, and I will take ownership of it. We worked with the Florida Housing Coalition in 2017 and 2018 to build this and another in Sarasota Manatee. After extensive research and looking at everyone else's Charters 75% or more do not care if you are affiliated with an agency. My assumption is, after speaking to several of the CEOs of those COC lead agencies, is that we are all adults and professionals who can recuse ourselves from voting on things that are important. We are a collaborative effort. I could argue that every person on the LC is affiliated with a housing agency.

David Miller: Sounds like these are all items that we need as a group to keep conducting business.

Greg Armstrong: We have five changes. Call for a vote to approve all five. We need a two-thirds majority since we have items that were brought in today. We have eleven members; we need eight votes to pass. If it does not pass, we will vote on the first two and the last three separately.

Two-thirds Vote for Passing all five changes: four for, seven against.

Vote removal of restrictions on chair and vice chair affiliations:

Two-thirds vote six for five against

Vote on remove newspaper change is publications:

Two-thirds of the vote passes unanimously.

Everything that came through the Executive Committee to be voted on by all membership.

Vote on three new seats to LC and re-election of current LC:

Fire rescue appointed position, Eric Munroe. Category seats agreed upon: Employment, Whitney Johnson (Career Source) and Hospitals/ER, Sam Pickard with North Bay hospital.

Jen Kerouac: Asked for explanation on how these new positions are decided on and who elected these positions.

Julia Pauls: Asking for an explanation of how these positions were decided on. Concern that these positions were chosen by who someone wanted instead of having a nomination process.

Discussion about why and how these three new agencies are being voted on.

Marcy Esbjerg: These were discussed at the last July 2023 Leadership Council meeting as there was a need for stronger representation for certain positions. The Leadership Council wanted to expand and the CHPC board reached out to these agencies.

Christine Santana: These positions were discussed and chosen at the last July 2023 meeting.

David Conley: May be a good idea to look at a more public nomination process in the future.

Eric Munroe: Pasco Fire and Rescue, still need to work my nomination through my chain of command.

Marcy Esbjerg: The position is within Pasco Fire and the chain of command can say who they want to be in the position.

Continued discussion of how positions are chosen.

Greg Armstrong: Need a motion to approve the positions in yellow, the Leadership Council positions.

Marcy Esbjerg: Before we vote I want to make sure that the minutes reflect the suggestion to have a nominating committee and that before the next annual meeting we appoint this nominating committee. We did not do introductions and some people are here so we should have them introduce themselves.

Introduction: Karen Norris, David Miller, Liz Rhodes, Gena Blair, Pastor Troy Pederson, and Greg Armstrong.

Motion to approve Leadership Council positions by: Marcy Esbjerg:

Motion seconded by Kathy Hunt

No opposition

NOFO UPDATE

Thomas O'Connor Bruno: Per our Charter the COC membership group approves the consolidated application of priority listing. Because this has not been publicly posted I am not comfortable asking the entire COC for that approval. Would like to ask the entire COC today to bestow the power of approval consolidated application of priority listing to the Leadership Council.

Motion to give Leadership Council power of approval by: Kathy Hunt

Motion seconded by: Marcy Esbjerg:

