

Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County, Inc.

Continuum of Care (COC) General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE OF MEETING: NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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

TIME STARTED: 10:08A.M. **TIME ENDED:** 11:04AM.

ATTENDANCE			
JENNIFER WATTS	ROSANNE SMITHWICK	GEOFF HARLAN	GREG ARMSTRONG
DAVID MILLER	ELIZABETH RHODES	GLENN TRAIGER	CPL KAREN NORRIS
MELISSA GILES	MARCY ESBJERG	ERIC MUNROE	DANI DAWSON
DEBBIE BUSCHMAN	KASSIDY KAPETANIS	FRANK SEIDL	MARK EBEL
PATRICIA STONE	CHRISTA LONGO	LNIDA GRAHAM	KATHY HUNT
PASTOR JEN KEROUAC	PASTOR TROY PEDERSON	AISHA TOWLES	
THOMAS O'CONNOR BRUNO			
AGENDA	ACTIONS		
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at 10:08AM by Rosanne Smithwick.		
INTRODUCTIONS	Rosanne Smithwick: Trying a new way to introduce members. Asked for members to stand categorically by services they provide. Present were members from Outreach, Healthcare, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Emergency Food Assistance, Homeless Prevention, Sober/Transitional Living, Law Enforcement, Fire Rescue, County and Government.		
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Approval of September 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes: Nine Leadership Council members in attendance. Did not have a quorum to approve minutes. Minutes to be sent out by Jennifer Watts electronically for approval.		
SHARED HOUSING PROGRAM	Geoff Harlan: Explained concept of shared housing. There are only two of these programs in the state of Florida. One in Charlotte County and one in Pinellas/Pasco County. Program is in place and all we have to do is share and market this information to organizations and churches. Rosanne Smithwick: Shared and handed out flyers on Home Share Pinellas to members. Jennifer Watts: To compile a list of churches and organizations and possibly host an event after the holidays to share this information		
ONBOARDING PACKET	Rosanne Smithwick: Discussed onboarding, orientation for new Leadership Council members. What would members like to have known and how would this information be presented? Pastor Jen Kerouac: Packet to understand structure. Pastor Troy Pederson: Asked if it is okay to bring secretary with him to meetings. Jennifer Watts: Meetings are open to all. Eric Munroe: Liked the idea discussed last meeting of providing Bio's with information of who everyone is. Thomas O'Connor Bruno: A glossary of terms and acronyms.		

	<p>Jennifer Watts: Is everyone comfortable posting this information on the COC website? No opposition.</p>
<p>TIMES BUILDING UPDATE</p>	<p>Greg Armstrong: This is a short update; we are still waiting for information. We met with the Times, all the way up to the CEO, about three weeks ago. It is their intention to sell the building and the belief is we will get through this. A new appraisal has been scheduled as the last appraisal was not done correctly. It will take about a month to get that appraisal information.</p> <p>Rosanne Smithwick: Explanation of RFP process and why the COC should give input to County on the needs of the homeless community and what will be needed for this shelter before RFP is sent out.</p> <p>Jennifer Watts: Already received some input from Liz Rhodes who asked clients what their needs would be to go to a shelter. Clients stated: Pets allowed, private showers, and charging outlets.</p> <p>Discussion was had about safety for each person and safe storage space for each person.</p> <p>Glenn Traiger: Three main objectives: Safety and who would be responsible for this, medical needs and who would be responsible for this, and people coming from areas outside of Pasco.</p> <p>Jennifer Watts and Geoff Harlan: Email or fill out blank cards at back of room for all concerns, suggestions, and ideas so the COC can deliver this information to County before RFP sent out.</p> <p>David Miller: Voiced concern of this location being a bad investment. It is not so much about what it needs it is about where the location is at.</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: We send out RFP's every year for millions of dollars asking for shelters, if there were other options, we would be happy to look at them. This location does not preclude us from other shelter opportunities, but no one has come to us with those opportunities.</p> <p>Geoff Harlan: If a location is found elsewhere, let us talk about it and I can help find that location.</p> <p>Frank Seidl: Maybe we need to expand to improving for future shelters. The thought process is good going forward, but we have nothing right now, so there is a balance, safety is the key, maybe struggling right now on the west side is more cost effective.</p> <p>Eric Munroe: Is this a flood zone? Is this in an evacuation zone? Concern about who would be responsible for evacuations.</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: No. It is in the A zone as all of the West side of US19 is. The agency running the shelter should be responsible for the evacuations.</p> <p>Pastor Jen Kerouac: Can we pass out meds at shelter and if so, is there an opportunity for a recovery treatment piece?</p> <p>Pastor Troy Pederson: This location is in my backyard, but it is an opportunity. Commissioners look for input from committees. Would it be wise to establish a committee for this input? Thankful to the Commissioners that they are willing to invest in this project.</p> <p>Geof Harlan: The CoC would be the committee bringing a report to offer this input.</p>

	<p>Rosanne Smithwick: Please take some time to email and put all of these thoughts in writing on cards in back of room or email to Jennifer Watts.</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: With my experience with shelters, operating a shelter should have a housing component as to not have it be a warehouse.</p> <p>Thomas O'Connor Bruno: The Times building is just another tool on the COC toolbox. CoC just wants to have some input but at the end of the day, the County can choose what will be done.</p> <p>Debbie Bushman: Has anyone received any input from business in this area?</p> <p>Greg Armstrong: Very few businesses in the area and they do not have a problem with it.</p> <p>Jennifer Watts: Should the Process Mapping meetings be started up again and should Cathy Pearson be reached for this?</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: Yes.</p> <p>NOTE: The Process Mapping meetings were previously conducted by the County in an effort to understand Coordinated Entry and how to address Pasco's unhoused population. This group was broken down into different committees to look for potential shelter properties, case management, and permanent housing.</p>
OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS	None
FUTURE MEETINGS	<p>Rosanne Smithwick: Discussion 30 minutes prior to meetings for networking/information/training. Think about it and let us know how you feel.</p> <p>Thomas O'Connor Bruno: Other COC's have done this, if no training is needed it is 30 minutes of networking.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS	<p>David Miller: Brought up concern again regarding people coming from other counties. The shelter, Safe Harbor in Pinellas, does not take on other counties population.</p> <p>Marcy Esbjerg: I have heard directly from the people in law enforcement that they do.</p> <p>Karen Norris: In my experience Pinellas will not accept outside county population.</p> <p>Geoff Harlan: Do we make this shelter Pasco County only?</p> <p>Jennifer Watts: Depends on what funding and the funding requirements being used to run the shelter.</p>
AJOURN	The meeting was adjourned at 11:04AM.....Next meeting, Leadership Council Meeting January 25, 2024, at 10AM at Harvester Community Church