

Central Florida Continuum of Care Board of Directors held on Friday, February 22, 2019.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Brown at 8.34 a.m.

The following persons were in attendance:

In person: Bob Brown (Chair), Tim McKinney (Vice Chair), Kimberlee Riley, Lisa Portelli, Amy Elwood, Mike Griffin
By Phone: Dr. Swannie Jett, Linda Landman-Gonzalez, Olivette Carter, Shannon Young
Staff: Martha Are, Brian Postlewait, Greg Mellowe, Paula Atkinson
Guests: Matthew Kennedy and David Barnett

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Kimberlee Riley moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on November 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Director Lisa Portelli and passed with unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Support for Chronic Pilot

Executive Director Martha Are reported that jurisdictions have indicated their intentions to continue providing support for this flagship program. Are also noted that conversations have been programmed to commence, shortly, with the jurisdictions on support needed for the following year.

An explanation was requested about Seminole County providing support for housing directly versus through us and how this affects the system. Are acknowledges that the County is direct contracting with HSN for providing housing location services and with HCCH and Pathways for their case management. Are noted that no unintended consequences have been incurred as yet and though HSN had more flexibility with leveraging resources when held in house to balance the needs of a program, Seminole has been working well with us to ensure a seamless operation.

Riley asked if there was a lapse in contracts. Are stated that this has been discussed with the jurisdictions. An allowance has been made to submit requests for reimbursements for periods that were not under contract. Though we have experienced some cash flow issues, the jurisdictions have been very amenable at the negotiation table. It was noted that we have been very dependent upon private sector fundraising to minimize potential hits to agencies' operating capital and that some organizations have expressed anxiety around having limitations in this area.

Portelli asked whether the CoC or HSN has a line of credit. Are noted that HSN does, but would not have the ability to pay the interest. HSN would, therefore, not be able to play the role of bank for other agencies. Portelli followed up asking about Central Florida Foundation giving money for bridge housing. Are responded that Mark [Brewer] has indicated that investors are not interested in this area.

Seminole County CoC

Chair Brown announced that Seminole County has indicated a pause being placed on the discussion about separating from the [Central Florida] CoC. He expressed his pleasure with the news as he believes it to be in the best interest of the community. Are added that Seminole staff presented a list of concerns and found this to be very helpful as steps are being sought to ensure the county is being provided with the best possible array of services.

Dr. Jett asked if it was possible to receive a copy of those concerns. Are responded affirmatively. Portelli commended Are for the approach taken to address issues Seminole County may have and stated their separation would have been a critical loss to the system.

NEW BUSINESS

2018 NOFA Award

Are reported that we have been awarded a little more than \$8Mn. This indicates that all of our current contracts were fully renewed..

Are did remind the Board that much of the CoC score is based on HUD's system performance measures. Unfortunately, our region is penalized in these measures by our extreme housing market deficiencies, as well as, oddly enough, our excellent street outreach capacity.

Are highlighted the following:

- Rapid Rehousing Project received a \$500k increase- this was done as HUD now recognizes the increase in Fair Market Rates (FMR); rents in our region went up significantly more than other regions, and
- We also received a small amount (i.e. \$16k) for our Domestic Violence (DV) Coordinated Entry System (CES) Bonus application which is intended to provide DV and Human-trafficking providers with better access to our resources; this will require some creative thought in the face of how segregated the management of data is for these providers.

Riley expressed that a recent newspaper article did not outline some of these details and encouraged CoC/HSN to foster more or better relationships with media and have them filter more detail on these efforts into the public domain. She noted that knowledge of this would help the public understand and appreciate the work being done. Director Mike Griffin endorsed Riley's comments. Riley continued that it calls for us to create a communications strategy.

Portelli raised the question of whether there exists an interagency group taking these concerns to HUD about performance measures being updated to better meet the needs for the community. Are noted there was not. Portelli followed up suggesting that a taskforce be formed and expressed willingness to be a part of that group.

Are then showed a comparison of awards to CoCs in the state of Florida, highlighting a CoC (Sarasota) that lost all funding due to one mistake. She reiterated this being one of the main reasons why the application process is taken so seriously. Are reminded the board that the increase in funding received was not necessarily to expand activities but was in response to the increase in FMR.

Brown thanked the HSN staff for leading the efforts with this process and commented on how significant these programs are to our mission of service to the homeless in our region.