No opposition

	<p>Thomas O'Connor Bruno: Over 10 years, we have increased our monies by 667% (from \$280K to \$2.2 million). Application was sent out to the Leadership Council yesterday to review. Do not want to call for a vote now? If you reject the application, please e-mail me by 5:00 PM tomorrow. HUD mandates that we publicly post this application at least two days prior to the deadline which is September 28th by 8:00 PM so we would have to post by September 26 if approved. We will find out the approval from HUD sometime in February, March, or April of 2024. If any of the new agencies the new projects are approved, we will find out then and then contracts between HUD and the agencies will be approved sometime next year.</p> <p>Pastor Tray Pederson: For me to approve \$2.8 million without having an understanding do you need my approval?</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: The approval is to submit the application, HUD decides who gets the funding. It is a national competition, we compete against the 400 other COC's in the nation.</p> <p>Greg Armstrong: Applications were reviewed and approved by the application committee. No one person approved these applications.</p> <p>David Conley: When we look at the applications, we look at the data of what the agency has done and what they are accomplishing. Data does not lie, it tells the whole story of what that organization does. HUD looks at the data and the work that happens, not a person or persons.</p> <p>Thomas O'Connor Bruno: Explanation of the system performance measures that come out of HMIS for a better understanding.</p>
<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE</p>	<p>Thomas O'Connor Bruno: Shared screen of members to be voted on.</p> <p>Chair: Rosanne Smithwick Vice Chair: Geoff Harlan Secretary: Christa Longo At Large: Mark Wickham and Marcy Esbjerg Past Chair: Greg Armstrong</p> <p>Motion to approve by: Karen Norris Motion seconded by: Kathy Hunt No Opposition</p>
<p>PROJECTED COC CALENDAR</p>	<p>Jennifer Watts: Presented on screen. 4 General membership meetings, 6 Leadership Council, 3 in person, three virtual. April-Pit Count, July NOFO, September annual mtg and November Holiday meeting. Committees on the calendar. The Coordinated Entry committee is only active at this time and will look at other committee dates moving forward.</p> <p>Greg: Send out to LC for suggestions before finalizing.</p>
<p>LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SURVEY</p>	<p>Jennifer Watts: Working with the FHC to conduct a survey for LEADERSHIP COUNCIL members to get a better understanding of what the CoC structure and scope of work. Surveys should be out in the next week and kept open for 7 to 10 days and results presented at October meeting.</p>
<p>BNL UPDATE</p>	<p>Melissa Giles:</p> <p>266 Households 200 Individuals 22 Adult families=44 44 families with minors, 17 on BNL and 27 on BNL and family shelter waitlist=145 399 Total</p>

	<p>David Conley: Important that we separate Veteran number and present in future.</p> <p>Melissa Giles: Currently there are zero Veterans on the Veteran BNL. SVdP takes on Veterans within days so we rarely have any Veterans waiting.</p>
LEAD AGENCY REVIEW	<p>Jennifer Watts: It is recommended by the FHC to do a lead agency review every two years. So that will be by sending out surveys, doing interviews by the FHC to funders, stakeholders, community partners to get feedback as to what the Coalition can improve on. Last time we received a small sample size, so would like to keep reminding to have more participation.</p>
OLD BUSINESS	<p>Greg Armstrong: Looks like on the 13th of October there will be a meeting with everyone from the CEO of the Times Building down to the County Administrator and County Attorney. All planning to be there until this is done. Would like to thank our congressmen as he stepped in and went to the CEO of the times to assist in this matter.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>David Conley: We have had a zero Veterans BNL for quite a while. Would like to start crunching numbers to make a declaration that we have ended Veteran homelessness in Pasco County.</p> <p>Jen Kerouac: What is happening with the committee's people signed up for at the July 2023 meeting? Jennifer Watts: The committees are a work in progress as we have to identify the Chairpersons for each committee after this meeting, after all the voting, we will be able to move forward with these.</p> <p>Karen Norris: New unit for NPRPD called LIFT, working to connect with clients in the city limits to provide services and divert from system.</p> <p>Brian Hoben: Introduction of Jordan French, the new Human Services manager. Pasco Human Services is running an ad for a new housing navigator and will start interviewing soon for that position.</p> <p>Barbara Kleinsorge: Under the McKinney Vento Act there are currently approximately 1000 student's Pre-K through 12, enrolled in the SIT program. Ended last year with about 1800, so we are seeing an uptick.</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: There are affordable housing opportunities coming up online. Tanager Square off of old 54, Dominion, a national builder, has Anclote near Anclote High School and City of New Port Richey for seniors only. Pasco Housing Authority for Veterans. Bayonet Gardens in Hudson area. Ozanam 4 SVdP for one-bedroom units. Requesting 10% of all units stay in our inventory and come off of the BNL.</p> <p>Julie Hayes: Is there any East Pasco community development for affordable housing? Marcy Esbjerg: Two years ago, there was Osprey Point was off of 301. Have not seen another application come forward.</p>
ADJOURNED	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:37AM.</p> <p>Next meeting, Leadership Council Meeting October 26, 2023, at 10AM at Harvester Community Church</p>