2-1-1 Intake Update

Deputy Director Brian Postlewait apprised the board of changes in the arrangement between HSN and Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW). He noted that HFUW will no longer be doing the assessments through their 2-1-1 call center. It has been agreed that the 2-1-1 team will be recording names and contact numbers of persons who call in for assistance. This will then be shared with HSN- who has added staff to take on this new duty. Postlewait shared that this is seen as a positive step from the perspective that we will get a closer eye on the quality of data collected, and give us a better handle on how to improve the response rate. He continued that we intend to include diversion practices in our callbacks.

Vice Chair Tim McKinney inquired about the impact on the HSN budget. Are noted that this will be essentially budget neutral since HSN will no longer contract with United Way for these services. Director Amy Elwood asked if this would be for the entire region. Are responded affirmatively.

CoC Plan for 2018/19 – approval for DCF application process

Are brought to the board's attention that in order to complete the DCF application, she will need the board to approve the CoC Plan. However, the planning committee has not reviewed and approved the application as yet, and the board will not meet before it is due. Are encouraged the members of the board to review the draft presented today and asked the board to consider an electronic vote, which is allowed for in the CoC bylaws.

Riley asked if this application was going to the managing entity. Are replied that this was going directly to DCF. She noted that this is the unified application which will include Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding for Seminole and Osceola counties, bridge housing through the Challenge grant as well as a very small homelessness prevention TANF grant, which is currently being implemented by Catholic Charities. Are continued that the biggest change to the application will be the addition of diversion funding being requested. The local RFA will be posted for this next week.

McKinney suggested that the Board approve the draft upon the condition that there are no material changes to the plan as presented. After discussion the Chair announced that it has been decided that we will vote via email once the local RFA process is complete.

Osceola CoC Meeting

Postlewait reported that a CoC meeting was held on the twelfth of this month in Osceola County with providers from that area. This followed a decision to do a quarterly bonus CoC meeting in both Osceola and Seminole giving the opportunity to look at local issues. It, however, will not replace the monthly general membership meetings. Persons in attendance requested that this meeting continue on a monthly basis, to gain momentum, and then graduate to being held quarterly. Postlewait noted that we got positive feedback on this year's Point in Time count at the meeting. David Barnett interjected that the volunteer experience this year was better than last year. Osceola County staff enjoyed being able to see firsthand and interact with those they are working to help.

Are added that discussions have started for Seminole providers to find the right time to have a similar meeting. Griffin commented that this gives the opportunity to expand our reach- hearing from more persons in the community. Portelli asked if it is possible to setup a modality to allow persons to call in to CoC Meetings. Are noted that staff will look into this possibility. Elwood asked about McKinney-

Vento representatives participating. Postlewait responded that in the discussions they looked at who was not represented at the table and schools were identified. He continued that as the CoC expands, we have been looking at implementing diversionary practices and thought about how this could benefit the homeless liaisons in schools. Elwood added that she would be happy to help with reaching out to McKinney-Vento administrators.

Elwood also shared that with the new legislation under the Mental Health act, after the Parkland incident, there is a lot more allocations being used for homeless students, providing counselling. It may be helpful for the CoC to be aware that these funds are being made available. Postlewait committed to connect with Elwood and speak more on this.

A.O.B.

Are announced that the White Paper on the Medicaid Paper has been finalized and will be distributed to the board. She expressed gratitude for Greg Mellowe for finalizing the paper, noting that his experience in health care advocacy positioned him well to complete this document.

It was highlighted that any agency or organization receiving CoC or Emergency Solutions Grant funding is required to have someone with lived experience sitting on their boards. Are shared that as we support the agencies needing to meet this requirement, it was recognized that most of these persons do not know what is required or how to operate on a board. Therefore, HSN wants to coordinate a CoC training for persons with lived experience on what it means to be on a Board. Riley volunteered to help with training persons identified to join these boards.

McKinney thanked the City of Orlando and Orange County publicly for frontloading funds to HSN, noting that this will help with alleviating the some of the pressure placed on HSN concerning payments for program activities.

Brown commended HSN on receiving a clean audit for FY2017/18, which is a great accomplishment considering the circumstances.

Griffin shared that AdventHealth was in Tallahassee with legislators recently and the Governor along with the Senate are in line with keeping the Sadowski fund. The next item being considered is how the hurricane in the panhandle affected the budget.

The CoC Board of Directors will meet next on March 29.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.